



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

## Geneva

### 14-18 October 2018

#### Table of contents

	<u>Page(s)</u>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<b>Opening of the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly</b>	
<i>General Debate on the theme <b>Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change</b></i>	
• Opening statement by Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .....	5
• Video message from Mr. A. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations .....	5
• Presentation by Dr. F. Gianotti, Director General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) .....	5
• Statements by Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians .....	7
• Presentation by Mr. H. Rogers, Founder of the Blue Planet Foundation .....	11
<b>Special segment to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</b>	
• Presentation of a video by Ms. B. Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa to celebrate the legacy of Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the centenary of his birth .....	28
• Panel discussion moderated by Mr. M. Limon, Director of the Universal Rights Group with the participation of Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU, Ms. F. Koofi (MP, Afghanistan and member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians); Ms. P. Hicks (Director, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Mr. T. Mendel (Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy) .....	28
• Presentation by video recording of the IPU Declaration entitled <i>70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> , by Ms. A. Clwyd, Member of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and former President of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians .....	31
• Adoption of the Declaration .....	31
<b>Emergency Item</b>	
• Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda .....	13
• Plenary debate on the emergency item entitled: <i>Climate change – Let us not cross the line</i> .....	17
• Adoption of the resolution .....	51
<b>Decision on the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly - results of the roll-call votes</b> .....	6,14,51
<b>Final agenda</b> .....	16

	<u>Page(s)</u>
<b>Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights</b>	
• Adoption of the agenda .....	53
• Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 138 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018) .....	53
• Preparation of a resolution entitled <i>Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</i> .....	53
(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum by the co-Rapporteurs .....	53
(b) Debate on the draft resolution .....	54
(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary .....	62
(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 139 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly .....	63
• Election of the Vice-President of the Committee .....	64
• Preparations for future Assemblies	
(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee .....	63
(b) Committee agenda at the 140 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly .....	63
<b>Standing Committee on Peace and International Security</b>	
• Adoption of the agenda .....	65
• Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 138 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018) .....	65
• Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee .....	65
• Panel discussion on the theme <i>Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation</i> .....	65
• Panel discussion on the theme <i>Combatting sexual violence in UN peacekeeping operations and beyond</i> .....	70
• Expert hearing on the theme <i>Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights</i> .....	74
• Any other business .....	79
<b>Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade</b>	
• Adoption of the agenda .....	80
• Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 138 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018) .....	80
• Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee .....	80,88
• Preparations for the 140 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	88
• Parliamentary contribution to the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference .....	86
• Debate on the theme of the draft resolution entitled <i>The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation</i> .....	80
• Panel discussion on Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled <i>Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy</i> .....	89
<b>Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs</b>	
• Adoption of the agenda .....	95
• Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 138 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018) .....	95
• Panel discussion: <i>Would a UN intergovernmental tax body help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion?</i> .....	95
• Panel discussion: <i>What scope for cooperation between parliaments and the WHO as the leading UN agency for global health?</i> .....	100
• Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee .....	103
<b>Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU</b>	
• Adoption of the agenda .....	104
• Country updates on youth participation .....	104
• Panel discussion: <i>Identifying a target for youth participation in parliaments</i> .....	107
• Interactive discussion on <i>Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technical change</i> .....	110

	<u>Page(s)</u>
• Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2018-2019) .....	111
• Preparations for the 140 <sup>th</sup> Assembly (April 2019) .....	112
• Any other business .....	112
<b>Open session</b> of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law ....	113
<b>Panel discussion</b> on <i>The role of parliaments in combatting terrorism and violent extremism</i> .....	118
<b>Panel discussion</b> on <i>Building bridges between the parliamentary and scientific communities</i> .....	124
<b>Parity debate</b> on <i>Ensuring that children enjoy their rights and grow up protected from violence</i> .....	128
<b>Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports</b>	
• Outcome document on <i>Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change</i> (General Debate) .....	133
• <i>Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</i> (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights) .....	133
• Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the 141 <sup>st</sup> Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs .....	135
• Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security, Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and on United Nations Affairs .....	134
<b>Closure of the Assembly</b> .....	137
<b>Annexes</b>	
I. Outcome document of the General Debate on <i>Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change</i> (Item 3) .....	138
II. <i>Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</i> (Item 4) Text of the resolution .....	141
III. Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138 <sup>th</sup> Assembly: <i>Do you agree that the Assembly can change the work plan and agenda of the Standing Committees?</i> .....	145
IV. Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138 <sup>th</sup> Assembly: <i>Do you agree that at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights holds a panel debate that will not lead to a resolution, entitled "The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons?"</i> .....	146
V-A – V-C Reports of the Standing Committees .....	147
VI-A – VI-C Results of the roll-call vote on proposals for the inclusion of an emergency item on the Assembly agenda .....	156
VII. <i>Climate change – Let us not cross the line</i> (Item 8) Text of the resolution .....	159
VIII. Declaration on the 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights .....	161
IX. Concluding remarks by the IPU President on the values and principles of the IPU .....	162
X. List of participants .....	163

## Introduction

Delegations from 145 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

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

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

Observers included representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); (ii) the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO); (iii) the League of Arab States; (iv) the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), the Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), the South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum; the World Scout Parliamentary Union; (v) the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; (vi) Socialist International; (vii) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Of the 1,545 delegates who attended the Assembly, 737 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 51 Presiding Officers, 50 Deputy Presiding Officers, 233 women (33%) and 138 (19.3%) young MPs.

# Opening of the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2018**

(Morning)

*The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.*

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mr. T.-B. Gurirab, a former President of the IPU, and Mr. Kofi Annan, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## **Opening statement by the President of the IPU**

The PRESIDENT, in her opening remarks, said that the theme of the General Debate for the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly – *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change* – had been chosen in view of the lightning pace of change in daily life as a result of the constant advances in science and technology, thanks to which cloning was already a reality in some countries and others were uncovering the workings of the human brain, developing new energy sources and exploring other planets in search of water and life. The impact of such scientific and technological innovation extended beyond new discoveries into the world of politics, where constituents accustomed to instantaneous access to information and services at the click of a button or via biometric recognition expected the same immediate response to their difficulties from parliamentarians.

Political solutions required time, however, which could lead to public discontent and to extreme decision-making in reply. It was therefore essential to understand the challenges posed by the ever-changing reality in order to determine the best way to address them. Adapting to that reality called for, among others, measures to promote science, technology and innovation in education and options for dealing with the effect of automation on the job market. The General Debate would provide the opportunity to discuss those and other matters of relevance to the topic, with a view to fashioning a better world for the sake of future generations.

She welcomed to the Assembly special guest speaker Dr. F. Gianotti, Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), saying that she looked forward to her address, and highlighted some of the interesting and dynamic activities organized around the Assembly, including: a Knowledge Fair; a photographic exhibition commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the launch of a handbook for parliamentarians on freedom of expression; the presentation of a regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe; and side events on themes ranging from terrorism and violent extremism to fake news and nutrition. She also welcomed the students and researchers present in the room and during the Assembly to observe its proceedings.

On that note, she declared open the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly and informed participants that a video message had been received from Mr. A. Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, the full text of which could be found at: [https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/unsg\\_message-oct18.pdf](https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/unsg_message-oct18.pdf)

In his video message Mr. A. Guterres presented his greetings to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a close partner of the United Nations. He welcomed the IPU's focus on promoting peace and development in an age of rapid technological change. Advances in technology had indeed brought wondrous gains and could turbocharge work for the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet there were also dangers, coming from the misuse of new technologies. It was our shared responsibility to nurture a digital future that was safe and beneficial for all. Mr. A. Guterres encouraged MPs to discuss those issues with technology leaders in their home countries, whether in the private sector or in university labs. As elected representatives, they were in a unique position to advance the aspirations of the people—and to ensure no one was left behind.

The PRESIDENT invited Dr. Gianotti to address the Assembly.

Dr. F. GIANOTTI, *Special guest speaker*, in her address accompanied by a slide presentation, said that CERN exemplified the role of science in innovation, technology, education, training and peaceful collaboration. An intergovernmental organization with ambitious goals, CERN operated the world's largest particle physics research laboratory, deploying complex instruments through which it had made important discoveries that had already translated into advantages in daily life. It had been founded in 1954 with the twofold aim of reviving scientific excellence and promoting peaceful

cooperation in Europe after the Second World War. Its members had since almost doubled in number and contributed to the annual budget in proportion to their gross domestic incomes. As to its physicists, they were largely young but still predominantly male, with the ratio of women improving only slowly. Most were postgraduate students who eventually went on to conduct research elsewhere insofar as the opportunities in the field of particle physics were limited. As part of its core mission to deliver training and education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), CERN organized physics programmes for students across Africa and ran schools covering different aspects of particle physics, as well as summer schools for teachers. It was also pleased to be cooperating with the IPU in its new Science for Peace Schools programme due to commence in November 2018.

In pursuit of its prime mission of discovery through science, CERN studied elementary particles – the fundamental constituents of all matter – including with a view to understanding the first moments of the universe after the Big Bang. The most powerful of those accelerators was the Large Hadron Collider, located far underground, through which the Higgs boson particle had been discovered in 2012, leading to a Nobel Prize in physics for the two scientists who had predicted its existence. CERN scientists were also working to solve such intriguing mysteries as that of the dark matter and dark energy that formed the bulk of the universe.

Examples of cutting-edge innovations driven by CERN and transferred to society included the World Wide Web and hadron therapy in cancer treatment. Through its activities, CERN was furthermore promoting achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goals 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Its leading research facilities attracted the best scientists in a range of disciplines from all corners of the globe, who worked harmoniously together for the attainment of common objectives. Its funding model was another reason for its success, as it enabled it to realize very long-term projects that would otherwise be impossible to implement. In sum, scientific excellence and open science were its ethos. Its goals and values in fact aligned well with those of the IPU, with which it therefore looked forward to collaborating towards common aims.

### **Organization of work**

The PRESIDENT, speaking with reference to the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly concerning the agenda and work programme of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, said that delegations would be requested during the coming afternoon sitting to vote yes or no to the question of whether the Assembly should be able to change the agenda and work programmes adopted by the Standing Committees.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that the question should be altered to reflect the issue at stake, which concerned the actual content of the work programme of the Standing Committee and not the authority of the Assembly to change that content.

The PRESIDENT said that, subsequent to the discussions that had taken place on the matter at the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the IPU Secretariat had commissioned a legal opinion concerning questions raised at that time about the IPU Statutes and Rules. While not binding, the resulting legal opinion (see document EX/280/5(a)-Inf.1, Annex) had identified a lack of clarity in the relevant Rules, for which reason the Executive Committee had decided to pose the related question to the Assembly. In the event of a vote in the affirmative, the Assembly would then be requested to vote on a further question concerning the content of the Standing Committee's work programme. It should be noted that the outcome of the voting would set a precedent for the future.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda), supported by Mr. I. AHMED OMER (Sudan), asked about the implications of the vote, noting that the Standing Committees performed work delegated from the Assembly and that the Assembly was accordingly empowered to accept or reject decisions taken by those Committees.

The PRESIDENT said that those implications had been explained, and reiterated the fact that the first vote was simply a matter of procedure aimed at clarifying issues raised at the previous Assembly.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt) said that the outcome of the proposed vote could effectively invalidate the *raison d'être* of the Standing Committees, thereby undermining the very democracy for which the IPU worked and stood.

The PRESIDENT said that, as a member of the Executive Committee, the previous speaker was no doubt aware that the sole intention of the proposed vote was to bring clarity to an issue that was in a grey zone and not explicitly spelt out in the Statutes and Rules.

Mr. N. BERRY (Lebanon) said that he agreed with the view expressed by the Egyptian delegate and, supported by Mr. M. ALI HOUMED (Djibouti), noted that, according to the legal opinion provided on the subject, the ultimate authority concerning agendas and work programmes lay with the Assembly. To decide that the Standing Committees instead had the final say would set a dangerous precedent.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan), citing Articles 13.1 and 14.1 of the IPU Statutes and Rule 6.4 of the Standing Committees, said that the Standing Committees were clearly empowered to set their own agendas and that to decide otherwise would interfere with their independence and indeed negate their *raison d'être*.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that the agendas of the Standing Committees had already been decided, in accordance with the IPU Statutes and Rules, which must be respected. No further decisions were therefore necessary.

The PRESIDENT said that differing views and sensitive issues concerning agendas and workplans must be resolved through democratic processes. It had proved impossible to achieve a consensus on the issue at hand, which was instead polarizing IPU Members. The current agenda would stand unless decided otherwise in accordance with the procedure she had explained.

Item 3 of the agenda  
(A/139/3-Inf.1)

**General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

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

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, speaking on the theme of the General Debate from the women's perspective, said that technological innovation could promote development, inclusion and empowerment for women especially, provided that existing gender gaps were narrowed. Already acute in the high-growth sectors of science and technology, those gaps were likely to increase without action to tackle inequality and mitigate the impact of job automation. As to online abuse, it was predominantly directed at women, whereas protest movements such as #MeToo had gathered momentum through the Internet and social media. Clearly, therefore, technology could either close, increase or create new gaps.

Parliamentarians must adapt by ensuring, including through the power of the purse, that science, technology and innovation served to advance gender equality and empower women and girls as key drivers of peace and development. Gender-disaggregated data and other tools should be used to assist their endeavours towards, inter alia, a gender-balanced workforce and women's presence in technology as creators, developers and decision-makers. Women must be supported to access training and education in STEM, where gender quotas should be applied to break the glass ceiling preventing their rise to the top positions. Access to mobile technology would also help to empower women economically and protect them from gender-based violence. Technology could indeed be a positive game changer for women and girls.

Ms. M. OSORU (Uganda), President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, providing the youth perspective on the theme, said that the speed of technological change effectively doubled every two years and that only by harnessing the power of youth would parliaments be able to keep pace and react in a timely fashion. Indeed, as members of the first generation for whom the Internet and mobile technology were not innovations but second nature, young parliamentarians understood that change intuitively, which would aid predictability and relevant decision-making. Together with their peers, moreover, they had the largest stake in the future and consequently must have a strong say in decisions that would shape it.

With young people accounting for one half of the world's population, parliamentarians must ensure investment in education to prepare them for the jobs of the future. They must also take account of the rapidity of technological change in addressing such matters as increased automation, cyberwarfare and climate change effects, as well as seek a robust partnership with STEM sectors. To those ends, they must be guided by best practices and be more agile in keeping up to speed with new technological advances. Better qualified on that score, young parliamentarians must take the lead in making the most of technology to address challenges and facilitate the work of parliaments.

The PRESIDENT invited delegates to address the Assembly on the theme of the General Debate, starting with presiding officers of parliament.

Mr. D. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that innovation and technological changes could diminish or widen global poverty and inequality. Their benefit to the least developed countries would moreover be limited unless local populations, especially women, participated in developing and applying technological solutions to challenges. To that end, access to quality basic education and emphasis on STEM were crucial. A consistent supporter of young people in education, Ireland recognized the challenge of updating curricula to keep pace with fast-developing technology and the need for innovation in delivering technological education and training to children and teachers alike.

Ireland championed numerous initiatives in science, technology and information and communications technologies (ICTs) for the young generation, notably in Africa, with the aim of increasing digital literacy and coding skills, providing science outreach activities, encouraging the development of practical and innovative solutions to problems, and building ICT capacities. With a focus on women, girls and marginalized youth, especially in remote areas, the intention was to create opportunity, prosperity and equality for all through access to knowledge and skills resources, including by way of online learning courses. Science was instrumental to sound policymaking, well-being and international cooperation. Parliamentarians must therefore strengthen its impact in addressing the challenges relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. H.S. MOON (Republic of Korea) said that expertise and wisdom should be pooled to find ways of maximizing the benefits of new technological innovations, such as enhanced productivity and quality of life, and minimizing any negative effects, such as mass unemployment and inequality. Parliaments should take the lead on that score by swiftly enacting appropriate legislation, to which end his own Parliament had established a committee to propose bills and make policy recommendations on issues associated with the fourth industrial revolution. In the interest of inclusive prosperity and sustainable growth, the goals, processes and results of technological development and innovation should remain people-centred. Parliaments must accordingly share information on technological advances to ensure peaceful coexistence and dignity for all.

In the Korean Peninsula, the prospect of change was ever nearer following the recent dramatic progress achieved towards dialogue and reconciliation. The Korean Parliament was working to promote that change and would continue its proactive efforts to achieve full denuclearization and the lasting peace vital for the region and beyond. Discussions it had proposed with its northern counterpart promised to take place soon in another of the positive developments that would have been impossible without the support and encouragement of IPU Members, which he hoped would continue.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that the technological revolution was radically changing every aspect of human existence and influencing governance and policymaking processes accordingly. Parliamentarians must therefore respond promptly and positively to the exponential transformation in science, technology and innovation that called for legislation compatible with the emerging trends and conducive to the advancement of peace and development in a fast-changing environment. E-governance was improving the efficiency of delivery, while science, technology and innovation were assisting parliaments in their important legislative and oversight functions and in their communication with citizens. Digital literacy was in fact increasingly mandatory for carrying out tasks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Parliaments in developing countries especially must raise awareness of the revolutionary role that cutting-edge technologies could play in promoting sustainable development and peace, such as through the use of real-time big data platforms to manage conflict. Science, technology and innovation also directly facilitated the accountability of governments to citizens, who in many countries, including Zambia, were able to view live webcasts of various parliamentary proceedings. Through such measures, parliamentarians performed a crucial function in ensuring that scientific knowledge was fully assimilated and applied for the furtherance of national and global development.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt) said that parliamentarians must do their utmost to seize the opportunities offered by technological developments to meet human needs and promote peace and development. New technological tools could be deployed, for instance, in conflict prevention and resolution efforts. Technological change also brought challenges, however, which called for regulation to control any adverse impact it might have and ensure that it served the interests of society. Steps must also be taken to rectify the technological disparity between developing and developed countries and thus equip the former to better meet their aspirations in line with their own choices.

Egypt had strived to ensure that its people benefited from technological change and innovation in accordance with its Constitution and through the enactment of appropriate legislation. Its Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 furthermore placed special emphasis on



fostering a creative and innovative society that used the outputs from its science, technology and innovation to face challenges and meet national objectives. Regrettably, international assistance to countries such as Palestine had been severed in total disregard for their development needs and fundamental human rights, including the right to education. Parliamentarians must join in exerting the pressure needed to ensure that those rights were upheld.

Ms. G. MAMMEDOVA (Turkmenistan) said that, in the era of innovation and technological progress, inter-parliamentary dialogue should be further strengthened with the aim of promoting stable development for all and enhancing trust and mutual understanding. Her Parliament had worked to develop an appropriate legislative framework for harnessing the country's potential in the areas of innovation and technology. It had thus enacted numerous laws designed, inter alia, to establish an enabling environment for innovation, regulate the activities of science and technology parks, protect intellectual property, and provide impetus to science, technology and knowledge-based innovation in different sectors.

In conjunction with sound policymaking and scientific and technological progress, that solid legislative foundation had provided for sustained economic growth, financial and social stability, and timely responses to external challenges and changes in the global economy. Turkmenistan had taken the initiative to propose that 2019 be declared the year of peace and confidence and had been elected as a member of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Its Parliament was furthermore active in numerous inter-parliamentary organizations and friendship groups, within which it sought to strengthen cooperation and exchange experiences and best practices for promoting science, technology and innovation, as well as understanding among peoples.

Mr. A. ALMULLA (Bahrain) said that science and education were key to sustainable development and peace, to which parliamentarians must give priority by enacting appropriate laws and pursuing dialogue and understanding. In Bahrain, all citizens and residents enjoyed free basic education and lifelong learning opportunities. Bahrain had established an annual prize for the use of ICTs in education, as well as an innovation competition aimed at encouraging creativity among public sector employees, and had itself won recognition for its progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality education). Its Parliament was improving its own performance through technology and advocated the exchange of scientific and technological expertise to promote further innovation.

In their quest for peace, stability and security, parliamentarians must adopt a firm stand against abuses suffered by peoples under occupation. The education, health and future of Palestinian refugees, for example, were at risk owing to the lamentable decision taken to halt the assistance on which they depended. His delegation therefore supported the proposal to include an emergency item on that issue in the agenda of the current Assembly. Using the technological means at their disposal, parliamentary leaders had a duty to unite their efforts for sustainable peace and development in innovative fashion for the sake of future generations.

Mr. B.A. SAKANDE (Burkina Faso) said that digital convergence over the past decades had further narrowed distances in the global village. The growth in digital science and technology was prodigious, bringing profound changes and attracting lay interest in the topic. The technological era nonetheless had pitfalls. First was the widening divide between the information-rich and information-poor, and second the fact that technology could be a force for good, or for evil, such as if used to commit online fraud or identity theft or to detonate explosive devices. The opportunities offered by technology must therefore be used within an ethical framework, in which context parliamentarians had an evident role to play.

Parliaments must not only strengthen the ties between scientists and both citizens and politicians but also foster a legal and institutional environment conducive to the development of new technologies and their proper use. As potential end users with an influence on related decision-making, parliamentarians in addition must remain abreast of scientific and technological advances. Citizens likewise should remain fully aware of the implications of such advances and draw their own red lines. The abuse of science would only be curbed, however, by building institutional cooperation, solidarity and partnership and heightening the public sense of morality.

### **Establishment of a quorum**

The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with Rule 33.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, the quorum of 62 had been established for the current Assembly on the basis of the participation of 122 delegations in the first plenary meeting.

*The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.*

## Sitting of Monday, 15 October

### (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.50 p.m. with Mr. W.W. Simina (Federated States of Micronesia), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Ms. S. MAHAJAN (India) said that science, technology and innovation were important for the advancement of society. They played a crucial role in such issues as peace, security, climate change, health and poverty eradication. However, there was also a negative side to scientific and technological advancements. For instance, some countries were using science, technology and innovation to fuel conflict and spread fake news.

For development to be sustainable, people living in poverty must be at the centre of all efforts. Social innovation was very important in that regard. One way to foster social innovation was through indigenous methods. For example, India had invented the *dona*: a bowl made of tree leaves which was used for serving food. The bowl decomposed when disposed unlike single-use plastics. Other national social innovations had included non-violence and spiritual practices, such as yoga.

To reap the benefits of the technological revolution, it was important to deal with it in an appropriate manner. The international community must form a global partnership to finance technology, tackle the digital divide, mitigate job losses and devise tools that favoured women and the poor.

Parliaments should take the lead in promoting peace through technology. The Indian Parliament had set up the Speaker's Research Initiative which allowed parliamentarians to interact with experts on key issues and thus become better informed. It had also used technology to set up an e-Parliament and to reduce the country's carbon footprint.

Mr. M. AL-SULAMI (Arab Parliament) said that parliamentarians must develop a better vision linking science, technology and development. That vision should aim to achieve lasting peace. The Arab region was not on the path to peace because of Israel and the policies it had been implementing against the Palestinian people. They were policies of intimidation, murder, displacement and demolition which denied the Palestinians fundamental freedoms and rights, notably the right to establish an independent State. In 2018, Israel had adopted the Jewish Nation-State Law which codified policies based on racism and apartheid, violating the fundamental principles of international law. Many Palestinians were also starving and living without humanitarian aid. He called on the international community to put an end to the tragedy of the Palestinian people.

Ms. E. CABEZAS GUERRERO (Ecuador) said it was important to consider how access to technology could contribute to development and peace. For example, information and communications technologies (ICTs) had proved vital in combating corruption by encouraging information exchange and promoting transparency. Countries could not combat corruption alone. Ecuador had therefore passed a law that encouraged its own region to work together on recovering misappropriated capital. Ecuador itself had seen billions of dollars spent in inappropriate ways and was taking steps to recover those funds. She encouraged governments to be transparent by providing citizens with easy access to information. All institutions should use technology to disclose how their funds were being spent to the benefit of society. Although it was important to support advancements in ICTs, countries must be aware that such technologies could also pose a threat. It was paramount that governments used ICTs to improve societies and foster peace by guiding policy correctly and engaging with citizens.

The CHAIR said that the Assembly would hear a presentation by Mr. H. Rogers who was the founder of the Blue Planet Foundation. The Blue Planet Foundation was devoted to reducing and eliminating the planet's dependence on fossil fuels. Hawaii, where the foundation was based, had been the first state in the United States of America to adopt a law which introduced a requirement to generate 100 per cent of its energy from renewable sources. Mr. Rogers was also a global leader in the gaming industry. One of his software companies owned the exclusive intellectual property rights to Tetris, the world's most popular video game.

Mr. H. ROGERS (Blue Planet Foundation) said that, after 20 years in the gaming business, he had taken on the mission of ending the use of carbon-based fuel. To do so, he had set up the Blue Planet Foundation.

*A video about the Blue Planet Foundation was shown.*

Rising temperatures would lead to higher seas levels, more extreme climate conditions and higher numbers of climate refugees. Humanity must not let that happen. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had set a deadline to reverse climate change. By 2030, the level of carbon dioxide must be 50 per cent lower than that of 2010. By 2050, there must be zero emissions. After that, the international community would still have 200 years' worth of carbon dioxide to remove from the atmosphere.

The Blue Planet Foundation, which had been in existence for 10 years, believed that society could not survive if people continued to destroy the environment. With the help of the Foundation, Hawaii had achieved a number of successes on climate change. The state government had introduced a tax on oil that had made it more expensive than renewable energy. It had also ended the use of coal, promoted bikes and electric vehicles and fitted 80,000 homes with solar panels. Children and teenagers had participated in the campaign, for instance, by going door to door exchanging regular lightbulbs for more efficient LED ones. Furthermore, Hawaii had been the first state in the country to pass a law that required the state to generate 100 per cent of its energy for electricity from renewable sources by 2045. California had followed suit by passing the same legislation. The mayors of the Hawaiian Islands had also agreed that all ground transportation should run on renewables by 2045.

The Blue Planet Foundation had achieved the aforementioned successes by engaging with the electric company in Hawaii which had the most powerful lobbyists on the islands. The company had initially refused to generate 100 per cent of its energy using renewable sources by 2045. However, it had been forced to reconsider its position when the attendant law was passed requiring it to do so. The company had then realized that not only could it achieve the goal by 2045, it could achieve it by 2040 while also saving ratepayers USD 7 billion. The Foundation was now working with the company to facilitate the transition. A new law would soon come into force under which companies would make more money the quicker they switched to renewables. Delegates should encouraged electric companies in their own countries to make the same transition.

Mr. A. BENSALAH (Algeria) said that technology could have a positive impact on peace, stability and development. Parliamentarians must assess the obstacles faced by the South in terms of the digital divide. Developed and developing countries must create an adequate and flexible partnership on technology that was beneficial to both, rather than rooted in commercial interests. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must enable developing countries to gain the same access to technology as developed ones. It could be done, for instance, through information exchange and financial investment. It was the duty of parliamentarians to adopt laws that prevented the misuse of new technologies.

Algeria called on the international community to resolve the conflict in the Western Sahara strictly respecting international law. It reaffirmed its concern regarding the situation in Palestine and called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. The proposal for the emergency item prepared by Jordan and Kuwait was therefore very relevant. Algeria wished to find a political solution to the conflicts in Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that he welcomed the emphasis placed on promoting education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It was vital to teach STEM subjects at all levels from basic education to advanced courses on applied research and innovation. Innovation and technological change contributed significantly to development and growth, as evidenced by the advancement of ICTs, which had become essential in supporting the work of parliaments throughout the world. The Namibian Parliament was embracing such technologies in the field of trade. It was also working together with Finland to put in place a paperless e-Parliament. ICTs could support the work of the legislature by improving access to information, increasing administrative efficiency and effectiveness, and enhancing interaction with citizens.

Parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils should continue using econometric models to assess national economies. By doing so, they would enable parliaments to critically analyse national budgets and ensure that sufficient funds were allocated to the sectors most in need.

The Namibian Parliament was keen to craft legislation and policies that enhanced scientific research, innovation and technology, so as to achieve the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. One such recent policy related to social media use. The policy sought to prevent online abuse, guide

information dissemination and foster a culture of interaction between the government and the public. Promoting innovation and technology would enable Namibia to add value to its natural resources by creating jobs and improving the welfare of its citizens.

Mr. K. AL-MAAWALI (Oman) said that parliaments must be effective, efficient and consistent if they were to achieve their goals. It was important to establish a clear institutional framework via which countries could build their societies and reinforce their ties with others. The international community must reject violence and engage in dialogue as a way to resolve conflicts and foster development. Peace and security were prerequisites to development. He therefore called on the international community to establish an independent Palestinian State with its capital in East Jerusalem so as to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. It was important to address the decision of some countries to withdraw financial assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Countries must limit the proliferation of nuclear weapons and move towards denuclearization. They must also refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States. Oman had organized an exhibition to promote the key values of Islam: coexistence and peace.

The international community should encourage innovation and seize the opportunities that went hand in hand with it. Efforts should also be made to enhance cooperation, exchange experiences and enact laws in that direction. Oman provided innovators with a great deal of support. For example, it offered assistance to students in schools and universities and had set up specialized agencies that organized training sessions. The IPU should help parliaments to boost innovation.

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) said that countries should continually reflect on how they could prosper in the era of the digital and knowledge economy. Women and girls were grossly underrepresented in STEM careers with only 30 per cent choosing to study the subjects globally. It was important to invest in STEM education for women and girls in Africa. By doing so, the continent could better leverage the demographic dividend anticipated by 2050, when one quarter of the world's population would be African. Young people also represented a valuable resource in the age of innovation and technological change. In recognition of that fact, South Africa had designed a national development plan aimed at underscoring the importance of education, training and innovation as central elements to eliminating poverty and reducing inequalities. Various factors contributed to women's underrepresentation in the STEM fields. They included: the need to balance work expectations with family responsibilities, a lack of self-confidence, family and peer influences, and biases embedded in the school system. Each country also had its own additional unique causes for the underrepresentation of women. Legislators had a key role to play in addressing those factors. Parliamentarians should raise awareness among their constituents with a view to changing gender stereotypes and persuading people to abandon myths and misconceptions. Innovation and technology must be geared towards improving the lives of the poorest, most of whom were women and people living in developing countries.

Ms. A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that while the knowledge revolution would open up new opportunities, it would also bring challenges, such as the digital divide, terrorism and fake news. The United Arab Emirates had taken many measures to tap into the age of innovation and thus build a more stable, secure and peaceful society. For instance, it had launched initiatives in aeronautics and ICTs. It had also been working with the United States to eliminate fake news.

The international community must find solutions to the world's conflicts, including the occupation of islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinian cause. It must put an end to foreign interference. Indeed, Iran had been attempting to erode security in the region by meddling in the affairs of other States: it had launched ballistic missiles at Saudi Arabia and provided weaponry to certain groups. The United Arab Emirates had in contrast been working towards peace. It had deployed USD 4 million in humanitarian assistance to Yemen and had taken steps to bring Ethiopia and Eritrea closer together.

Technology could be a weapon of destruction but could also be a tool to build societies. Parliamentarians must adopt national and international laws to ensure the peaceful use of technology. She urged parliaments to sign the Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted at the Global Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament which made reference to the use of technology.

Mr. N. BERRY (Lebanon) said that his country was facing many challenges, including unemployment, threats from Israel, terrorism and various economic difficulties. The Government had taken on board the ideas of young people to tackle those challenges. It was also supporting the scientific community, for instance, by promoting the use of artificial intelligence and e-government. The parliamentary committee on ICTs was very active and had established relations with many

universities. The Government was also taking steps to end digital illiteracy. Parliaments must adopt laws that promoted STEM education. Technology should be a tool to build mutual trust and peace rather than to incite terrorism.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait) said that parliaments in the age of science and technology should focus on human rights, peace and development. They could bring about positive change and prevent violence by using science and technology in an interactive and integrated way. He called on the international community to address the root causes of conflicts. The conflict in Palestine had been deteriorating with growing numbers of human rights violations taking place. For instance, Israel had recently ratified its Jewish Nation-State Law which gave Jews sole rights to self-determination to the exclusion of all other religions. Similarly, it was continuing to destroy houses and seize land. Some countries had also cut their funding to UNRWA. The international community had a legal and humanitarian duty to take action. The IPU must be more active as a moral guardian of human rights around the world.

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

Mr. B. YILDIRIM (Turkey) said that the world must find solutions to many of its problems, including violence, war, climate change, migration, poverty, unemployment and xenophobia. At the third meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments in Antalya, participants had published a declaration setting out a road map on sustainable development. However, the road map would not be achieved without win-win cooperation or drive. One example of successful cooperation had been the action of the Russian Federation and Iran in Idlib. Concerted efforts would similarly be required to foster a culture of reconciliation rather than conflict. In the face of globalization, no State could progress if others were left behind. Evidence of that could be seen in the migration crisis which had seen huge flows of people moving from underdeveloped countries to developed ones. It was important to take a human-centred approach to development which also combined a vision for the future. All solutions should be based on the will of the people. Although technology could be a positive tool that served the people, it also had a negative side. For instance, it could cause many people, particularly women, to lose their jobs.

A delegate from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, responding to the delegate from the United Arab Emirates, said that Iran reiterated its sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Any measures that Iranian officials had taken on those islands had always been conducted on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran. Furthermore, the only correct name for the sea between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula was the Persian Gulf. The claims that the Parliament of the United Arab Emirates had made were baseless, worthless and illusory. Iran had always shown respect for its neighbours and had never meddled in the internal affairs of other countries. Rather than making false allegations, the delegation from the United Arab Emirates should work towards reducing tensions and misunderstandings in the region.

#### Item 2 of the agenda

#### **Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda** (A/139/2-P1 to P.8, A/139/2-Inf.1.rev.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU Secretariat had received five requests for the inclusion of an emergency item.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL invited the authors to present their proposals in advance of the vote by roll call.

Mr. B.A. SAKANDE (Burkina Faso), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments* (A/139/2-P.3), said that the Sahel had been facing an unprecedented security crisis that continued to affect thousands of people, including women and children. Armed terrorist groups had been attacking State symbols, defence and security forces as well as civilians. They had also targeted schools as a way of spreading their ideology. More than 520 schools had closed as a result of terrorist activities thus depriving 56,000 pupils of the right to education. The crisis was not only a threat to States in the region but also to neighbouring regions. The Sahel States had joined together under the Group of Five for the Sahel to cooperate on development and security matters. Although the Group had been approved under United Nations Security Council resolution 2359 (2017), it would not receive direct funding from the United Nations which served to limit its efficiency. It was therefore urgent to act.

Mr. N. JUDEH (Jordan), presenting a joint proposal for an emergency item by Jordan and Kuwait entitled *Cutting off aid to UNRWA – A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole (A/139/2-P.5)* said that the activities of UNRWA should only cease when the plight of Palestinian refugees ceased. Since UNRWA funds were not sufficient, 5.5 million people were being deprived of education, health, social services and relief. The situation not only represented a humanitarian emergency, it also had the potential to fuel radicalization and extremism.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait), seconding the joint proposal, said that the case of Palestine was one of the most urgent humanitarian emergencies in the world. The withdrawal of funds to UNRWA would mean that 5 million benefactors, 677 schools, 143 health facilities and thousands of jobs would suffer. The international community had a duty to stand by Palestine.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles), presenting the proposal for an emergency item by the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia entitled *Climate change – Let us not cross the line (A/139/2-P.6)*, said that, following the publication of the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, there had been a number of protests across Europe demanding a redoubling of efforts to tackle global warming. If the international community did not reverse the global temperature rise, small island developing States might not survive. It was important to take note of the predictions of the IPCC report and develop a rapid action plan at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPU must also produce a strong resolution at the COP24.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), presenting the proposal for an emergency item by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands entitled *The urgent need to resolve the humanitarian crisis caused by the deterioration of parliamentary democracy in Venezuela (A/139/2-P.7)*, said that Venezuela was a rich country with more oil than Saudi Arabia or Canada, yet it had been experiencing an economic crisis and a humanitarian emergency. Millions of people had fled, including thousands of doctors. Diseases, such as measles, tuberculosis and even polio, were on the rise. Inflation was so high that it could alter by over 200 per cent within an hour. People were dying of starvation and malnutrition. Most households were living in abject poverty. Electricity would go off for days and one region had no access to water. There had been many demonstrations but military repression was rife and murder rates had skyrocketed. The legitimate national assembly had been replaced by a fraudulent one consisting of members all of whom supported the President. Many Members of Parliament, former judges and a former attorney general were living in exile. Parliamentarians should encourage their governments to take peaceful action on the situation in Venezuela. Given the positive response received from delegates, there was no need to talk about the topic further. He therefore wished to withdraw the proposal.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Addressing the issue of missing persons: The role of Parliaments (A/139/2-P.8)* said that tens of thousands of people from 92 States across the world had disappeared. That included Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist, who had disappeared at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Although there had been much talk of bringing missing people home, nothing had been done. He asked the international community to help bring back four missing Israeli citizens: Hadar Goldin, Oron Shaul, Avera Mengisto and Hisham al-Sayed. Two were soldiers who had been attacked and kidnapped in Gaza after a ceasefire had been declared. Two were civilians who had crossed into Gaza by mistake. Although Israel had been negotiating with Hamas, it had not received an answer from them. Given that there was some anti-Israel sentiment at the present forum, he wished to withdraw the proposal.

The PRESIDENT said that three proposals remained after two had been withdrawn. They were: the proposal submitted by the delegation of Burkina Faso, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Jordan and Kuwait and the proposal submitted by the delegations of the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. The Assembly would hold its traditional roll-call vote on the emergency item. Given the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, there would also be a roll-call vote on a procedural motion whereby delegates should answer the following question: Do you agree that the Assembly can change the workplan and agenda of the Standing Committees? If delegates voted in favour, it would set a precedent in terms of the relationship between the Assembly and the Standing Committees. It would also require the Assembly to organize another vote on whether to hold a panel discussion at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human*

*rights of LGBTI persons.* If the Assembly voted against, the Assembly would not have the authority to change the agenda nor would there be another vote on the panel discussion. The decision taken by the Standing Committee at the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly would stand.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in voting by roll call on the three proposals and the procedural motion. He drew attention to the allocation of votes listed in document A/139/INF.2.

*A vote by roll call was taken.*

*With 715 votes in favour, 331 against and 619 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Burkina Faso obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.*

*With 1,036 votes in favour, 258 against and 371 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegations of Jordan and Kuwait obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.*

*With 1,106 votes in favour, 311 against and 248 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegations of the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.*

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the proposal submitted by the delegations of the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia was added to the agenda of the Assembly as Item 8.*

*With 874 votes in favour, 671 against and 120 abstentions, the procedural motion obtained a simple majority in favour of the Assembly's authority to change the agenda of the Standing Committees.*

*Having obtained a simple majority in favour of the Assembly's authority to change the agenda of the Standing Committees, the IPU would schedule a vote on 17 October 2018 on whether to hold a panel discussion at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly on the question of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.*

*The sitting rose at 6.15 p.m.*

## Final agenda

- 
1. Election of the President of the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly
  2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
  3. General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*
  4. *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*  
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
  5. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
  6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
  7. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
  8. Climate change – Let us not cross the line
-



## Sitting of Tuesday, 16 October (Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m., with Ms. M.R. Mokitimi (Lesotho), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 8 of the agenda

#### **Plenary debate on the emergency item: *Climate change – Let us not cross the line* (A/139/2-P.6)**

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles), *co-author of the chosen emergency item Climate change – Let us not cross the line*, said that the fate of planet Earth hinged on a shift to an environmentally-friendly model of development for proactive sustainability. Extreme weather events were increasing globally and threatening the very existence of small island developing States faced with alarming sea level rises. The global community must therefore take on board the implications revealed in the recent special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concerning the impact of global warming. Without a more ambitious road map for global climate action, hopes of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be severely diminished. He therefore appealed to Members to support efforts to that end.

Ms. M.W.R. VUNIWAQA (Fiji) said that climate change had a universal impact and no geographical limitations. Heavily reliant on the sea, small island developing States in particular were experiencing the far-reaching ramifications of dynamic weather pattern changes that exacerbated the vulnerability of peoples already confronted with socioeconomic and development challenges. In Pacific island States, adaptation measures had included relocation, which was traumatic for the village communities concerned but was under way in Fiji as a last resort. Parliaments must more than ever act in solidarity by ensuring the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs); delivery of key outcomes, and preservation and advancement of the global climate consensus.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that his country was committed to taking united action to tackle the global challenges of climate change and was striving to accomplish the objectives specified in that respect, including by setting targets for wind and solar power generation, providing cleaner cooking fuel and working further to reduce its carbon emissions as part of its NDCs. Climate change responses must factor in development requirements as well as the financial and technological constraints affecting the ability of developing countries to act on their commitments. Through concerted efforts, humanity could turn the tide against climate change for the common good.

Mr. P. MNGUNI (South Africa) said that, although not a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, Africa was the continent most vulnerable to climate change effects, as demonstrated by the recent water crisis in Cape Town, where water-saving measures were now the new norm. The challenge was to respond to those effects and to balance economic growth with the sustainable use of environmental resources. South Africa had developed an integrated resources plan including renewable energy, and had put forward a climate change bill. For their part, IPU Members must remain committed to the parliamentary action plan on climate change endorsed at the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Mr. A. CASTRO ALEGRÍA (Cuba) said that the island State of Cuba supported all actions aimed at preserving life on Earth and had long been alert to climate change and the need for environmental protection. In that light, it had proposed international actions, introduced domestic measures and was reforming its Constitution accordingly. Taking into account Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality education) and 13 (Climate action), he suggested that the draft resolution should aim to bolster the commitment of parliaments and governments to promoting a culture of caring for and protecting the environment among young people before it was too late to prevent annihilation of the world's natural resources.

Mr. T. JIA (China) said that international efforts must be pooled to overcome the universal challenges posed by climate change. The findings of the recent IPCC report were sure to strengthen such efforts and promote low-carbon development, which was kinder to the environment. In that regard, developing countries invariably found energy transition a difficult process for which developed countries were therefore duty-bound to provide support. For its part, China was actively engaged in combating climate change and its effects through innovative measures and fully expected to meet its related obligations with the aim of building a clean and sustainable environment for all.

A delegate from the FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA said that, for the sake of a healthy planet, it was wise to err on the side of caution by assuming that the IPCC report was scientifically correct in showing the climate change situation to be far worse than previously thought. It was therefore best to be prepared by urgently revising the global response to climate change so as to meet the set targets ahead of the timelines. Parliamentarians must offer appropriate policy directions and adapt or establish legislation to match. Small island developing States in particular needed financial and technical support and thus looked forward to parliamentary cooperation on climate change.

A delegate from CHAD said that the expanding desertification in the Sahel region had led to devastating consequences, including drought, death of herds, soil degradation and food insecurity. As one of the countries affected, Chad was benefiting from support and had taken part in adaptation projects under the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative aimed at addressing the impacts. It called upon the international community to offer further support to the country's deployment of solar energy as well as to the efforts of the Sahel countries to ensure their survival against climate change and the additional threat of terrorism to which they were likewise vulnerable. He urged concerned delegations to participate in finalizing the draft resolution.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda), expressing concern that the grave situation in Venezuela had again failed to be selected as the emergency item, said she hoped that an IPU presidential statement would be made in support of Venezuelan colleagues. The chosen item was also important, however, as low-lying small island developing States in particular faced an existential threat from the rapid rise in sea levels prompted by climate change. With economic livelihoods so badly affected by the increase in extreme weather events, the communities on those islands were in need of solidarity and support. Parliamentarians must join forces in attempting to alleviate their plight.

Mr. J.M. GOMES DA VEIGA (Cabo Verde) said that the ravages of drought in his small country had killed thousands and forced a similar number to migrate elsewhere, causing economic upheaval and a shift in national investment priorities towards helping struggling families. Desalinated seawater was used for drinking but not in agriculture and industry because the country's limited resources were directed to other sectors with more pressing needs. There was already sufficient evidence to show that no country was safe from the effects of climate change, which boded ill for the future unless urgent international action was taken to reverse those effects and, in the longer term, save humankind.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that there were three different types of persons to be conscious of when discussing climate change: individuals who worked consistently to protect the world's natural resources and should be thanked for their endeavours; individuals who deliberately sought to destroy those resources for their own gain and must be stopped from inflicting further damage; and individuals who had no knowledge of the subject. His own region was already experiencing the consequences of climate change, including water shortages and increasing desertification, which threatened lives. In short, IPU Members must unite to raise awareness of climate change and pursue measures to combat its global effects.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that climate change was a problem to be confronted through global efforts and urged industrialized nations in particular to meet their obligations under the Paris Agreement so as to avoid devastating consequences for the world. Most notable among the Jordanian policies adopted to combat the effects of climate change was a renewable energy strategy aimed at reducing carbon emissions and temperatures, including through the promotion of clean means of transport. At the international level, a fund must be established to assist climate refugees forced to leave their countries through no fault of their own. There was no replacement for planet Earth and all measures must be taken to protect it.

Ms. M.L. SUHARLI (Indonesia) said that changes in lifestyle and other transformations were needed to achieve sustainable development centred on prosperity and environmental protection. Parliaments must therefore put their best efforts into policymaking and the development of a universal framework integrating socioeconomic and environmental concerns to save the planet. Joint action should also be strengthened to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change through effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, including by making budgetary allocations for mitigation and adaptation and providing capacity-building as needed. Unilateral withdrawal from the Paris Agreement should be rejected as it signalled an unwillingness to foster the creation of a peaceful and sustainable world.

The CHAIR thanked all those who had contributed to the debate and requested the geopolitical groups that had not yet done so to submit their candidatures for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing the draft resolution on the item for consideration by the Assembly.

*Ms. J.F. Luveni (Fiji), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

## **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

### *Resumption of the debate*

Ms. K. ALLI IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that, coupled with meaningful international cooperation, technological innovations were pivotal to achieving the SDGs. Ethiopia had made technology central to its development agenda aimed at turning it into a middle-income country. Already it was reaping the benefits of having created a technology transfer network for capacity-building and having invested in science and technology programmes in higher education. It was transforming its economy from agrarian-based to one that was predominantly knowledge- and information-based, and it was promoting investment in small and medium enterprises, which played an important job-creation role and were well placed to harness information and communications technologies (ICTs).

With sustainable development dependent on sustainable peace, Ethiopia had worked tirelessly to secure peace at home and in the Horn of Africa. Indeed, it had established an impeccable peacekeeping record. It had recently experienced unprecedented political and socioeconomic changes after, inter alia, fostering national reconciliation, releasing political prisoners, ending its long-standing stalemate with Eritrea, and creating an enabling economic environment for the private sector in particular. In working to strengthen democratization, transform lives and promote and protect human rights, its parliamentarians remained committed to working closely with all stakeholders and parliaments to ensure that laws relating to science and technology spoke directly to national needs.

Mr. K.M. NGOGA (East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)) said that the technological revolution had produced tremendous benefits but also challenges. Parliaments, in addition to exercising their budgetary and oversight functions in the ICT sphere, must therefore provide a legislative framework to guarantee, inter alia, appropriate regulation of the industry, constructive youth engagement in ICTs, technological inclusivity, and protection of technical innovations. The EALA was keen to strengthen awareness of the linkage between ICTs and peace and development, tap the potential of young people as innovators, and stem the abusive use of ICTs. In short, the gap between innovation and regulation must be narrowed for positive change to ensue from technology.

Mr. S. OVELAR (Paraguay) said that technological advances were raising new questions about how to manage a process in which daily lives were increasingly ruled by smart devices, geolocation applications and algorithms. Parliamentarians were thus faced with the challenge of developing pertinent legislation while taking into account the future impact of science and technology on such matters as employment. With the help of science, parliaments could find more appropriate policy solutions and better oversee implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Technological development was moving public protests away from the streets and on to social media platforms. It was a new digital world and legislation should be keeping pace.

Against that backdrop, efforts must be spearheaded to prevent a breakdown of public authority, move towards open, transparent and participatory governance, and obviate the risk of losing sovereignty to algorithmic rule. Technological development led simultaneously to job loss and job creation. The hope however was that education in science would gain new impetus as a means of preparing for the future world of work and would thereby reduce the impact of the transformations under way. The difficulty lay in responding creatively to the rise of artificial intelligence so as to prevent algorithms from taking control.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIC (Serbia) said that parliaments must be prepared for the digital age and embrace the changes it brought to promote modernization, openness and greater efficiency. They furthermore had a special responsibility to foster peace and security for the sake of development and vice versa; an important role to play in the creation of systems for training individuals in a knowledge-based digital economy; and a duty to focus on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 9.5 concerning scientific research and technological innovation.

For its part, the Serbian National Assembly had developed mechanisms for monitoring SDG implementation and was involved in defining the priorities for sustainable development. It had a committee mandated to deal with matters relating to scientific and technological development, innovation and the information age, and it operated e-parliament, e-government and e-administration portals that were strengthened and updated daily. It was also building electronic and digital systems to modernize further and worked with scientific institutions to strengthen cooperation, all with the aim of increasing the National Assembly's strength, effectiveness, responsibility and transparency. It would thus be well qualified as a key democratic institution to continue contributing to overall development and the maintenance of regional stability for social progress.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD (Qatar) said that peace and development were two interrelated concepts to be addressed in conjunction. Lack of development prompted conflict, displacement and migration and must be tackled at its root source. In his region, the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine was a major cause of instability and insecurity to which the only solution was to restore justice to the Palestinian people and respect for their human rights and dignity. Qatar meanwhile continued to wholeheartedly support United Nations efforts aimed at providing assistance to Palestinians.

While science and technology positively contributed to social advancement, they could also be damaging if exploited for malevolent purposes, such as with the aim of undermining State sovereignty, spreading fake news or carrying out espionage. Qatar, itself a victim of cybercrime, had therefore recently offered to host an international conference with a view to the elaboration of an international law regulating the use of cyber and digital technology. It had launched various initiatives to promote scientific education, research and excellence, including among its youth population, whom it considered vital to defending collective peace and security. In that context, it had also pledged to guarantee the access of girls to a first-rate education. Its Parliament was enacting laws in all those related spheres.

Mr. I. AHMED OMER (Sudan) said that legislation and policies must keep pace with the rapid technological and scientific advances crucial to socioeconomic development. To that end, they must address related challenges in such areas as employment and education, especially in the face of globalization and competition. Low technology transfer and the external debt crisis exacerbated those challenges for developing countries, which would benefit from tax exemptions on materials imported for scientific research and education purposes. For its part, the Sudanese Parliament had enacted laws relating to, among others, information, cybercrime and electronic transactions.

In the fourth revolution driven by artificial intelligence, big data, nanotechnology and the like, science must form both the basis and the object of knowledge. The constant paradigm shifts under way also called for a different approach to peace and development and indeed a new analysis of their meaning, bearing in mind furthermore the generational gaps in social, political and scientific thinking. Innovative scientific research could give rise to ethical concerns, notably in such controversial fields as genetic engineering, while ICTs and social media were increasingly associated with privacy breaches and security threats. It was true to say, however, that peace and development remained non-existent for some, as in Palestine.

Mr. N. PREA (Seychelles) said that his Parliament had boldly embraced technological innovations in its mission to strengthen the country's democracy and institutions. It communicated through social media and webcast its public proceedings, thereby building trust with its electorate, and also sought to facilitate the transformation to a knowledge-based society by promoting scientific research and the use of ICTs in education. It furthermore encouraged the use of energy and climate technologies and was engaged in an ambitious green project to harness solar energy and collect rainwater with the aim of reducing its carbon footprint and utility expenditures.

Evident nonetheless was the country's digital divide and its need for expert technological assistance in support of its development agenda and elaboration of informed climate-related policies. In that connection, he was hopeful that the draft IPU resolution on climate change put forward by delegations from small island developing States would expedite the provision of such assistance to enhance the climate adaptation and mitigation efforts already under way. Scientists had warned of the dire consequences of global warming, which were already affecting those who relied on terrestrial and marine ecosystems for their livelihoods. The international community must therefore urgently join together in seeking positive solutions to address climate change.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi), noting that peace and development went hand in hand, said that ICTs facilitated the legislative and oversight activities of parliamentarians in his country, where communication was likewise facilitated throughout owing to the widespread access to the Internet. His Parliament used the opportunities thus provided to disseminate messages aimed at building peace,

including as a means of promoting development and in turn combating poverty. It also worked to ensure that scientific research and technological innovations were being harnessed to those same ends as a matter of policy. Peace and security were furthermore being strengthened through concerted institutional efforts to implement the national development plan.

In the new atmosphere of calm and inter-Burundian dialogue, refugees were returning home and a recent constitutional referendum had taken place without incident. Burundi was also participating in international peacekeeping and counter-terrorism efforts and striving to promote and protect human rights. It therefore rejected as flawed, one-sided and politicized a recent report on its human rights record, which was clearly aimed at sabotaging the next elections and creating instability. As observed by official visitors to the country, including the IPU Secretary General himself, the situation had returned to normal and any isolated crimes were investigated and duly punished.

Mr. P. WICHITCHOLCHAI (Thailand) said that, taking into account the rapid developments in science and technology, his country had launched a holistic road map, known as Thailand 4.0, to guide its transformation towards a value-based economy driven by creativity and innovation. Aimed at overcoming the middle-income trap, the new growth engine was focused on utilizing new core technologies in specific industries, including aerospace, robotics, biotechnology and nanotechnology. Another goal was eventually to generate one quarter of gross domestic product through digital industries. Tax incentives and a special economic zone had thus been introduced to promote private investment in the type of innovative research and development initiatives emphasized in Thailand 4.0.

In keeping with the Thailand 4.0 vision, the National Legislative Assembly had been engaged in reforming outdated laws and enacting new laws to strengthen the legal foundation in the areas of innovation and technology, boost competitiveness in targeted industries, and encourage strategic investment in the aforementioned specific industries. Science, technology and innovation were essential for knowledge-based growth and helped to overcome poverty and inequality. They should consequently remain a top priority for development and be enhanced through parliamentary support and collaboration at all levels to ensure inclusive and balanced growth for a sustainable future.

Mr. A.N. AMARAL (Timor-Leste) said that science was vital to promoting socioeconomic development, appropriate policymaking, improved well-being, capacity-building and international cooperation. As to technical innovation, it contributed to peace and sustainability while also presenting challenges in the areas of governance and development. Politicians and citizens alike must work to shield democracy from the risks associated with technological advances, such as the use of social media to spread fake news, including with a view to influencing the system. The various forms of social media should therefore be examined to gain further understanding of their impact in that context, while parliaments must convey the message that their function was to serve the public and that collaborative efforts alone would guide their respective nation's future.

The transparency promised through new technologies was no guarantee of knowledge, however, as clarity and truth depended on the interpretation of data and facts. Indeed, insofar as hyperinformation and hypercommunication complicated the understanding of the world, they were not the key to enlightenment per se. Policies must be developed in the light of all such technological changes to achieve shared goals, using science as a mechanism for building socioeconomic development and peace in the globalized world. It therefore made sense to join forces in channelling technical innovations to those ends.

Ms. G. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (Philippines) said that parliaments could use their budgetary, legislative and regulatory powers to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. In that regard, their interventions must be evidence-based and aimed at achieving sustainable well-being while balancing science with ethics, all of which called for a solid and disciplined information management infrastructure. As to the provision of adequate budgetary support, it could be guided by international benchmarks such as those followed by the Philippines Congress with a view to producing a critical mass of research-trained engineers. To that end, a youth-targeted programme focused on engineering research and development for technology had been introduced.

International scientific cooperation models promoted modernization, dialogue and peace, as exemplified by the various agreements among countries in her region to conduct oil and gas explorations in disputed marine areas. In that context, an expert group in her country was exploring the legal and other aspects concerning a possible joint exploration mission in one such area. Whether involving scholarships, research and development or joint undertakings, cooperation models of those types supported the attainment of the SDGs, to which innovation and technology were integral. Parliaments could do much by harnessing both in their efforts to achieve peace and development.

Mr. K. LUSAKA (Kenya) said that science, technology and innovation were radically transforming socioeconomic realities, including by promoting sound policymaking, wealth- and capacity-building, and international cooperation. Governance issues aside, STEM education, basic and applied research activities and social entrepreneurship models formed elements of the virtuous circle of peace and development. Investment in those elements could therefore yield high dividends, with parliamentarians playing a critical role in mainstreaming technology and innovation, raising awareness of their positive impact on peace and development and legislating accordingly. Science-based policymaking indeed increased the likelihood of success in addressing critical global challenges, such as those embodied in the SDGs, and therefore merited more attention.

In Kenya, science, technology and innovation were deemed essential to the country's industrialization and sustainable development, as was reflected in the applicable legislation and budgetary allocations. They were likewise indispensable to the attainment of the SDGs, which was also dependent on knowledge-sharing and cooperation among stakeholders. Parliamentarians therefore had no option but to foster strong linkages and dialogue with the scientific community in the interest of effective policymaking and innovative responses to fundamental problems. Increasing their access to science-based knowledge in that manner would help to inform their actions aimed at improving the welfare of citizens.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that underdevelopment often bred social discontent, providing fertile ground for misunderstanding and conflict. Strategic preparations were consequently vital in the rapidly changing world to preclude problems that would disrupt peace and threaten affluent survival. Scientific development and technological advancement were key in that context, both to the continuation of peaceful human existence and to the attainment of the SDGs, notably Goal 9 (Industrial innovation and infrastructure) and Goal 13 (Climate action). Indeed, positive outcomes were already visible in countries where parliamentarians had ensured that sound policies and adequate budgetary allocations were directed towards science and technology to create an enabling environment for peace and development.

Despite their efforts, however, developing countries such as Malawi still had far to go in addressing the specific features of innovation and science. It was for parliamentarians, through their budgetary, legislative and oversight functions, to seize all opportunities available to them and ensure that science took centre stage in national development policies. Like other countries with agro-based economies, Malawi must either innovate or perish, especially in the face of climate change. Parliamentarians should thus enact science-based legislation and monitor the results as part of their duty to harness science for the sake of human freedom and happiness.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that innovation and technical progress had generated a paradigm shift in every sphere, increasing interconnectedness and triggering fast-paced socioeconomic transformations around the globe. Parliamentarians had a duty to embrace and facilitate that progress as integral to the promotion of peace and development for improving lives, including by encouraging further scientific cooperation, knowledge-sharing and information exchange across borders in areas ranging from, among others, medicine and research to environment and food security. Such actions would enhance understanding of how better to serve communities through policymaking informed by big data.

As well as strengthening democracy through improved public access to information, parliamentarians must also establish a legislative and regulatory framework for narrowing the digital divide and promoting the growth of cutting-edge technology through tax and other incentives. Additional measures might include the development of rural infrastructures to increase digital literacy and the provision of funding for STEM-related training and education targeting women and minorities, as well as seed funding for STEM start-ups. The issue of job losses from automation must also be addressed, with a particular focus on women. Bangladesh was fast building its digital and other capacities to ensure the country's future well-being and contribution to a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive world.

Mr. M.A. OQUAYE (Ghana) said that amazing scientific and technological strides had been achieved in the twenty-first century, including in agriculture and e-medicine, with an abundance of knowledge available at the touch of a button. Governments, however, generally had better ICT facilities than parliaments, which should, in turn, move towards digitization and a paperless approach, including as a means of improving their oversight functions. As to scientific, rational, predictable and equitable processes, their absence could promote conflict and also negatively affect development.

In Africa, conflicts had often been associated with elections and the chaos and confusion sometimes resulting from the use of manual voting and counting procedures, among others, whereas such problems could be averted through the introduction of computerized systems. Africa also lagged

behind generally in the fields of science and ICTs, which attracted fewer university students and were more costly to teach in view of the outlay needed for equipment and materials. The consequences of that situation should therefore be examined and recommendations made for improving it. A new world financial order must also be created to enable African countries to raise funds from their processed goods and benefit from their natural resources rather than being bound by the regime of the World Trade Organization.

Mr. M. ALI HOUMED (Djibouti) said that, in their common pursuit of peace and development, parliamentarians must look to science and technology for the indispensable know-how and innovative modelling essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, all countries would be wise to invest in mechanisms that linked science with peace and development. The cooperation within the scientific community set an inspiring example of intercultural dialogue, while scientific findings assisted policymaking by identifying long-term threats and emerging trends potentially affecting the well-being of future generations. Parliamentarians must therefore spearhead related debates and guide policymaking and regulation in such new fields as artificial intelligence, robotics and biotechnology.

Parliamentarians could also help to pinpoint opportunities and benefits created through technological advances; develop laws to, inter alia, promote innovation in peace and development efforts and the use of big data in public policymaking; and employ new technologies in preventing conflict and facilitating humanitarian aid provision. They must also take full account of the impact of STEM, including on the skills market in a knowledge-based digital economy, on peacebuilding processes and on socioeconomic development. In short, parliamentarians must engage fully in responding to the profound global changes engendered by scientific and technological progress.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that, in addition to establishing special committees focused on matters relating to science, technology and innovation, parliaments should invest in regular staff training in order to keep abreast of technological advances. To facilitate technical innovation, they must also enact relevant legislation, including on intellectual property rights, and appropriate the necessary funding, particularly for investment in research and development. Innovations must furthermore have forward and backward linkages with the manufacturing industry and natural resources, which would spur economic development, while government ownership of innovations would inspire confidence in innovators. It was also important to address such wider issues as tariff and non-tariff barriers to innovation.

The curricula from primary to university level must be adapted in the light of technological advances and incubation centres must be established, together with centres of excellence to promote and celebrate the work of young innovators. Through independent and comprehensive science-based analysis, parliaments must also evaluate the impact of innovation on existing policy and legislation from the ethical, environmental and social standpoints. Other factors to be balanced in that regard included the impact of technologies on personal privacy and on employment, which called for the provision of retraining and of adequate funding for that purpose.

Mr. J. CHAGNON (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie) said that a paradigm shift was needed so as to enable parliaments to address the new challenges of the digital era, which included the verification, management and dissemination of vast amounts of cloud-based information and the regulation of new business platforms such as Uber and Airbnb. In those instances, the enabling technologies had direct social consequences and should therefore be addressed from the ethical and tax-related standpoints as a matter of priority to avert a corporate takeover at the expense of democracy. The engagement of parliamentarians in decision-making concerning the use of technologies was crucial to their legitimacy and, in particular, to their relevance.

Ms. C. ARAGÓN (Spain) said that the pace of development in technology and innovation was dizzyingly fast and in fact unstoppable. Both were essential to socioeconomic development, however, and it was therefore necessary to adapt. Parliamentarians must accordingly work to bring legislation into line with the changes in progress, starting in the areas of education and employment. Women and disadvantaged groups, particularly in developing countries, must be afforded equal opportunities in both and should also be encouraged to pursue STEM as a career option. Indeed, special care must be taken in development planning to ensure that no one was left behind in the new technological era.

The principle of legal certainty must be observed in formulating STEM-related legislation, and STEM initiatives should be assured of adequate funding from both public and private sources. Such legislation was also best informed by the findings of related parliamentary studies, as had happened in Spain. In sum, it was important to harness new technologies in the service of peace and humankind

with the aim of creating a better world, including by preventing or minimizing the effects of conflict. It was an ambitious goal and one towards which all parliamentarians must work by joining forces in the endeavour.

Mr. F. ZON (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption - GOPAC) said that corruption was detrimental to growth and development and similarly threatened peace and stability. Parliamentarians must therefore prioritize action to eradicate corruption and conflict and promote peace, especially given the well-documented correlation among them. By heightening inequality and injustice, motivating violence and weakening the State's capacity to provide security, corruption was conducive to conflict. As valuable partners in ensuring an accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent political process, parliamentarians must remain strategically empowered, actively engaged and sufficiently equipped to achieve sustainable peace. His organization stood ready to support that endeavour through collaborative action to accelerate efforts aimed at eliminating the culture of corruption.

Mr. A.J. RAUOF (Afghanistan) said that the technological revolution, which was still ongoing, had led to profound changes in the world. Industrialization, urbanization, higher productivity, expansion of communications, etc., were all external manifestations of that revolution but there had also been changes in family and religious life, the arts and politics. Rural communities and traditional cultures were being transformed. New avenues for the economic, social and political development of countries had been opened.

The benefits and advantages of civilized societies were that they interacted and collaborated toward scientific and cultural achievements to the benefit of the world. Cooperation must be based on the acceptance of plurality, understanding of differences and respect for diversity but also on common rules, norms, interests and resources. Parliaments, as representatives of people, had a unique role in constructing political, cultural and social environments that were based on justice, peace, security and prosperity.

Mr. G. TSERETELI (Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE) said that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly had consistently underscored the importance of political will to upholding the shared commitments and goals for its region, where such problems as intolerance, nationalism, fake news and cyberattacks were on the rise. Closer cooperation was needed to tackle such problems and ensure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, particularly in protracted conflict situations. With a view to building trust and promoting peace, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was actively engaged in addressing challenges relating to migration, terrorism and environmental protection. It was therefore well positioned to cooperate with the IPU on those issues.

Mr. C. BAIMA (China) said that, in working together to build consensus on the use of science and technological innovation to create an environment conducive to sustainable peace and development, parliamentarians must first of all uphold rules-based multilateralism as the cornerstone for maintaining international equality and justice and the rule of law. They must also abide by the Charter of the United Nations, international agreements and the values of mutual respect and understanding. Second, they must promote an open world economy and peaceful development, improve global governance, strengthen the coordination of macroeconomic policies, oppose protectionism and foster international relations aimed at increasing inclusiveness, balance and win-win results. Third, they must foster mutual learning and exchanges among civilizations and seek common ground while putting aside differences and working for shared development. Development paths chosen in line with national conditions must be fully respected, with parliaments exchanging experiences on governance to deepen cultural and people-to-people interactions. For its part, China was successfully pursuing a coordinated and innovation-driven green development strategy and facilitating mass innovation and entrepreneurship. It had furthermore resolved to redouble its efforts on that score and to support scientific and technological cooperation so as to share the benefits of its own development and construct a brighter future for all.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that the far-reaching technological changes under way were at once exciting and somewhat perturbing. A universal long-standing value across cultures and religions, peace was an urgent requirement in the modern-day era and furthermore had constitutional and legal roots. In short, it was integral to the legislative and oversight functions of parliaments. The IPU played a central role in the efforts to strengthen peace, security and friendship among peoples and provided an excellent platform for the exchange of experiences among its Members.



More initiatives and resources should be directed to achieving peace, stability and justice, including notably for the Palestinian people in pursuit of their legitimate right to establish their own State, with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the attendant United Nations resolutions. At the global level, scientific and technological advances must be positively harnessed for the benefit of all, contrary to the current situation in which those advances were also sometimes abused to create additional destruction and suffering. Only by addressing the underlying causes of conflict would peace ultimately prevail. Greater international solidarity to that end, including through the achievement of the SDGs, was essential in the age of innovation and technology.

Ms. M. TRIANTAFYLLOU (Greece) said that, scientific and technological developments notwithstanding, humankind still faced such problems as mass refugee exoduses from conflict and rising intolerance, racism, hatred and nationalism. In addition to an absence of war, peace depended on democracy, non-exploitation, social justice and equality. Sums spent on tackling global inequality, poverty and natural disasters paled in comparison, however, to the vast military expenditures that failed nonetheless to bring security. The need for answers about what development signified was growing more urgent meanwhile and scientists and parliamentarians were increasingly aware of their roles and responsibilities pertaining to the achievement of peace and development.

Scientific innovations had created difficulties as well as benefits for humankind, including notably environmental contamination and overexploitation of natural resources. Parliaments should therefore lead the way in debating the generation and use of scientific knowledge with a view to shaping new ideas and guidelines. The long-term commitment of all stakeholders was essential, however, to encouraging investment in science. As to scientific cooperation, it should be aimed at promoting global security, peaceful relations and disarmament. With the needs of citizens in mind, science and technology must furthermore be directed towards enhancing employment, competitiveness, social justice and protection of natural resources and biodiversity.

Mr. C.L. UONG (Viet Nam) said that the fourth industrial revolution had had a noteworthy impact on peace, prosperity and sustainable development but had also led to adverse effects in such spheres as the environment, high-tech transnational crime and biological and chemical weaponry. It had likewise led to unemployment, causing poverty, social inequality and instability in turn, as well as a widening technological divide between developed and developing countries. Lawmakers in particular should therefore spearhead efforts to deploy science and technology in encouraging peace and socioeconomic development. His own Parliament had indeed always pursued that goal as a matter of policy by enacting relevant laws and prioritizing the allocation of the resources needed to achieve it.

Viet Nam was cooperating on international projects in science and technology and looked forward to increased technical support from developed countries, as well as their sharing of good practices in promoting the role of parliaments in overseeing the implementation of policies relating to science and technology for peace, security and sustainable development. Parliaments must actively engage in that role, including by strengthening partnerships at all levels to mobilize additional resources for research and innovation. For its part, the Vietnamese Parliament would continue its close collaboration with Members in implementing the IPU's initiatives for peace and sustainable development.

Mr. N. JUDEH (Jordan) said that cooperation, openness and transparency would be required to overcome the multitude of socioeconomic and other crises worldwide that were creating despair and fuelling terrorism. Regrettably, however, modern technology was being used to undermine solidarity, spread hatred and negatively influence politics. As to the conflict in his region, it had regional and global repercussions that called for further international and parliamentary efforts to bring it to an end by working for the rights of Palestinians. Similar efforts should also be channelled into building confidence as a counter-terrorism measure.

Jordan had taken a firm stand on religious hate crimes, advocated a political solution to the Syrian conflict and was striving to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and establish the Middle East as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Despite its limited resources, Jordan was hosting millions of Syrian refugees without heed to the tremendous costs and socioeconomic pressures involved. It also continued to host Palestinian refugees, likewise without external aid now that international assistance previously provided for their benefit had been withdrawn. In the interest of peace and security, parliamentarians must do their utmost to use all new technological opportunities to the advantage of their respective peoples in their efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Sitting of Tuesday, 16 October (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. N. Prea (Seychelles), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. C. CASSAMA (African Parliamentary Union—APU) said that technological developments, innovation and change had a significant impact on daily life at all levels. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must ensure that technological change was for the benefit of all. Peace and security were essential for sustainable development. Illiteracy, economic marginalization, poverty, hunger, disease and unemployment prevailed for many around the world. The unjust distribution of wealth was a major source of conflict and was a threat to global stability and social progress. Conflict sapped resources and prevented economic development. Africa, in particular, had suffered too much. Modern democracy supposed that all citizens were equal before the law. Everyone should join the efforts to build peace and development. Threats to peace must be overcome and everyone, including the most vulnerable and excluded, must be engaged in society. The role of technology was instrumental in that regard. Technology promoted participation in society, stimulated growth, reduced inequality and poverty, and enhanced sustainable development. The institutionalization of information communication technologies (ICT) must therefore be promoted as a vehicle for social and economic development for the good of all and for global peace and security.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that although the persistent Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Golan Heights and parts of Lebanon, was in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions, it had been approved by the United States administration. Actions taken by the authorities of Israel and the United States, including more confiscations of land, more destruction of houses, more embargoes and more killings, had only served to exacerbate the situation. Attempts were being made to break geographical links in the West Bank to isolate Jerusalem. The inhabitants of nearby villages had been expelled in a bid by the Israeli authorities to take control of areas around the Dead Sea. The recently adopted Jewish Nation-State Bill enshrined racial discrimination and was comparable with Apartheid. The Bill had been condemned by the international community, with the notable exception of the United States. The people of Palestine called on the international community to stand with them in solidarity, and in seeking lasting peace and the possibility of a decent life, in particular for their children. Those parliaments that believed in the two-state solution must increase their diplomatic efforts to protect the people of Palestine, by calling for respect for international resolutions and promoting the founding principles of the IPU.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments should take the lead in promoting peace for development based on respect for and protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. The conflicts that continued to rage in the Middle East and Africa highlighted the fact that sustainable development could not be achieved without peace. Technological innovation would drive development further. Parliamentarians must lead the way in meeting the challenges associated with the technological changes that were transforming society. They must legislate to respond to the demands of a digital world economy, in which cybercrime was a constant threat to human dignity, privacy and intellectual property rights. Parliamentarians must also promulgate laws to enhance the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at secondary and tertiary levels, and support the implementation of that legislation with robust budgeting. Taxation reforms were required to embrace digital taxation. The Parliament of Zimbabwe was preparing to consider several bills in that regard. The most pressing question was whether the world's parliaments would be able to meet new technological challenges.

Mr. S. SAYALAT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that science was vital for the social and economic development of society, improving well-being, capacity-building, ensuring global security and enhancing peaceful cooperation between nations. With that in mind, Lao's national development strategy—Vision 2030, and its national strategic plan for the development of science and technology had been designed to respond to the need for environmentally friendly sustainable development. The Government had set policies on research, technology and innovation, and had allocated funding for scientific research and infrastructure. Regional and international cooperation on scientific and technological activities was encouraged.

The National Assembly had an important role in legislating for science and technology, and in overseeing the implementation of that legislation to ensure the lawful use of science, technology and innovation. Global parliamentary cooperation was needed to promote scientific research and development, technology and innovation, to enhance public–private partnerships and to encourage consistency in legislation and policies related to science and technology. States that were advanced in science and technology should provide technical assistance to developing countries, to narrow the development gap and promote competitiveness. Parliamentarians must ensure that all their constituents benefitted equally from scientific and technical innovation in order to build resilient communities and move towards a shared destiny with no-one left behind.

Mr. M. LARIVE (France) said that while the improvements to quality of life thanks to modern science and technology were undeniable, they had not been felt equitably. Market law and the profits some made from scientific discoveries had separated those who were destined to benefit from technological progress and those who were not. That situation was particularly evident in the field of health care. While pandemics knew no geographical borders, access to vaccines depended on wealth. Since the dawn of time, humankind had faced a constant clash between the need to survive and greed, which could only lead to conflict. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must take the necessary decisions for the survival of the whole community.

The desire to extend human life had always prevailed, but while at the outset, technological developments were generally intended for the common good, there was a real danger that they could be misused and abused. A balance must be struck between the momentum of scientific progress and the protection of humankind from a dystopian future. Genetic modification was a particular cause for concern; if the human body was considered as genetic heritage, it could become depersonalized and susceptible to trade. Developments in artificial intelligence raised questions about what would happen if conscience could be predetermined, or if technology was capable of critical thinking or forming an opinion. Transhumanism was a reality; the European Parliament had already voted in favour of granting legal personality to robots. The international parliamentary community should work together to develop a code of ethics for transhumanism.

Ms. I. PASSADA (Uruguay) said that while technology had the capacity to vastly improve quality of life, it could also be misused. The contribution of science and technology should be channelled towards addressing the key problems in society, and to driving more equitable and sustainable development, the benefits of which could be shared by all. Technology should contribute both to building knowledge and to building peace. Investment in science, technology and innovation was fundamental for social progress, provided it was balanced, fair and based on social justice. Science should not be developed without due consideration for ethics and humanitarian principles. Gender imbalances in access to education, particularly in areas related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, left women and girls at a disadvantage.

New initiatives for the development of artificial intelligence could doubtless be extremely beneficial but must be undertaken with great caution. The use of artificial intelligence in military technology must be regulated particularly carefully. Parliaments had a key role to play in adopting ethical legal frameworks for artificial intelligence, setting the necessary boundaries and giving due consideration to how autonomous that technology would become. Science and technology could play an essential role in peacebuilding, and parliaments must therefore take them into consideration when legislating.

Mr. M. ALSADADI (Yemen) said that the world was witnessing a new reality characterized by rapid changes in technological development and ICTs, as well as profound social, economic and legal transformations. Yemen had risen to those new challenges and had been at the forefront of technological development as one of the first countries to provide mobile telephone networks in the 1990s. Access to the Internet had been facilitated for more than 7 million users. In 2014, however, the insurrection by the Houthi militia, supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, had brought development to a halt. Currently, 80 per cent of the population required humanitarian assistance. Millions had been displaced and were suffering from cholera. Rebels had taken advantage of the difficult economic and social circumstances to polarize Yemeni society and had taken several thousand children as soldiers, forcing them to take hallucinogenic drugs, and using them as human shields and to plant landmines. Schools had been destroyed and turned into militia bases, depriving some two million children of the right to education. The denial of access to health care and humanitarian assistance had exacerbated outbreaks of cholera, measles and dengue fever, and around 2.2 million children were suffering from malnutrition.

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

### Special segment on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The PRESIDENT said that the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights afforded an important opportunity to reflect on the situation of humanity, the progress made, and the remaining challenges to be overcome. As the centenary year of the birth of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, the year 2018 also represented an opportune moment to reflect on his life and legacy.

A video message from Ms. B. Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa was shown. She thanked the IPU for commemorating the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, who had considered himself neither a saint nor an infallible human being, but a product of his forbears, an actor in a movement for freedom, democracy, social justice and dignity, and an ardent believer that humankind could make the world a better place.

Mr. M. LIMON (Executive Director, Universal Rights Group), *Moderator*, said that the mission of the Universal Rights Group was to make the international human rights system more accessible, understandable, responsive, efficient and effective. The international human rights system was fundamentally very simple: over a period of 70 years, the international community had agreed upon a set of universal laws that States should implement. Mechanisms, such as the human rights treaty bodies under the aegis of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Universal Periodic Review procedure of the United Nations Human Rights Council, had been established to monitor that process. Despite the guidance and advice those mechanisms provided, implementation gaps persisted, perhaps because parliaments were not sufficiently engaged in international debates, in legislating to domesticate international provisions, or overseeing implementation. That situation must change. Human rights were fundamental to sustainable development as 90 per cent of the SDG targets were grounded in human rights law.

The MODERATOR introduced the guest speakers, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (President of the IPU), Ms. F. Koofi (Afghanistan), Ms. P. Hicks (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights—OHCHR), and Mr. T. Mendel (Centre for Law and Democracy), and asked the President of the IPU why it was important to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (President of the IPU), *Panellist*, said that in an age where daily news bulletins showed constant threats to democracy and violations of human rights, it was essential to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Parliamentarians must defend human rights and democracy by ensuring that appropriate policies were in place. Human rights must be respected and reinforced through the application of the law, and given the necessary budgetary support. States must provide the requisite infrastructure and space to enable the enjoyment of human rights, and parliaments must understand both the reality of the situation and the aspirations of the population, to ensure that statements of intent became a reality for all.

Ms. F. KOOFI (Afghanistan), *Panellist*, responding to questions on the progress that had been made with respect to the promotion and protection of women's rights in the past 70 years, and the challenges that remained, said that gender equality was more challenged than ever before. The world had become militarized; the language of dialogue had been replaced by weapons. Global society was unequal and promoting women's rights was a Sisyphean task. In Afghanistan, some 15 years previously, under the regime of the Taliban, women and girls had lived under extreme repression, unable to go to school, or enjoy any rights or freedoms. Although that oppressive regime had ended, security threats and political bias against women remained a challenge. Despite having been an active member of parliament, two months previously the Electoral Complaints Commission had prohibited her from standing for re-election. Women's rights activists, organizations and institutions were being threatened.

The MODERATOR said that in a world that seemed more polarized than ever, he wondered what could be done to reinforce the fundamental notion that human rights were universal and interdependent. He asked Ms. P. Hicks what she thought would be the most fitting way to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ms. P. HICKS (OHCHR), *Panellist*, said that the universality of human rights was being contested by authoritarian leaders, populists, and terrorists whose sole interest was their own power and political advancement. Those who wished to reinforce the message of the universality of human rights must push back against the idea that human rights were only certain rights for certain people. Human rights belonged to all. Failure to uphold human rights was not only morally wrong but also

fatally short-sighted; development could not be advanced without respect for human rights as the foundation for security and prosperity. The spirit and vision of the Universal Declaration must be recaptured; the world's parliamentarians must convey the message of the universality and indivisibility of human rights, and encourage more popular support and engagement for human rights for all people.

The MODERATOR said that human rights were vital for sustainable development and for durable peace and security. Without respect for human rights, peace and stability would be threatened and conflicts would prevail. Drawing attention to the new Parliamentary Handbook *Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection*, which would be launched at the end of the special segment, he said that freedom of expression was also under attack in many parts of the world. He asked whether that was really a cause for concern and what could be done to rectify the situation.

Mr. T. MENDEL (Centre for Law and Democracy), *Panellist*, said that parliamentarians understood that freedom of expression was the cornerstone of democracy. The best way to protect it was to pass good laws; repressive legislation was the greatest threat to fundamental freedoms. Parliamentarians must therefore do their utmost to prevent their governments from restricting those freedoms and must show solidarity when freedom of expression was under threat, rather than dividing by party lines. Parliaments must be exemplary in demonstrating the value of freedom of expression, be open and transparent in their operations, and defend others in society when they came under attack for expressing their views.

The MODERATOR said that despite the number of international conventions, treaties, resolutions, declarations and recommendations on human rights, the implementation gap persisted. He asked what role parliamentarians could play in bridging that gap and improving the lives, rights and dignity of people on the ground.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (President of the IPU), *Panellist*, said that parliaments had a role to play not only in the formal process of ratification of international law and the subsequent modification of domestic legislation, but must also give a clear message that there should not be any trade-off between security and human rights. Parliaments should promote a model of liberal democracy supported by legislation, appropriate budgeting for implementation and oversight to ensure that governments were held accountable for their respect for human rights.

Ms. F. KOOFI (Afghanistan), *Panellist*, said that it was not enough to simply issue declarations and adopt conventions; implementation and enforcement required strong commitment and legislative amendment at the domestic level, which was complex. Despite the large number of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, for example, discrimination against women persisted where the provisions of the Convention had not been translated into national law. People who worked to promote equality faced enormous challenges, exacerbated by the politicization of human rights and the application of double standards by the world's super powers.

The MODERATOR agreed that human rights must be depoliticized and that States must understand that human rights were fundamental to all domestic policy agendas, in particular development.

Ms. P. HICKS (OHCHR), *Panellist*, said that human rights were the key to ensuring the sustainability of development. Parliamentarians must breathe life into the SDGs through the laws and policies they adopted, which must leave no-one behind. Nelson Mandela had said that freedom was indivisible: the chains on any one of his people were the chains on all of them. People were not left out in the cold by chance; the dichotomies in society must be addressed. The work of the human rights mechanisms should be incorporated into the accountability framework under the SDGs. The United Nations human rights system gathered an enormous amount of useful information through the findings of the Universal Periodic Review, the Special Procedures System and the treaty bodies. There should be accountability for the SDGs at the national level, with the participation of all stakeholders. Care must be taken to apply a human-rights based approach to the collection of data and indicators, while ensuring privacy and data confidentiality, for example, to guarantee respect for human rights in reporting on the attainment of the SDGs.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (President of the IPU), *Panellist*, said that attaining the SDGs would effectively boost respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be used to make human rights for all a reality, not merely an ideal. As the only global parliamentary institution, the IPU was a wealth of resources and information, including the SDG self-assessment toolkit and an array of handbooks, workshops and seminars, which national parliaments must use to the full.

Ms. F. KOOFI (Afghanistan), *Panellist*, referring to what more the international community could do to prevent human rights violations, said that negotiations must be used instead of weapons. The culture of dialogue and diplomacy was being replaced by weapons and that trend must be reversed. Human rights no longer seemed to be a priority on the world's agenda. States that were traditionally viewed as having a good human rights record were violating the rights of others. Respect for human rights should be *the* priority for every nation, regardless of its position of power. Data must be collected on the number of killings of human rights defenders, and greater consideration should be given to how to protect them. Security, justice and human rights were interdependent and their protection must be the top priority for all States without exception.

The MODERATOR said that the Parliamentary Handbook *Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection* emphasized the importance of freedom of expression both as a human right in its own regard, and as a facilitator for other rights. In a world where freedom of expression was increasingly interpreted as the right to talk over others or talk at them, including by demonizing the "other" in society, he wondered how it could be used to promote tolerance.

Mr. T. MENDEL (Centre for Law and Democracy), *Panellist*, said that there was an all-pervasive modern malaise that had arisen over the past decade, which could be attributed to changes in the modes of communication shaping modern interaction. Social media was driven by algorithms that created information silos. There was a human tendency to be attracted to negative news while social media had magnified the amount of negative news to which individuals were exposed. There was no immediate solution to that situation; media and information literacy must be cultivated, and people must understand clearly that the reliability of discussion on social media was equal to the reliability of face-to-face discussion in a social setting. It was the responsibility of leaders not to weaponize those tools. Proper regulation of social media was imperative.

Mr. A. KUMARASIRI (Sri Lanka) said that social media had caused considerable destruction in society; people seemed to think that using social media gave them free license to defame, threaten and abuse. How could such abuse of freedom of expression be prevented? The world was riddled with double standards, in particular with regard to human rights abuses; western powers funded terrorism and abused human rights, while openly condemning and attacking less powerful nations on grounds of their human rights record. Such hypocrisy must cease.

Mr. N. ANZOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be used as an opportunity to strengthen the call to end all forms of terrorism. The Human Rights Council of the Syrian National Assembly was doing its utmost to uphold human rights in line with international standards, despite the major ongoing challenges in the country. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary should be marked in all parliaments with the distribution of information on the importance of promoting and protecting human rights for all.

Ms. P. HICKS (OHCHR), *Panellist*, said that she shared Mr. Kumarasiri's concerns and wished to reassure him that the United Nations human rights system's position on the matter was not simply to stand back and do nothing. Regulation of social media was essential, but must be done intelligently so that the potential dangers of the misuse and abuse of social media were not exacerbated. Regulation was particularly important to strike the necessary and difficult balance between guaranteeing freedom of expression and regulating online content to prevent incitement to hatred, such as had been the case in Myanmar, where online activity had contributed to ethnic cleansing. Much work had already been done, in particular under the Rabat Declaration, to carefully consider where the lines must be drawn between protecting freedom of expression while preventing incitement to violence.

Mr. T. MENDEL (Centre for Law and Democracy), *Panellist*, said that when dealing with the question of online content, consideration must be given both to the enforcement challenges relating to types of expression that were already illegal, such as child pornography or incitement to hatred, and to

the new forms of challenge that arose owing to the very nature of online expression. Cybercrime laws that simply duplicated existing defamation legislation had no added value; new legislation must address new modes of communication in their essence. A forward-looking approach was required to consider how to balance the defence of freedoms while fighting the onslaught of hatred and "fake news". Double standards were indeed unacceptable but should never be held up as a reason for not respecting human rights.

*The parliamentary handbook entitled, Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection was launched.*

A video message was shown in which Ms. A. Clwyd, Member of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and former President of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, introduced the draft IPU Declaration "70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", which not only looked back at what had given rise to the adoption of the Universal Declaration, but also highlighted its continued importance and the fundamental role that parliamentarians had in promoting and protecting the fundamental rights enshrined in it. The drafting of the Universal Declaration had been the first real attempt to define what human rights meant in practice. It had been a commitment not to repeat the horrors of the Second World War. The Universal Declaration remained just as relevant 70 years later: everyone still wished to be treated with dignity and to live in secure, prosperous and peaceful communities where they could contribute to decision-making.

The adoption of the draft IPU Declaration, currently before the Assembly, afforded an opportunity for the world's parliaments to joint together in celebration of human rights, mark the progress made over the past 70 years, and acknowledge that much work remained to be done. Parliamentarians, as legislators, representatives and role models must be at the forefront of the continued effort to promote and protect human rights. The year 2018, as the centenary year of the birth of Nelson Mandela, was also an opportune moment to reflect on his life as a person and as a parliamentarian who had—at considerable personal cost—championed the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Human rights defenders the world over continued to risk their lives for that cause. The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians worked tirelessly to assist parliamentary colleagues whose fundamental rights had been challenged. Supporting the work of the Committee was a key means of defending the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration.

She encouraged the world's parliamentarians, through the IPU Assembly, to adopt the IPU Declaration and thereby renew their commitment to fulfil their responsibilities as guardians and protectors of human rights.

The IPU Declaration 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by acclamation.

A video was shown to commemorate the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth, detailing his life and work as an activist against Apartheid and a defender of human rights. The centenary of Mr. Mandela was also the centenary of a remarkable woman, Ma Albertina Sisulu, another ardent human rights defender, who had also been arrested in 1963, and who, in 1994, had nominated Mr. Mandela for election as South Africa's first democratically elected president. The lives and work of both Madiba and Ma Sisulu were a legacy that would live on, for many generations, in the hearts and minds of the people of South Africa and the world. South Africa would forever remain indebted to them.

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

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

Mr. P. ROQUE (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean—PAM) said that the rapid progress of technological and scientific innovation posed challenges and opportunities in all spheres of life. Terrorism was an example of that paradox: on the one hand, groups such as ISIS could use social media to incite extreme violence, and technologies such as mobile banking could be used to fund terrorist organizations, while on the other, law enforcement could benefit from new technologies to

track, locate and bring terrorists and their financiers to justice. The application of any technological innovation must be done with full respect for the civil rights of all citizens. Parliamentarians therefore had a duty to respond with timely legislation, which must be in line with international law.

Scientific advances also had a crucial role in economic development, with the potential to contribute significantly to food, energy and water security. Scientific and technological progress were rooted in research and education. Parliaments should budget for investment in science and education, and should engage in multilateral dialogue with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the benefits of progress and innovation served to improve the lives of all the people that they represented.

Mr. A. KUMARASIRI (Sri Lanka) said that advances in technology over the past 50 years had provided unprecedented opportunities in respect of sustainable development, peace and conflict, international security and global governance. New technologies afforded new opportunities for managing conflict and building peace, and for empowering communities to resist and recover from conflict. ICTs provided the possibility to collect data on crime and conflict, which could be used to seek early solutions. The Science for Peace Schools initiative launched jointly by IPU and CERN, was particularly commendable.

Under Sri Lanka's Vision 2025 policy, steps had been taken to integrate ICTs into crucial sectors, such as education, health and the environment. Sri Lanka also had an ambitious economic development plan, which focused on the development of technology to improve the technical and managerial skills identified as lacking for small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-sector development. ICTs had considerable potential to increase women's economic empowerment, which was essential for the attainment of the SDGs. The Sri Lankan Parliament was using ICTs and the e-Parliament concept to interact with citizens and inform them about ongoing parliamentary work. All parliaments should do their utmost to foster the development of science and technology to promote peace and development.

Ms. G. BUROKIENE (Lithuania) said that the rapid development of technology had changed the understanding of how States must engage in and contribute to education and research, and labour relations. Lithuania had approached its strategic planning in that regard from the perspective of sustainable development. An expert group set up to draw up a national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had identified several priority areas for action: reduction of poverty, social exclusion and income inequality; employment creation; enhancement of health care systems; development of an innovation economy and smart energy; provision of quality education; and development cooperation.

Lithuania had joined CERN and been appointed to its governing bodies. There were not enough State-funded places at universities and colleges for the study of subject areas where specialist professionals were lacking. The Government had pledged to double the number of nursing and midwifery students and open extra university places for electrical engineers and mechanical engineers. College enrolment numbers of students of engineering, science, technology and communication had increased by 50 per cent. Emphasis was being placed on encouraging foreign researchers to engage in high-level scientific projects. Lithuania's life sciences sector had grown faster than any other in the European Union; Lithuania had an ambitious goal to become a European hub of health technology and biotechnological innovation by 2020, and a global leader in life sciences.

Ms. V. IVANOV (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation—PABSEC) said that the main aim of the PABSEC was to promote cooperation for the achievement of peace, stability and prosperity. The Assembly had also developed fruitful cooperation with the IPU and other parliamentary assemblies and international organizations. Global economic development was driven by fast-paced scientific and technological progress, research and innovation. Developing countries currently harboured around 90 per cent of the world's scientific potential. Innovation could foster wealth accumulation, through the flow of national and international investment in the knowledge-based economy.

Political, economic and social institutions that influenced innovation had a critical role. Parliamentarians must promote peace and stability, while legislating to meet continuing challenges. Through their active participation in regional and international parliamentary organizations, parliamentarians could promote peace and security through close cooperation. To enhance cooperation to strengthen national innovation systems, innovative networks should be strengthened, and the exchange of information and best practices should be encouraged. Innovation was a priority area of action for Black Sea Economic Cooperation Member States. Developing an international innovation system would be one of the most important means of achieving the SDGs.



Mr. S. IRO (Niger) said that innovation and technological change through scientific progress had the potential to drive economic and social development, particularly in least developed countries, for the well-being of all people. Harnessing innovation effectively in economic and social life, however, remained a challenge. In that context, parliamentarians must encourage scientific and technological education, and must implement research and development programmes. Adequate budgetary resources must be allocated to enhancing education systems and financing basic research. Young people should be encouraged to study science and technology.

Niger was suffering from poverty and insecurity owing to terrorism, which had a negative impact on its development programmes. Technological innovation could provide useful tools to bridge the development gap. A national policy on science, technology and innovation had been adopted, and budgetary resources had been allocated to research into agronomy, solar energy, geological mapping and mining, petrochemicals and ICTs. It was hoped that agronomy research would result in food security for the people of Niger through the cultivation of crops that were adapted to local climatic conditions. Parliamentarians must budget for scientific and technological development. The results of applied research must be disseminated and used effectively to achieve peace and sustainable development. Better links between parliamentarians and scientists would be essential in that regard.

Mr. N. ANZOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that human rights were inviolable. The Syrian Arab Republic was suffering a terrorist war, waged from foreign powers applying double standards. The authorities had successfully removed some of the terrorist forces and were fighting to free the country from foreign occupation. Preparations were being made to welcome back Syrian refugees, facilitate their reintegration and rebuild Syrian society. Tragedy had also blighted Palestine for more than 70 years, causing the Palestinian people to lose their identity and disperse across the region, or further afield. All the people of Palestine wanted was to be able to earn a decent living and provide a good education for their children. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), whose very existence was being threatened, was the only agency to afford protection to Palestinian refugees. The Agency had been established to help Palestinians return to their homeland and was their only hope for the future. The Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights had also caused untold suffering and forced many Syrians out of their homes. UNRWA must be able to continue to function; the threats to its activities constituted an emergency that the international community must address.

Mr. I. MACDONALD (Australia) said that Australia had a proud history of innovation and technological achievements that had contributed to the lives of people worldwide and driven positive change in society. Science and technology must be used to look to the future, to promote and maintain economic development and peace through cooperation and a willingness to continually share knowledge with regard to technological change. Australia was focusing investment activity on, among others, the digital economy, the space industry, resource centres, international collaboration and on empowering women and encouraging their participation in innovation, technology and science.

International collaboration was crucial for promoting peace and development. The Australian Space Agency was working towards collaboration with the International Space Agency; Australian projects to support science, technology, engineering and maths in the Asia-Pacific were ongoing, and collaboration with the European Union was strong. Steps were also being taken to share knowledge on how to increase women's participation in science and technology. The use of science and technology to heighten food security by improving the efficiency of food production was also essential at a time when climate change, soil quality degradation and increasing population sizes were placing increasing pressure on food demand. Australia's parliamentarians worked closely with professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and sought to use innovation and technological change to promote peace and development.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that by 2030, when the SDGs should be met, modes of day-to-day human interaction would have undergone substantial change, creating new challenges and opportunities for States, societies and individuals. Ukraine's digital agenda was centred on the development of digital technology, building trust in the use of ICTs, ensuring cybersecurity and data protection and guaranteeing human rights. However, the Russian Federation had legitimized armed aggression against Ukraine, in breach of international law, United Nations resolutions and the decisions of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The annexation of Crimea and destabilization of eastern Ukraine constituted hybrid warfare. ICTs were being used for cyberattacks and to exert influence through the dissemination of misinformation and propaganda. The Parliament of Ukraine was making every effort to heighten cybersecurity and to collaborate internationally to ensure protection against cyberthreats, particularly

during electoral processes. Cyberattacks were a real concern that had to be challenged. The use of technology to create autonomous weapons systems, such as weaponized drones, was particularly concerning. Despite those challenges, the age of innovation and technological change also afforded many opportunities, which should be to the benefit of all humanity. Parliaments could play a crucial role in ensuring international cooperation to harness those opportunities and make the world a safer place.

Mr. J. WANGCHUK (Bhutan) said that unprecedented developments in science and technology, which were rapidly and drastically changing the way in which people lived, worked and interacted, presented opportunities and complex challenges. Parliamentarians must strive to better understand scientific and technological advances, and to develop policies and responses to ensure that those advances were to the benefit of all. Following two centuries of internal conflict, the end of civil strife had marked the beginning of socioeconomic development in Bhutan. Bhutan's philosophy of Gross National Happiness was rooted in four pillars: socioeconomic growth; environmental conservation; cultural promotion; and good governance. Democratic institutions, founded on the principles of balanced and equal representation, had been established on that basis. Elections were free, fair and peaceful. The absence of conflict was not, however, a guarantee of peace; social justice was crucial, and international support and cooperation were essential. His Parliament stood ready to work together with others to share developments in technology and innovation, with a view to addressing common threats, such as poverty, climate change, natural disaster, disease outbreaks and economic disparity.

Mr. J.H. RI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that economic development could not be achieved by reliance on imperialists. The imposition of sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, intended to prevent the import of scientific and technological progress, had been unsuccessful thanks to the country's domestic scientific and technological capacity. A nationwide science and technology dissemination network had been established, and the education system was being enhanced to optimize the capacity of new generations and guarantee prosperity and development.

Dramatic changes were taking place on the Korean Peninsula, through North-South summit meetings, which had demonstrated the will for national reconciliation and reunion. The conclusion of the Pyongyang Joint Declaration represented a significant turning point in that regard, which would expedite common prosperity. A historic summit between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States had been held in Singapore, in which leaders of the two countries had committed to put an end to their previously extremely hostile relations through confidence-building and to establish relations that promoted the interests of the peoples of the two countries and contributed to peace, security and prosperity around the world. His Government's commitment and good faith to implement the joint statement issued at that summit remained steadfast.

Ms. H. OUMOURI (Comoros) said that underdevelopment threatened peace; growing frustration caused by all forms of injustice could potentially have disastrous consequences. Peace was not only the absence of conflict, but also social equality which must be based on education and a culture of tolerance and acceptance of the beliefs, philosophies and ideologies of others. Contemporary society was polluted with political and religious extremism, hatred and rejection of others, which gave rise to terrorism, conflict and crises, and a vicious cycle of deconstruction. Achieving lasting peace would require preventing armed conflict rather than repairing the damage it caused. Technology and innovation should be used to set up early warning systems. Social networks should be used for awareness-raising and conflict prevention initiatives.

Parliamentarians had a clear role in peace-building. Consideration should be given to establishing permanent parliamentary committees on peace and sustainable development. Parliamentarians should assess policy implementation and effectiveness. Action at the local level was essential. In Comoros, after many years of instability, peace had been proven to be the basis of progress. New technologies should be harnessed for social and economic development.

Ms. T. FILATOV (Finland) said technology was helping to improve quality of life in an interconnected and rapidly changing world. Yet, despite unparalleled development in digital technologies, robotics and artificial intelligence, the polarization of wealth, knowledge and information persisted, simultaneously with the over-exploitation of natural resources, rapid population growth, global warming and loss of biodiversity. To prevent that course of development, emphasis should be placed on education, social justice, democracy and the rule of law.

Quality education would enable people to participate in a competitive environment, and to critically evaluate information, including election campaigns and the actions of political leaders. Parliaments must allocate sufficient budgets to invest in all levels of education. A fair and inclusive

society would also be a peaceful society: when everyone did their fair share in society, levels of satisfaction were greater and reasons for conflict were fewer. Open societies and democratic institutions were also essential to ensure truly representative governments that responded to the needs of the people. Parliaments were crucial in that regard. Lastly, rules-based societies with a strong commitment to multilateralism were essential to sustaining peace.

Mr. L. ENKH-AMGALAN (Mongolia) said that governments must identify, select, plan and develop the necessary technology to meet the development needs of their societies. Mongolia had adopted a sustainable development vision, which prioritized innovation. The Parliament of Mongolia had adopted legislation on innovation in 2012, and was operationalizing a plan to develop a national innovation system and a national policy on high-tech industries. As a result, Mongolia had been placed 53<sup>rd</sup> on the Global Innovation Index.

Parliaments must demonstrate the requisite political will and leadership in promoting innovation and technological change. They must not only adopt legislation, but must follow up on its implementation. To that end, the Parliament of Mongolia had established a subcommittee on digital policy. Mongolia would be hosting the second regional seminar on the SDGs for parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region in May 2019. All interested parliaments would be welcome to attend. He called on the international parliamentary community to build peace and sustainable development by promoting innovation and technology and to bridge the global digital divide by working together following the "leave-no-one-behind" principle.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) said that after nearly two years as the frontline State in the global war on terror, Pakistan was acutely aware of the inextricable link between peace, development and democracy. Parliaments, as hubs of national collective wisdom, had a pivotal role in that regard. The Parliament of Pakistan had established committees that served as focal points for peace and development, both internally and externally, and which were instrumental in bilateral and inter-State relations. The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, for example, was currently reviewing proposals to establish a project that aimed to create job opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In Pakistan, efforts were being made, through the promotion of higher education, to build a knowledge-based economy to work as an engine of growth, peace, and economic and social development. Technological development was encouraged in all sectors and efforts were being made to improve technological infrastructure to reverse brain drain. Particular emphasis was being placed on researching nanotechnology and robotics, with the ultimate objective of increasing investment, generating jobs and boosting prosperity. International cooperation and technology transfers were essential to assist developing nations to achieve the necessary competence and expertise, in particular in agriculture and industry, while ensuring that innovation did not result in mechanization that caused job losses and thereby compounded poverty.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda) said that the Rwandan Government had chosen to focus its national development agenda on unity and labour, with a view to ensuring that every Rwandan could possess the knowledge and skills needed to participate in the economy. Some 20 years previously, Rwanda had faced no future, yet extreme adversity had been overcome by a choice to remain united, be accountable, and be ambitious, and by establishing good governance and infrastructure as enablers of sustainable development. Steps had been taken to create institutions to implement the national technical vision, to educate and raise awareness to promote the adoption of technology in all sectors of society and the economy, and to build a versatile information infrastructure. An electronic records platform had been set up for the whole population to enable the effective delivery of social, education and health care services.

Science, technology and research needed to be strengthened across Africa as a whole. Rwanda was participating in regional initiatives to that end, including having hosted a "Connect Africa" Summit, following which "Youth Connect Africa", had been set up to provide young people with the coaching and networks skills. Centres of excellence had been established to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. Rwanda's education-for-all policy provided incentives for performance in science and technology. Efforts were being made to integrate science and technology into enterprises, to establish Rwanda as a globally competitive economy, and to create decent jobs.

Mr. H. AL-CHAABAWI (Iraq) said that despite the difficulties of recent years, there had been some successes in Iraq, particularly in a courageous fight against terrorism. Parliamentary elections had been held, and the President of the Republic had been elected. The Prime Minister had been

appointed and the new Government was due to be established, as a sovereign government representing the civilization and culture of Iraq, which was the birthplace of prophets and religions. The new institutions would focus on progress and reconstruction. Dignity would be restored for all. Legislation would be adopted, the rule of law would be established, and human rights would be guaranteed. Particular efforts would be made to promote women's empowerment. The Parliament of Iraq had set out a four-year plan for peace and stood ready to cooperate with all partners to bring an end to conflict and war. A fair, two-State, solution to the Palestinian situation was crucial to allow refugees to return, the crisis in Yemen must be overcome. Iraq was an ancient civilization with knowledge and experience that it was willing to share with the international community in a spirit of peace and cooperation.

Mr. I. FLORES (Chile) said that while much progress was being made in the development of science and technology, the climate was increasingly inhospitable. Vast amounts of plastic pollution demonstrated the wastefulness of consumer society. While technology was used to create goods, consideration should also be given to the ethical and moral implications of the way in which the environment was used. Parliaments had a duty to set ethical standards and to establish the parameters for human behaviour, such as institutional and legal frameworks and the frameworks for science and technological development.

Although scientific progress was rapid, environmental degradation was even faster. Due consideration must be given to the connections between technologies and markets, markets and waste, access to goods, the concentration of wealth. Technological progress had allowed for a considerable extension in life expectancy, yet the resultant ageing population was not without its challenges. Market-based systems continued to concentrate wealth in certain countries. Solutions must be found to the major global challenges of hunger, pandemics, depletion of natural resources, organized crime, and lack of economic opportunities for young people. Consideration must be given to how to mitigate the potentially catastrophic unemployment that could arise from technological developments and the mechanization of jobs. Parliamentarians must regulate the use of technological progress for the benefit of all.

Ms. R. CUTAJAR (Malta) said that rapid advances in science had enabled and promoted greater peace and prosperity in the world. The achievements were numerous and wonderful in every aspect of life. Parliaments had an important role in stimulating science literacy and education. Every moment spent denying scientific evidence delayed progress, yet the current political trend was to glorify the rejection of scientific expertise. Ignoring messages from science would have dire consequences. Consideration must therefore be given to how to promote peace and development in the age of innovation.

Politics must be used to ensure that the benefits of science were felt by the whole of society. Parliamentarians could use science diplomacy to build constructive international partnerships in that regard, a good example of which was the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). However, further efforts were needed to cooperate on more complex ethical matters, such as genetic modification, stem cell research, water shortages and waste management. Cybersecurity concerns were the inevitable consequence of technological advancement. In that regard, larger nations had a moral obligation to protect smaller States that lacked the human resources and domestic capabilities necessary to protect themselves. Evidence could also be used to cut through the bias and misinformation disseminated by social media. Scientists could therefore be pivotal allies to policymakers, offering valuable input to inform policy.

Ms. S. KHUON (Cambodia) said that the world was confronted with threats old and new; there had been a dramatic surge in unilateralism, which seriously undermined sustainable development, peace and security. The world had, however, united in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committing to meet the 17 SDGs. Innovation and technology would be an important driver in that regard, not only for the attainment of SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, but also for the advancement of many other development factors. The Cambodian Government had recently launched a national development strategy that identified science, technology, and innovation as key enablers of growth and development. Cambodia had recovered from genocide to become a popular tourist destination and one of the fastest growing economies in the world. After nearly three decades of war, human rights were now widely recognized, protected and promoted. The principles of liberal, multi-party democracy were fully respected, and Cambodia now enjoyed full sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, governed by the rule of law.

Ms. M. BONELL (Andorra) said that parliamentarians must understand technology, its functions and its impacts, and must know how to mitigate the risks and harness the potential of scientific and technical innovation. Technology could not only provide opportunities but could also increase inequality. While digital transformation could improve efficiency in work processes, it was also likely to lead to the disappearance of jobs, which would have a disproportionate impact on women. Technology was not inherently good or bad; the regulation of technologies determined whether their impact on society would be positive or negative. A knowledge-based society was essential and must be for the common good.

Incentives should be given for seeking creative solutions to contemporary problems, such as climate change. Andorra had committed to a 37 per cent reduction in its carbon emissions by 2030 by changing its energy mix and ensuring that the use of technology in that regard was optimized. Scientific advisers participated in law-making procedures, and supported parliamentarians in making evidence-informed policies. Technology could also be used to improve internal communication and cooperation between parliaments. Parliamentarians should ensure the use of ICTs for sharing information with their constituents, in particular the younger generation, while mitigating the associated risks, such as the dissemination of "fake news". They must anticipate change and ensure that technological developments were put to good use to promote peace, development and social justice.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) said that there could be no science without politics and no politics without science. Yet there were many examples of inhuman politics being based on certain scientific methods, and scientific developments with no consideration for political viewpoints. The current global climate crisis could only be overcome by a combination of the application of science and the demonstration of political will. As political decision-makers, parliamentarians must choose sustainable solutions that benefitted everyone. The use of technology should respond to the availability of local natural resources: in sunny areas, for example, investment could be directed into solar power generation, while in places prone to windy weather, the development of wind power technologies should be the main focus. Seeking the right technological solutions could contribute to a sustainable world. International trade agreements should take account of the interests of the economically disadvantaged to improve their quality of life and avoid large, unpredictable waves of migration. Modes of food production should also be considered, and emphasis placed on local produce to reduce expenses and minimize environmental impact. There was no other way but to choose sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges. There was no "plan B" for the world.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that the benefits of rapidly developing science and technology did not reach the majority of the world's population, remaining at the service of irrational consumerism. The current model of globalization left most modern technologies in the hands of a few countries and major multinational corporations, thus resulting in the marginalization of many. Sustainable development could not be achieved without the democratization of science. The rapid development of nuclear weapons and unwillingness to disarm were particularly worrying.

Parliaments must prevent such arrogance. Without regulation, biotechnology and genetic engineering could affect the fragile system of food production and could have negative consequences for water and soil quality. The nature of human interaction had changed dramatically with globalization, resulting in a legal void and allowing the spread of cybercrime, cyberterrorism and cyberwarfare. Artificial intelligence, while having the potential to improve the lives of humankind, could also lead to extraordinary dangers. Despite having been subject to economic and financial sanctions for almost 60 years, which had violated the human rights of the people of Cuba, the Cuban Parliament did its utmost to regulate scientific and technological development, and legislate for environmental protection, in line with national policy and in consultation with the people of Cuba.

Ms. F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had been extending the hand of peace to its neighbours and was not responsible for the killing of innocent women and children in Yemen. The statement by the representative of Yemen contravened efforts for peace and collective security in the region. She could not understand how individuals who lacked the legitimacy to defend the people of Yemen could attend the IPU Assembly and claim to represent them.

*The sitting rose at 6.40 p.m.*

## Sitting of Wednesday, 17 October (Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m. with Mr. K.P. Molatlhegi (Botswana), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. M. ENNACEUR (Tunisia) said that rapid technological developments would lead to radical economic and social changes requiring new forms of governance. The relationship between science, development and peace required a common approach based on solidarity and mutual support. Developing countries needed financial investment and technical assistance to promote economic growth. A fairer and more equitable international order was required in relation to the ownership of new technologies so as to ensure that they would benefit the whole of society. Developed countries must assist developing countries, and parliamentary cooperation and solidarity should be strengthened to facilitate the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and secure peace.

Terrorism was one of the greatest threats to world peace; it was the enemy of development, tolerance and dialogue. New technologies could be manipulated for criminal and destructive purposes. Parliamentarians must act for peace and development by legislating to prevent crime and to support early warning systems. Following Tunisia's recent transition to democracy, the Tunisian Parliament had taken steps to promote and regulate innovation and change, with improved governance to increase security around new technologies.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESSU (Equatorial Guinea) said that parliaments must promote peace using a human rights-based approach and with a focus on international cooperation. Scientific development should be promoted for the common good, both as a driver of economic growth and sustainable development, and as a provider of solutions to modern-day challenges. Greater communication should be encouraged between the scientific community and governments to guarantee evidence-based decision-making. A department for knowledge and development had been established to secure Equatorial Guinea's place in the knowledge society. A significant amount of scientific research was ongoing, and information and knowledge were being shared on a global level. Every effort must be made to promote innovation and technological development for collective well-being. To that end, the support of the whole of society and all public institutions was essential.

Mr. A. HERMANTO (Indonesia) said that the Indonesian Parliament had launched a mobile application to facilitate communication between parliamentarians and their constituents, thereby fostering public participation, mutual understanding and respect. Although innovation brought considerable social and economic benefits, technology – in particular information and communications technologies (ICTs) – could also be used in ways that ran counter to the objectives of maintaining international peace and security, such as money laundering and incitement to hatred and violence. Proper legislation and regulation were therefore required to minimize such negative impacts.

Inclusive technological innovation would broaden opportunities for the most marginalized and vulnerable in society, in particular women and girls. Efforts must be made to bridge the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through partnerships with education institutions, as a means of attaining the SDGs. Indonesia had recently hosted the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, the outcome document of which reiterated commitment to education, the green economy, and balanced consumption and production to achieve sustainable development. Parliamentarians must ensure that technological advancement and prosperity were mutually reinforcing.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden) said that sound policies were required to address the challenges presented by the rapidly changing labour market; many jobs had been and would be lost worldwide to automation, which would have a drastic impact on everyday working lives, particularly in developed economies. Many people feared for their jobs. Those fears could prove destructive to society. The world's parliamentarians and political leaders must seek to ensure a better future for all, guaranteeing new jobs, redefining existing roles and giving workers new opportunities. The greatest challenge for all concerned was managing the transition; failure to do so would result in increased financial inequality, which could eventually lead to political instability.

Investment in research and innovation was essential to create more jobs. Innovation was vital to long-term productivity and thereby to growth and future prosperity. A good innovation climate was a precondition for companies to be competitive; clear and highly prioritized innovation policy work was particularly important for trade-oriented countries, with no major market of their own. Change must be viewed as providing opportunities. The development of robotics, for example, would allow more time for education, self-development and communication. Education increased the benefits of civic engagement; it was crucial to peacebuilding and fundamental for democracy.

Mr. S. JARA CRUZ (Mexico) said that Mexican parliamentarians had been striving to establish a robust national legal and institutional system, with a view to working for peace. The whole international community must cooperate, multilaterally and bilaterally, on matters of development since development was a prerequisite for peace. Science and technology were the key to international trade. Efforts must be made to improve education and to seek solutions to contemporary challenges. Steps must be taken to eliminate hunger and to ensure access to primary health care for all. Consideration must also be given to promoting the use of renewable energy sources, and to how to cope with an ageing population. Parliamentarians had a particularly important role in guaranteeing investment in applied sciences for sustainable development. In that regard, efforts were being made in Mexico to forge international links with a view to supporting industry and investing in research. Science must be used to improve quality of life, build peace and overcome the modern challenges of society.

Mr. M. BALLA (Hungary) said that the current generation of digital natives could not live without their mobile telephones, an Internet connection and other digital tools. They were able to multitask and spent less time reading, but yet they were exposed to more information than people from previous generations. Rapid technological change therefore posed numerous challenges. Innovation was the key to economic growth, and in the digital era, success was based on the use of the best cutting-edge technologies and processes. In view of that fact, efforts to combine environmental protection and innovation should be given high priority.

The Hungarian Government had a sustainability vision for 2030 under which several initiatives were being taken, including on clean water, renewable energy and responsible production and consumption. Water diplomacy was particularly important in terms of helping other countries improve their water security. Higher education was being strengthened and work was under way to ensure the transition to carbon-free energy sources. As legislators, parliamentarians had lasting responsibilities. They should encourage young people to lead an environmentally responsible life and develop technology for education aimed at overcoming poverty and providing opportunities for young people, particularly in developing countries. In that respect, ICTs must be recognized as key drivers of progress and sustainable development.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that parliamentarians must take a pragmatic, informed approach to ensure that science played an active role in guiding policy. They should promote scientific engagement among the public and foster mutually beneficial relationships with the private sector, academia and other stakeholders. Science had a part to play in addressing almost all contemporary challenges. In New Zealand, the Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Adviser comprised a team of dedicated scientists who brought together a collective wealth of academic and industry experience. The Office advised the Prime Minister on science policy issues and promoted public understanding of and engagement with science. Furthermore, the New Zealand Parliament regularly took account of recommendations from other experts in the field, such the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.

A balance must be struck between short-term electoral goals and the long-term implications of policies for future generations. To that end, the public and the policy community must be actively engaged in scientific discussion. Two major steps had been taken in that regard, namely through the launch of the National Science Challenges and the Nation of Curious Minds initiatives. Technological developments had changed the media landscape forever; disruptive technologies posed new challenges and threats while also presenting opportunities to cross unprecedented barriers. Parliamentarians must take the lead in leveraging the power of science and innovation to shape stronger countries and build brighter futures.

Ms. N. SHUKRI (Malaysia) said that contemporary life was intrinsically linked to technology; it was difficult to imagine a world without cars, mobile telephones or computers. Yet the digital divide was widening. Despite the noble intentions of science, its negative impacts had been felt the world over. All parliamentarians had a vital role in promoting the ethical use of science and technology to promote peace and sustainable development. As the direct link to the grass roots, parliaments were best placed to promote and legislate science and technology for the benefit of their respective populations.

In Malaysia, over the coming years, an estimated 500,000 workers would be required in STEM industries. With technological development, the nature of work was changing rapidly; many jobs would disappear or be replaced by automated technology, and new jobs would require expertise and technological know-how. Parliaments must prepare for that transition by building a resilient workforce. Continuous learning and vocational training would be essential to that end. Women must be recognized as equal partners in nation-building and be educated in science, technology and engineering. The global parliamentary community should share experiences and best practices, and increase international cooperation. Parliaments should take the political lead and ensure that technology was used to improve the lives of their constituents, ensuring that no one was left behind.

Mr. A. LINS (Brazil) said that parliamentarians, as lawmakers, must ensure that technological innovation contributed to sustainable development and was for the benefit of all. Technology must be used to promote employment, education and health care, and to empower the workforce. Education would be essential to prepare the younger generation for the future labour market; public investment in science and technology education was particularly important. In Brazil, technical schools provided specialist education; scholarships and incentives were given for scientific research. Teachers were being trained with a view to enhancing scientific and technical education opportunities. Women were still underrepresented in research positions. Girls should therefore be encouraged to study sciences, and women's participation in public life and decision-making should be promoted. Efforts were under way in that regard in Brazil and, as a result, the number of women parliamentarians had increased. Despite the Government's measures to promote innovation through the establishment of a dedicated ministry, inequalities in access to technology persisted, which undermined sustainable development. Work was therefore under way to strengthen international cooperation and to share knowledge and best practices, which would be to the benefit of all.

Mr. T. WIN (Myanmar) said that, as a new democracy, much needed to be done to promote development in Myanmar. Innovation and technology could prove particularly useful in that respect. Innovation was not necessarily about the invention of the new; it also meant optimizing the value of existing technologies. In Myanmar, innovation was focused not only on advanced technology but also on agriculture and livestock breeding, small and medium-sized enterprises, and tourism. Mobile applications were particularly useful in that sense and were already being used for banking, tourism, education and taxi services. Innovation required knowledge, creativity and skills.

In Myanmar, the national education system was being enhanced, particularly in relation to the STEM subjects. Better educated workforces were crucial for countries to advance in the global value chain, and thereby ensure more inclusive development. ICTs afforded great opportunities for innovation and could reduce the cost of accessing and diffusing information. They were a key channel for the transfer of ideas. Mobile phone use in Myanmar had increased exponentially in recent years as had access to the Internet. There was, however, still scope to improve the country's basic infrastructure. For technology and innovation to flourish in a developing country such as Myanmar, investors and dependable banking systems were essential. Parliament must also commit to overseeing the implementation of all innovation policies.

Mr. M.A. VOICU (Romania) said that digital technologies affected all aspects of society. The world's digital transformation would accelerate with the rapid advance of new technologies. Some jobs would disappear, while new jobs would be created, industries would be transformed and new technologies would emerge. Investment in digital skills was therefore essential. Education and training were the best investment in the world's future.

Measures were being taken to reduce the digital divide in Romania, including by developing high-speed, affordable broad band Internet services, while ensuring protection of users' private data. Technology was, however, a double-edged sword; investment in cybersecurity therefore remained a national priority. The Government had consequently established a cybersecurity system and operational council for cybersecurity to implement the national cybersecurity strategy. Domestic measures were being taken in line with international recommendations, and informed by the multilateral cooperation activities in which Romania had participated. Parliaments were powerful agents of change and could play a crucial role in decision-making, and in promoting education and information for society.

Mr. D. MCGUINITY (Canada) said that past lessons from managing technological change should inform current decisions. The ultimate value of such change would not be determined by technology itself but by how it was used. Parliaments must lead the debate on managing technological change, both at the country and international levels. The Canadian Government remained committed to fostering innovation both at home and abroad; several programmes to promote innovation and empower the private sector had been initiated at the domestic level, and a programme had been



launched to support over 1,000 health sector innovations in more than 80 countries worldwide. Education must be used to build the necessary knowledge and skills for innovation. Canada had therefore invested in coding and digital skills education for primary and secondary students.

Although innovation was creating unprecedented opportunities, new dangers were arising as services moved into the digital realm. Cybersecurity was becoming a cause of great concern; the tools used to perpetrate cyberattacks were weapons that were altering the nature of armed conflict, with State-sponsored actors the most frequent perpetrators of cyberattacks. Parliamentarians must hold their governments to account, and should take decisions that optimized the opportunities presented by innovation, while mitigating the new dangers it created.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that technology was increasing and evolving at an extraordinary pace. It was not inherently good or bad; it could be used productively or destructively. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to use it productively, for the good of their people. Social media, websites and YouTube could all be used to communicate with the public and learn more about constituents. Instant access to news and connections made everyone more aware of events around the world; 20 years previously, a parliamentarian attending the IPU Assembly would not know what was happening in his or her country during the five days they were away. Facial recognition for passport control could contribute significantly to efforts to track terrorists. Incredible technology could be used to make the world a safer place, yet it could also be used as a tool for repression. He called on all parliaments around the world to use technology for the good, to inform democracy, and to ensure that the decisions taken by parliament were for the benefit of all.

Ms. A.A. SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that innovation and technology would play a key role in meeting challenges such as climate change, population ageing and global migration. Parliaments must be proactive and regulate the developments that would impact society the most, such as artificial intelligence and governance of the Internet. Strengthening relations between the scientific community, the academic community and policymakers was therefore essential. Policies and decisions must be informed by critical discussion and scientific evidence. Economic growth depended on diversifying the economy through innovation, knowledge, science and technology. A strong education system and a robust research environment were crucial in that regard.

In Iceland, innovation, research and technology had boosted economic growth, enhanced quality of life and broadened employment opportunities. A coordinated approach to technology and innovation between the Government and private companies had underpinned Iceland's progress. Every effort was being made to foster conditions in which technology and innovation could flourish, including the establishment of the Icelandic Centre for Research. Women and men should be equally involved in innovation, technology and research. Women should be encouraged to study sciences and engineering, and to take up senior positions in research institutions. Women must be able to participate in decision-making on an equal footing with men. Gender equality was vital for an equitable and sustainable world.

Mr. P.F. CASINI (Italy) said that increased cooperation between scientists and policymakers was essential to address the multitude of new challenges facing society. Science and technology were used to collect data on every aspect of life. Parliamentarians must take due account of scientific evidence in decision-making. Policies must not only be based on programmatic assumptions but also on ethical values. Science was neither inherently good nor bad; political actions made the difference. Science could only be regulated through politics, while policies must be informed by science.

No one knew what the future held in terms of further scientific developments, yet trends were already showing that future technology would shape progress towards sustainable development, including changes to the competitive environment in which companies operated. The joint Science for Peace Schools project between the IPU and CERN was therefore particularly commendable. Scientific education would be paramount in the age of social media, conspiracy theories and fake news, and an inter-parliamentary network on scientific education could therefore prove particularly useful. Parliaments must ensure the use of science, technology and innovation for the benefit of the whole of society.

*Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. R. LOPATKA (Austria) said that the European Union recognized that cooperation and coordinated action represented the best ways to prepare for the future. The Austrian Presidency of the European Council had chosen to prioritize the idea of securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalization, which would entail avoiding overregulation, setting intelligence policies for digital transformation and strengthening the digital single market. The Horizon Europe programme, the successor of the Horizon 2020 initiative, was the most ambitious research and innovation funding

programme in the history of the European Union. The Digital Europe programme, building on the Digital Single Market strategy, was intended to shape Europe's digital transformation for the benefit of citizens and businesses alike.

When considering the changes that groundbreaking future technologies would bring to society, especially with regard to the labour market, it was clear that action must be taken to leave no one behind. The gender gap in digitalization must therefore be closed as a matter of urgency; women remained underrepresented at all levels in the digital industry in Europe despite the rapid increase in jobs in that sector year on year. Girls must therefore be encouraged to study science and technology. Indicators and benchmarks should be used as a basis for reasonable regulation of the various aspects of digitalization, allowing parliamentarians to take sound decisions and oversee the implementation of new digital technologies. Legislators would need to find a sound balance between paving the way for innovative science that brought about technical change for the benefit everyone, and taking steps to protect each of their constituents.

Mr. A.A. JAMA (Somalia) said that parliamentary leadership was needed to ensure the adoption of sound policies and legislation that mitigated the negative consequences of scientific and technological innovation while simultaneously harnessing its enormous benefits for humankind. Technological and scientific change was having a profound effect on communication, modes of trade and commerce, health service provision, agriculture, food security, access to information, and the shape of the labour market. Serious consideration must be given to how to bridge the digital divides within and between nations to mitigate their impact in future. Multilateral cooperation was crucial for ensuring ethical use of technologies. Short-term selfish considerations must be replaced with a long-term vision for the good of humanity.

In Somalia, civil war had ravaged most institutions and infrastructure. The Government was using technology to facilitate the recovery process, including through the provision of affordable mobile and Internet services even at the village level. All telecommunications operators provided mobile payment facilities, which had made access to financial services available to most people. Efforts had also been made to invest in clean energy. School and university enrolment had increased considerably, with priority given to the sciences and technology in school curricula. Terrorist organizations used technology to recruit, indoctrinate and cause large-scale damage. Technology could, however, also be used to track those organizations and bring an end to terrorism in Somalia and beyond.

Ms. R. ALBERNAZ (Portugal) said that climate change was affecting living conditions all over the world. Developing countries that relied on natural resources were most at risk. Science was the only way to optimize water management, protect ecosystems and biodiversity, and respond to natural disasters. Governments and parliaments should take the lead in that direction by combining sustainability with local knowledge and technologies. Equal access to science should be guaranteed for all. The Portuguese Government had taken a variety measures to that end, including by promoting dynamic innovation in companies and in society, and creating more PhD posts. Access to knowledge, training and information would boost democracy. The Portuguese Parliament had also played its part, legislating for the ratification of the Paris Agreement. Much remained to be done, however, and the parliamentarians of the world must work together to ensure a positive future in which no one was left behind.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that the world was undergoing a fourth industrial revolution, yet the economic and development gaps between countries were widening. While the Russian Federation had always had a rich history of talented engineers, innovators and scientists, it lagged behind in intellectual property law. Great strides had been made in the development of the communications infrastructure in the Russian Federation, which now had the world's largest number of Internet users; more than 90 million people had digital government records. Development of the digital economy was being encouraged. Consideration must be given to how to guarantee data protection for individuals, how to uphold national digital sovereignty, and how to protect sovereign information and resources against cyberattacks.

Parliamentarians must ensure that foreign powers did not interfere by imposing their laws on others. There was a gross misconception in the global media regarding Russian programmers, who had been stereotyped as hackers and as the monsters of cyberspace. The number of cyberattacks on Russian resources had increased significantly. Lastly, he objected to the militant language used in the previous sitting by the representative of the Ukrainian delegation, who had levelled accusations against the Russian Federation. The Assembly should not be abused in such a manner, but rather should be used as an opportunity to forge partnerships and work together for the progress, development and prosperity of all people.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her country had the worst Internet coverage in the world. Education was also a major cause for concern at a time when the Government had unleashed a bitter war against its own people. The economic conditions were so dire that parents had to choose between feeding their children or sending them to school. In Venezuela, technology was being used for the destruction of society; false information was being spread to justify repression, and parliamentarians were being imprisoned and tortured. The Speaker of Parliament had sought refuge in Colombia following the issuing of a warrant for his arrest. The number of political prisoners were increasing and there had been an onslaught of persecution against parliament. Even the electricity supply to the parliament building had been cut off. Many people had fled the dictatorship. Venezuelan society was not being driven by technology and innovation but rather by a desire for change and for a return to democracy.

Ms. C. AMAUDRUZ (Switzerland) said that parliamentarians were responsible for seeking solutions to the world's problems. The IPU was therefore a significant forum for joining forces, sharing experiences and passing on knowledge through face-to-face meetings. Despite significant advances in technology and innovation, entire communities remained without access to drinking water. Parliamentarians must therefore share the knowledge they gained in order to bridge the development gap. Parliaments must be sensitive to the problems faced by their constituents. Science and technology should be used for the well-being of everyone.

In Switzerland, efforts had been made to invest in science and research with a view to tackling modern challenges. No country could confront those challenges alone, international cooperation and knowledge-sharing were essential. Policies must be coordinated to ensure that they would be effective in an international context. The world's parliamentarians must promote peace through global thinking and local action.

Mr. A. NEOFYTOU (Cyprus) said that parliamentarians must bring science and politics together. Science had a key role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by helping to identify emerging development challenges and seek solutions. Science, technology and innovation were often overlooked by public funding, and as a result were funded almost entirely by the private sector. Parliaments must therefore raise awareness of their importance, as well as that of education in general, and ensure that science was systematically considered in public debate and decision-making. Policies and legislation must be evidence-based. Cross-border initiatives based on scientific cooperation should be encouraged. In an ever-changing world, parliaments must also be at the forefront of discussions on emerging issues that could have a major impact on societies, such as artificial intelligence, management of big data and Internet governance, among others. Parliaments should also issue specific recommendations on applying new technologies to promote peace and development.

Mr. K.P. MOLATLHEGI (Botswana) said that the Parliament of Botswana had been promoting research to assist the Government in understanding ongoing technological changes and devising appropriate policies to foster development. A human resources development council had been established to provide policy advice on capacity-building in industries related to technology and innovation. A tertiary education policy for building a knowledge society had also been approved, which encouraged education programmes in agricultural research, climate-smart agriculture, medical research, and science, innovation and technology. In addition, an innovation hub had been launched to support start-up companies and to gather resources from technology-driven companies on how to build knowledge-based businesses. Projects at the grass-roots level that focused on renewable energies were also being introduced.

Parliamentarians must use their capacity for legislation and oversight to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. The Parliament of Botswana was using ICTs to reach out to the population and disseminate information about decision-making processes. Democratic principles and the rule of law were non-negotiable. Parliaments must legislate to ensure that technology and innovation were used for peaceful means, for the benefit of the whole of society.

Ms. M. MULARONI (San Marino) said that the world was divided by conflict, with billions of people still living in poverty. Parliamentary leadership was required to promote peace and development. ICTs had proven to have great potential for accelerating human progress. Governments should capitalize on technology and orient future innovation towards projects to foster peace and sustainable development. Technology could help governments to further improve communication with the public. Parliament should actively encourage people to use technology effectively so as to build a more prosperous future. Politicians should serve as role models by showing that the wise and ethical use of technology could foster peace. Education in science and technology must be strengthened.

Policies to promote technology and innovation should be backed up by pertinent legislation and appropriate budgeting. The worlds of science and politics should be brought together, and parliamentary networks should be established to foster cooperation and share knowledge and information.

Mr. S. MATSUSHITA (Japan) said that innovation was a major pillar of his country's national growth strategy given the context of an ageing population. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to find the optimum level of regulation, striking a delicate balance between guaranteeing security while fostering innovation, without stifling the use of technology. In Japan, legislation had recently been adopted on special measures for improving productivity, which validated new technology provided that it met certain criteria, without binding it in rigid regulation. Companies would therefore be able to adopt an evidence-based deregulation approach that would accelerate innovation. Public safety must, however, be maintained while incorporating big data and artificial intelligence into businesses and society.

Through national official development assistance programmes, Japan promoted the use of science, technology and research as a means of meeting the particular challenges faced by developing countries, such as climate change and disaster risk reduction. Specialized parliamentary missions were sent to recipient countries to assess the impact of those programmes; the subsequent results were shared with Parliament and the public. Parliaments must monitor government initiatives and use the results to inform new policies.

Ms. Z. GRECEANÎI (Republic of Moldova) said that the world was becoming increasingly interconnected in the era of globalization. While globalization afforded many positive opportunities, it also had negative impacts. Over recent years, economic disparities and political instability in Moldova had led to many people leaving the country to seek more economically and politically stable lives abroad. Despite being a neutral State, the Republic of Moldova had been drawn into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a buffer between the West and the East. Powerful nations must take account of the interests of smaller nations and desist from interfering in their sovereign domestic affairs. Mutual respect and multiculturalism should be at the heart of international relations. The greatest resource for development was the population. International cooperation was essential for seeking consensus, disseminating information and sharing experiences and best practices; the individuality of each country, ethnic group, religion, and person must be respected.

Mr. I.V. FIGIR (Federated States of Micronesia) said that for small island developing States, science provided crucial information for survival in a rapidly changing environment. Science and technology had moved Micronesia from a simple island set-up to a modern, online society. Over the past 20 years, legislation had been passed regulating telecommunications companies, investment in telegraph, telex and fax machines, and more recently, the introduction of the Internet. New ICTs had rendered education and health services more accessible to Micronesia's outer islands. An ambitious infrastructure project had been approved, with assistance from the World Bank, to link the main islands by fibre optic cables and connect the outer islands by satellite, to ensure fast Internet access to some of the most remote communities. All developments resulting from those efforts had been accompanied by attendant legislation passed by Congress.

The transition to renewable energy was under way in a bid to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Science would also be used to identify the best measures to protect marine resources against overexploitation and pollution. Efforts were being made to introduce young people to new technologies through education. Consideration was being given to how to prevent the brain drain phenomenon and retain the skilled workforce that would be so essential to the future of the country. More help from partners and neighbours in a spirit of collaboration would be required to tackle global problems.

Mr. G. VOLSKI (Georgia) said that his country had had positive experiences of developing a knowledge-based and technology-driven economy. An e-government system would soon be launched, a regulatory framework had been devised for e-commerce activities, and support from the World Bank was being used to enhance Internet connectivity around the country. Several other measures had been taken to provide incentives for the development of technology and the launch of tech-based start-ups. The concept of the "digital Silk Road" was being developed in cooperation with neighbouring countries.

All Georgian citizens should be able to benefit from technological and scientific developments in Georgia, including those living on the other side of the lines of occupation drawn by the Russian Federation, which had effectively colonized South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The residents of those regions were suffering grave violations of their human rights, including arbitrary detention, kidnappings, restrictions on access to medical services and property, and the prohibition of education in the Georgian language. The Parliament of Georgia stood ready to cooperate with the international community to foster sustainable development and promote peace and security worldwide.

Mr. L. FOFANA (Guinea) said that the world was facing new realities; information spread rapidly and the peoples of the world were interconnected. The Internet allowed information and images to travel instantaneously, making the plight of the persecuted known around the world. Peace and development must be promoted; parliaments had a duty to fight injustice and create a fairer and more balanced role for future generations. Parliamentarians must promote the positive aspects of technological change by enabling access to education and training, even in the most remote areas, and creating jobs for as many people as possible. Education would make people less susceptible to fake news and cybercrime.

Parliaments should work to promote peace and development through legislation, taking care to leave no one behind. In Guinea, the National Assembly had drawn lessons from the conflicts affecting neighbouring countries and therefore stood ready to cooperate at the international and regional levels, and to legislate for peace and sustainable development in an era of technological change.

Mr. S.O. IKON (Nigeria) said that innovation and technological change were transforming the way in which companies, nations and individuals organized production, communicated, traded and invested capital in new processes and products. Sophisticated ICTs allowed for instantaneous communication across the world with huge impact on supply chain activities. Improvements in transportation had also increased the global flow of people and goods. Financial technologies were disrupting traditional banking models and the concentration of mobile applications was increasingly moving all types of activities onto mobile devices.

While technological developments were exploding, concerns were increasing about the widening digital divide, the costs of keeping pace with innovation trends and ensuring accessibility, and cybersecurity. Spending on digital infrastructure continued to pose a challenge for developing countries. Peace and security were threatened by digital technologies; it was increasingly easy to launch cyberattacks and increasingly difficult to track the perpetrators. Use of the Internet and ICTs to meddle in elections had also become a topic of concern. Parliaments must increase international cooperation to seek solutions to the challenges posed by technological change. They must legislate and set policies, with the relevant budgetary support, for education on technology and innovation and for enhancing security. They must ensure that employment was not disrupted by the use of technologies and that those technologies were harnessed for the common good in order to bring peace and prosperity to all.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname) said that education was crucial in allowing society to understand new technologies and adapt to the changes brought about by technological innovation. The rapid growth of new technologies required planning, administration and management. In that regard, the Parliament of Suriname had legislated on e-commerce to promote business transactions and had drafted a strategic plan on ICTs. A new Parliament website with a separate section for children had been launched so as to improve the transparency of Parliament, which included live-streaming of public meetings to enable the population to follow parliamentary debates. Steps had also been taken to upgrade internal communication in Parliament in order to make work more efficient.

Across the country, the Internet infrastructure was being replaced with fibre optic cables, which were not affected by humidity and thus allowed for a more stable data flow. Increased data allocations had been made available by mobile and fixed services' providers. Those developments would allow for the provision of e-government and distance learning services to be further refined. Parliament must ensure that technological advances were used for the benefit of society to advance development. In that context, deeper international cooperation would be essential in order for countries to share experiences and information and work collectively for a better future.

Mr. M. MELKUMYAN (Armenia) said that efficient solutions were needed to meet the challenges arising from technological change. Parliaments must consider revising their internal processes to that end. In Armenia, efforts were being made to strengthen the education system. Different countries faced different challenges in the context of rapid technological development. The most serious challenges were in the humanitarian and social spheres and tended to disproportionately affect children. Technological development required financial investment that many countries, wracked with conflict, could not afford. The international parliamentary community must consider how to assist in those cases, and how to ensure that technological change left no one behind.

Mr. M. TIMBINE (Mali) said that there was no doubt that technology played a major role in contemporary day-to-day life. It influenced governance, security and stability. When used rationally, technology could contribute significantly to the growth of peace and sustainable development. Parliamentarians had a role to play in that regard by legislating appropriately for peace, job creation

and development. Technological development had led to a situation in which more advanced scientific knowledge was required for decision-making. Parliamentarians must therefore continuously adapt in order to respond to contemporary challenges. At the same time, there could be no doubt that science could be used to the detriment of society. Managing the threats that arose from the misuse of technology posed a real challenge for parliamentarians, especially with regard to the protection of national security. International cooperation among parliaments and with the scientific community was essential to ensure appropriate investment in technological research, in line with the global objectives for peace and development.

Ms. B. GUZMÁN GÓMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that economic, social and political reforms in her country had taken account of the need to revise the way in which the State used technology, in particular ICTs. An e-governance system was being set up, which would be politically, socially and economically transparent. The Government aspired to a future in which access to technology and the Internet would be a fundamental right. A network of research and development institutes had been established and interactive interfaces were used to render State services more efficient and more easily accessible to the public. The importance of educating young people on matters of technological development had been acknowledged and computers had been distributed to schools for that purpose.

The uncertainty stemming from the fact that technology could be used for good and for evil gave rise to questions regarding how to ensure that technology would be used for the benefit of humanity, and whether humankind was adequately prepared for the technological advances to come. Technology could save lives and prevent disasters, yet was being used for harm. Parliamentarians around the world should therefore legislate to promote the positive use of technology, in particular ICTs. Progress in technological development must be decoupled from increasing poverty and polarization of wealth; the digital divide must be bridged.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Asian Parliamentary Assembly) said that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly had held several discussions on aspects of technological change and the role of parliaments, and had subsequently approved decisions on ICTs and data protection. A resolution had also been adopted on the role of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in the attainment of the SDGs. The Assembly had participated in the development of national sustainable development programmes to support attainment of the goals, and the collection of data under the SDG indicators.

Mr. J.J. MARÍN LAYA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that such rapid technological progress and development required a resilient and flexible response. In Venezuela, the Government had done its utmost to keep pace with technological change and innovation, having launched three satellites with support from China, and having made technological improvements to the health and education sectors. Technology could, however, be abused, such as in hacking the Venezuelan Government's computer systems and the use of explosives on drones in attempts on the life of the President of Venezuela.

*The sitting rose at 1.00 p.m.*

## Sitting of Wednesday, 17 October (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. J. Epola (Congo), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. A.L. MAKANA (South Sudan), highlighting critical steps agreed between the warring parties in his country with a view to revitalizing the peace deal signed in 2015, said that a permanent ceasefire had been declared country-wide in late 2017 and that new security arrangements had been established with the aim of building a single national army and police force, as well as inclusive security organs. A national dialogue had also been instituted, together with grassroots people-to-people peace processes. Viewed as the only way to consolidate peace efforts on the ground, that complementary three-track approach ensured, moreover, a return to accountability and human rights protection.

Indeed, a multi-layered approach was the best way forward in a country such as South Sudan, where tremendous loss of life, property and human dignity had occurred. The move towards a reconciliatory and accommodating Government of National Unity had been achieved thanks to a change in the entrenched positions of leaders. Grassroots communities had also been able freely to express their opinions without fear of repercussion. Only two days previously, his Parliament had ratified the revitalized peace agreement with a view to expediting its implementation. He thanked all those who had contributed to the establishment of peace in South Sudan.

Ms. A.P. ALONSO GÓMEZ (Nicaragua) said that science, technology and innovation could each play a vital part in addressing issues such as climate change, gender equality, food security and poverty. In Nicaragua, the Parliament's efforts over the years to enshrine political, social, economic and cultural rights into law had borne fruit. Women held up to half or more of ministerial posts, parliamentary seats, mayoral positions and judgeships, for example, and the incidence of poverty and extreme poverty had diminished considerably. In cooperation with communities affected by climate change, adaptation and mitigation strategies were also being implemented across the country.

Institutional strengthening and modernization initiatives had enhanced the legislative process, including through the incorporation of a new thematic focus on gender, citizen involvement, intercultural matters and environment. Work was furthermore under way to identify gaps in the legal framework and ensure that the laws in place were adequate to address modern-day challenges and above all to meet the needs of inhabitants. In seeking the establishment of peace and a fair international order, Nicaragua opposed imperialist control and exploitation and stood in solidarity with peoples fighting oppression and discrimination. Poverty reduction was needed to guarantee peace and in turn socio-economic development. Such was the message of the peace-loving Nicaraguans.

Mr. S. SOVALENI (Tonga) said that constitutional and legislative reforms had been introduced in Tonga with the aim of creating a modern, inclusive and interactive parliament. Also gaining momentum were efforts to engage women, young people, the disabled and the marginalized in the parliamentary process, which must be accessible to all for a more representative, relevant and effective institution. In that spirit, a youth parliament was being launched as a platform for enabling young people to lead a nationwide conversation on issues of concern to them especially and for familiarizing them with the fundamental principles of good governance. The long-term aim was to promote further civic participation by the country's youth.

A similar initiative for women had steadily increased their numbers in elections, changing the traditional view that politics was an exclusively male domain. Women and young people in fact formed significant portions of the population, offering opportunities for development and nation-building that Tonga could not afford to neglect. Nor could it ignore the devastating climate change effects it already faced as a small island developing State vulnerable to sea level rise and cyclones. Global warming could destroy its achievements and threaten its very survival. Parliaments must act urgently to save the world for its children.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that he was pleased to welcome to the Assembly as a special guest Mr. T.A. Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), with which the IPU had that very day signed a cooperation agreement aimed at improving health outcomes worldwide.

Mr. T.A. GHEBREYESUS (WHO), *Special Guest*, said that the new memorandum of understanding between WHO and the IPU would help both organizations to accomplish their objectives and promote responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative parliaments that took action to make health for all a reality. With key roles in bridging the gap between science and policy, one of their many shared ambitions related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WHO's mandate was Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), which was attainable only in tandem with Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). The importance of the IPU as a major ally was therefore clear. By enacting legislation, harmonizing existing law, creating an enabling legislative environment and eliminating legal barriers to access to health, parliamentarians played an essential part in the achievement of both those Goals. They also had the responsibility and authority to keep governments accountable for their commitments, while their budget allocation decisions were crucial to the delivery of health agendas. To those ends, they must be informed, involved and engaged and highlight the needs of the most vulnerable in reflecting public and social concerns.

The memorandum of understanding with the IPU would help WHO to achieve progress towards the "triple billion" targets embodied in its new five-year strategic plan: one billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage, one billion more better protected from health emergencies, and one billion more enjoying better health and well-being. Unfortunately, not everyone enjoyed the right to health, an area in which major challenges and inequalities remained despite progress achieved. Life expectancies still varied greatly among countries, humanitarian needs were unprecedented, and no corner of the globe was immune to disease outbreaks. In short, no one was safe until all were safe, with women, children and adolescents still the most vulnerable.

The achievement of universal health coverage, however, necessitated financial resources and indeed strong health systems, the creation of which was an affordable investment in healthier and more productive populations and hence a matter of political choice. He therefore hoped that parliamentarians would urge their political leaders to participate in the high-level meeting to be held at the next United Nations General Assembly in 2019 aimed at mobilizing action towards universal health coverage. As to the draft resolution on universal health coverage to be considered at the next IPU Assembly, it would, if adopted, represent a key parliamentary contribution to the global process. In conclusion, he called on IPU Members to mobilize domestic resources, political commitments and leaders in support of universal health coverage to realize the dream of health for all.

Ms. N. DIAZ (El Salvador) said that the signature of the peace accords ending the civil war in her country had paved the way to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, promoting in turn the commitment to social justice and participatory and transparent government. Many socio-economic development programmes were implemented by the ministry responsible for education, science and technology, which also oversaw scientific research centres and had established an inter-ministerial committee on science, technology and innovation for development.

In the field of education, scores of thousands had successfully completed the adult literacy courses run in cooperation with Cuba. Similar numbers of children and teachers had benefited from the State's initiative to supply computers with online access to schools. Educational robotics was taught through clubs, and modern technology and innovation were used in various programmes promoting productivity, safety and prisoner rehabilitation. Special initiatives had been launched to foster the values of tolerance and respect for diversity and to teach conflict resolution skills, including mediation and dialogue, while efforts to raise health awareness included an emphasis on the importance of nutrition, breastfeeding and vaccination. El Salvador remained committed to the implementation of all such programmes.

Ms. I. OLIVEIRA VALENTE (Angola) said that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) were fundamental tools enabling parliaments, through legislative initiatives and work in conjunction with governments and civil society, to realize lasting peace, stability and well-being for their constituents. Parliamentarians must reset the balance by influencing policymaking in favour of STEM education and training for women and young people, including by removing cultural obstacles to their effective engagement in those expanding fields. Selfish economic interests must furthermore be set aside to focus instead on cooperation and reciprocity to ensure that scientific and technological development served all nations equally rather than benefiting only the few.

In Angola, the new national development plan incorporated concrete actions for harnessing science and technology to advance development, peace and security, with an emphasis on, inter alia, empowering women and youth, creating an enabling learning environment, reducing youth



unemployment and combating all forms of violence and discrimination. In that context, it aimed to provide STEM training for thousands of technicians annually. Other related measures included the development of research facilities and legislative reform to take account of new technological trends. Parliamentarians must do their part by ensuring that sufficient resources were directed towards achieving such goals, which called for deeper parliamentary diplomacy.

Ms. F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that scientific and technological development was heedless of borders. It was therefore worth recalling the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of States, bearing in mind that modern technology could be used to spread fake news, shape public opinion and stir up tensions around the world. Parliaments had an important oversight role to play in that context and must also be mindful of narrowing the technological divide so that developing countries shared the benefits of science, technology and innovation and built further on them in their own right.

A leading light in the fields of science and technology, her country had produced the first woman ever to receive the world's most prestigious award in mathematics, who had broken the stereotypical mould and provided an impressive role model for women and girls. Parliaments played a major role in the removal of obstacles to women's engagement in those fields, where cooperation promoted the intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding conducive to sustainable peace and development. The United States unilateral withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and its imposition of unjust sanctions ran counter to that approach. In the face of modern-day challenges, the way forward was cooperation in the cause of humanity.

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

A delegate from the BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA said she wished to draw attention to the fact that members of the Venezuelan delegation from the political right were preventing those from the political left from using the remaining available speaking time to reveal the objective truth about the Venezuelan situation on the ground. They feared that truth and preferred to continue spreading their fake news.

Ms. V. MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA (Mexico) said that young parliamentarians had an invaluable opportunity to promote peace and development through science, technology and indeed parliamentary diplomacy. Technological advances must be used to innovate for peaceful purposes and have a social impact. To that end, parliaments must legislate bearing in mind the fact that communication, learning and interaction had forever changed with the advent of the Internet and online platforms. They must also adopt strategies for increasing the participation of young people in parliament, such as by reducing the minimum age requirement and introducing quotas, as had been done in Mexico, with positive results.

Mr. I. POPOV (Ukraine) said that, on return to their home countries, foreign fighters, such as those participating in the Russian aggression against Ukraine, should either be prosecuted under counter-terrorism legislation or extradited to the countries where they had fought. Ukraine had introduced automated border control systems, which had helped to identify suspicious individuals, and almost all citizens had been issued with biometric passports. Data exchanged through its advance passenger information system had furthermore led to the apprehension of numerous individuals involved in terrorist organizations. All parliaments should take steps to ensure that modern tools were used to counter terrorism.

Ms. M. NKANSAH-BOADU (Ghana) said that STEM undoubtedly promoted sustainable development, which was predicated on empirical scientific and technological evidence. The benefits of science and technology were utilized in matters relating to, among others, food security, health, education and sanitation. Parliaments must fulfil their representational functions by emphasizing to their constituents the importance of technology in those and other matters; by ensuring that STEM education was mainstreamed and elevated in school curricula and was focused on practice over theory; by approving budget appropriations reflecting the centrality of STEM; by promoting STEM research and dissemination of the findings; and taking legislative action to combat cybercrime.

The PRESIDENT invited young parliamentarians to contribute to the debate in the new segment set aside for their participation as part of the measures agreed with a view to furthering their involvement in IPU activities.

Ms. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that innovation and technology were powerful instruments for promoting peace, security and development but could also be used to interfere in the domestic affairs of States by fuelling conflict and instability. The daily Russian military aggression against Ukraine included the use of hybrid warfare techniques, which must be stopped. Such techniques ranged from spreading misinformation and fake news to carrying out cyberattacks and influencing elections. In working to avert the global threat posed by such violations of international law, parliaments must strengthen cooperation to ensure that science and technology were instead used to guarantee a peaceful and secure future for all.

Ms. Z. YILDIZ (Turkey) said that the world was digitalizing at a speed that pushed the boundaries of the mind. It was therefore important to explore the implications of the revolutionary transformation in progress. In that context, further consideration should be given to concrete measures for the prevention of unethical practices in the spheres of science, technology and innovation, such as in artificial intelligence, regarding personal data and with genetically modified organisms. Knowledge must be treated as common heritage and be respected, shared and further developed for the common good. In all such considerations, the primary responsibility was to protect human dignity.

Ms. V. MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA (Mexico) said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to produce legislation adequate for the task of addressing the challenges presented by the technological revolution and the move from a traditional to a knowledge-based economy, with its new forms of communication and interaction. Investment in related education and training should therefore be a priority for ensuring that the benefits of technology and information were harnessed for the common good. Such education was the key to development and the creation of happy, prosperous and peaceful societies in the era of innovation.

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that the positive energy of young people had been the subject of an open debate at the recent Second Eurasian Women's Forum, which had considered the matter of increasing the participation of women and girls in all walks of public life, including in the political sphere. To that end, parliamentarians should work to establish the right conditions for enabling women to combine family responsibilities with public duties. Women would thus be better equipped to channel their energies into politics. They were ready to engage in dialogue and share best practices to that end.

Mr. S.H. PATWARY (Bangladesh) said that youth unemployment and wealth inequality were among the worrying problems to which innovation and technology could offer solutions. In the fourth industrial revolution, the extraordinarily swift pace of development must be accepted rather than obstructed. It also called for a radical shift to a sustainable, innovation-driven, green and inclusive model of development. Multilateral cross-border cooperation was essential to increasing technology transfer to developing countries, while a hybrid approach combining technology and innovation with entrepreneurship, youth empowerment and globalized engineering should be adopted towards problem-solving. Sensible decisions depended on taking into account both present and future scenarios.

Mr. D. FORCELLINI (San Marino) said that the outputs of scientific and technological research should be directed towards achieving sustainable growth and green development. Economic equality for all was the guarantee of peace, which should be developed on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach. The role of parliamentarians in that context was to secure equal access for all to technology, science and research with a view to achieving the requisite balance, especially with future generations in mind. For the sake of humanity, the main objective on that score must be to create an enabling environment for global peace.

Ms. H.V. GAVIT (India) said that, as key agents for social change in the age of innovation and technology, young parliamentarians must be fully involved in all policymaking and legislation processes. With a view to channelling the energy and capacities of its many youth towards nation-building, India was focused on ensuring their political and socio-economic empowerment, rights, freedoms and well-being. As to parliamentarians, they could usefully inspire youth to engage in cooperation for peace and development; identify the benefits and opportunities flowing from technological advancement; share best practices for reskilling; use big data for policymaking; and employ emerging technologies in preventing conflict and fostering humanitarian assistance.

Item 8 of the agenda  
(continued)

**Emergency item:**  
***Climate change – Let us not cross the line***  
(A/139/8-DR)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a draft resolution (A/139/8-DR) prepared on the chosen emergency item by the drafting committee established for that purpose.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles), *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, introducing the draft resolution, said that the delegations of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Seychelles were fully aware of the implications of the recent findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the survival of the small island developing States in particular and had thus jointly proposed the chosen emergency item as an appeal to the world parliamentary community for help. The text presented for consideration had been developed by a drafting committee composed of members of the delegations of Chad, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Seychelles, South Africa, Tonga and Uruguay. The overwhelming scientific proof of climate change effects—already a reality for some—unquestionably demonstrated the urgent need for ambitious action to halt the global warming process. He therefore called on all Members to support the draft resolution, which was succinct and clear in its intention. On a related note, he also encouraged their reflection on means of assisting climate refugees.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Assembly would wish to adopt the draft resolution by acclamation.

*It was so decided.*

The PRESIDENT said in conclusion that she looked forward to seeing IPU Members at the parliamentary meeting to be held in Poland on the sidelines of the forthcoming twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

*The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 5.05 p.m.*

**Organization of work**  
(continued)

The PRESIDENT, recalling the Assembly's earlier decision by vote that it lay within its authority to alter the agendas and work programmes of the Standing Committees, said that the matter of amending the IPU Statutes and Rules accordingly would be addressed in due course. In the interim, as agreed, a further vote would be held on the question: "Do you agree that, at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights should hold a panel discussion, which would not lead to a resolution, on the theme *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*?"

She encouraged the full involvement of all Members in the meetings of the Standing Committees, saying that they were a plural space open to all, without discrimination. All IPU Members had the freedom to express their views, dissenting or otherwise, without constraint or taboo. Furthermore, parliamentarians had a responsibility to address all matters of concern to their constituents, all of whom enjoyed the same human rights. The vote due to take place was a matter of procedure, as previously explained, and would be conducted strictly in accordance with the IPU Statutes and Rules.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda) questioned whether a vote on a subject contrary to the IPU Statutes was in fact a procedural matter. The IPU was established for clear and specific purposes and could not be seen to be promoting issues that were not universally accepted, as was indicated by the sentiments of most African and Asian delegations and indeed the fact that LGBTI rights were not covered by any international human rights instrument. The question should be pursued no further.

The PRESIDENT replied that the Assembly had already agreed to vote on the issue. In accordance with the Rules of the Assembly, one delegate in favour of the issue and another holding a contrary opinion would speak before the vote.

Ms. B. GROUWELS (Belgium), speaking in favour, said it was her delegation that had originally made a modest proposal at the previous Assembly for a discussion, aimed not at preparing a resolution but solely at exchanging views, on the question of respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons, who were vulnerable to discrimination. Since that time, the proposal had become a symbolic issue and the outcome of the vote to be conducted would have a significance that went beyond the question itself. The proposal was not about imposing standards or ways of life on others, nor was it about claiming special rights for LGBTI persons. Rather, it was about how internationally recognized human rights were being respected in the case of persons belonging to a specific group, who were detained, criminalized, harassed and discriminated against in housing, health services and access to the labour market for no other reason than that they were LGBTI. The aim of the proposed discussion was simply to talk about those matters and nothing else.

The Assembly was being requested by some IPU Members to forbid such a discussion. It must, however, consider the ramifications of the vote. The very word "parliament" signified a place for discussion and the exchange of views and a parliamentary organization that refused to discuss certain issues was essentially a contradiction in terms. Was the Assembly going to forbid the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights to discuss specific human rights issues? If the nays in the vote had it, it would undermine the credibility of the IPU as a defender of human rights and freedom of expression and, furthermore, send the message that it was acceptable to discriminate against LGBTI persons, even to the point of preventing those who believed it to be unacceptable from stating their view.

Human rights were universal, meaning that they applied to all human beings. To deny that there was a human rights issue worth discussing was to say that LGBTI persons were not human beings. Was that the insight that Members wanted the IPU to bring to the world? It was a matter of fundamentals and she thus urged Members to vote yes to the question being put to them.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda), expressing a contrary opinion, cited Article 1.2 (c) of the IPU Statutes, which stated that the Inter-Parliamentary Union must "[c]ontribute to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope". Most African and Asian delegations, as well as some European ones, did not support LGBTI rights, which were not therefore universal in scope. Indeed, for those delegations to support such rights would conflict with the cultural norms and beliefs in their countries. LGBTI rights, moreover, were not mentioned in any international human rights treaties. To discuss the subject within the IPU would thus be to promote a right that was non-universal in scope and furthermore contradict the objectives for which the IPU was established. The majority of countries did not support LGBTI rights and could not be commanded to recognize them by the IPU. It was for other institutions to decide which rights merited recognition. He called on delegations to vote "no" in answer to the question.

The PRESIDENT said that the vote would be conducted in accordance with Rule 34 of the Rules of the Assembly, pursuant to which decisions were taken by a majority of the votes cast. Delegations were also permitted to split their votes, in accordance with Article 14.3 of the IPU Statutes, so as to express the diverse views of their members.

*A vote was conducted by roll call on the question posed to the Assembly.*

*With 499 votes in favour, 620 against and 130 abstentions, the answer to the question was in the negative.*

It was therefore decided that, on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would not hold a panel discussion on the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

*The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

### *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m. with Mr. A. Desai (India), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda** (C-III/139/A.1 and A/139/Inf.3)

The PRESIDENT recalled that at the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had decided unanimously to hold a debate on the role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons. In light of opposing views expressed by certain Members, the President of the Assembly had asked the Standing Committee to give further consideration to this matter at the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly. On this occasion, the Standing Committee had reaffirmed through a vote its intention to hold the debate at the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly, but objections were once again raised at the final sitting of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

The matter would therefore be resolved at the level of the Assembly in the course of the week. The Assembly would first determine whether it had the authority to change the agenda and work plan of the Standing Committees, and, if the answer was in the affirmative, whether the Standing Committee should include the item on its agenda.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) stressed that the Committee should be given the chance to make its voice heard by the Assembly before a final decision was taken on the matter.

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018)**

*The summary record was approved.*

#### **Preparation of a resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration***

The PRESIDENT announced that the presentation of the draft resolution would be followed by a debate. The Standing Committee would then examine the proposed amendments to the draft resolution, which had been submitted by the statutory deadline of 29 September 2018. No further amendments were admissible.

#### **(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum by the co-Rapporteurs** (C-III/139/DR, C-III/139/DR-am and C-III/139/M)

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, said that every effort had been made to take account of the views expressed at the Standing Committee's previous session, and to ensure that the draft resolution was clear, balanced and insightful. Matters relating to refugees had not been included since they were addressed in a separate global compact. The adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration offered the first opportunity for the United Nations to set standards and define comprehensive policies on all aspects of migration, including on social, economic and security issues and on matters of abuse, discrimination and xenophobia, as well as on the prevention of trafficking, promotion of human rights, and the elimination of labour exploitation.

Migration had been part of society since time immemorial and when well managed could have a positive impact not only on migrants themselves but also on host societies. Yet challenges persisted. Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was therefore crucial. Unemployment and conflict were major reasons for international migration. Around 3.3 per cent of the world's population currently resided outside their country of birth. Unprecedented numbers of people on the move had placed migration high on the global agenda. The root causes of such migration must consequently be addressed in a comprehensive manner. With that in mind, the international community had recognized that migration must be governed in a safe, orderly and regular manner to ensure that it was a positive experience for all concerned. A lack of appropriate mechanisms and standards in that respect continued to present challenges. The draft resolution therefore served as a response to the current state of affairs and focused primarily on migration governance and inter-parliamentary cooperation, drawing on precedents from previous IPU assemblies.

Every effort must be made to prevent racism and xenophobia, to support migrants' participation in development and decision-making processes in countries of origin and destination alike, and to ensure that their human rights were respected at all points in the migration process. The draft resolution took into account those ideas and reaffirmed the attendant principles that should be at the heart of the Global Compact: respect for human rights, decent work, human dignity, protection against discrimination, violence and abuse, and the need for due process and respect for the rule of law. The draft resolution also emphasized the importance of health, education, justice and social protection, which should be guaranteed to all, irrespective of migration status. Furthermore, intelligent migration governance must be gender responsive and uphold the principle of the best interests of the child.

The draft resolution included recommendations on the measures to be taken to ensure that whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches were applied to migration, and that all integration and social inclusion policies were evidence-based, and that inter-parliamentary dialogue on migration was fostered at all times. A concerted effort had been made to take account of all views in the draft resolution and ensure that it was balanced. He hoped that it would be adopted, and that it would afford an opportunity for the world's parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, to have their say on the content of the Global Compact.

#### **(b) Debate on the draft resolution**

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that his country had been actively involved in the preparation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, an instrument which established common ground on the migration process among the international community, based on solidarity and shared responsibility. Implementation of the Global Compact would require firm political commitment and close collaboration. The only way to tackle intolerance and stigma was to truly integrate migrants into society, guaranteeing respect for human rights irrespective of their migration status, and paying special attention to vulnerable groups, especially children. In Slovenia, all migrant children had the right to free compulsory education. Migrants were offered free access to health-care services and were given integration opportunities, including language lessons and an introduction to Slovenian culture and the national legal system. As the multiple drivers of migration were interconnected, a comprehensive approach was required, based on a spirit of shared responsibility.

Mr. I. LIDDELL-GRAINER (United Kingdom) said that issues related to migration and refugees must be addressed concurrently. Any population lost to another country would need to be replaced as public services and all aspects of society depended on people. If a country became unstable and a net migration occurred, the international community's key consideration should be how to help that country and its people. While the Global Compact was a welcome development, the United Nations was an unelected body. Parliamentarians, on the other hand, were the elected representatives of the people of the world; they had constituents who were migrants. The draft resolution currently before the Standing Committee should give due consideration to the aftermath of conflict; how could parliamentarians ensure that the provision of assistance was effective, particularly in countries that were difficult to access? Despite the fine words in the draft resolution, severe problems persisted, which could only be solved through a concerted joint effort.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) expressed her disappointment that the governments of Hungary and the United States had withdrawn from the negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The parliamentarians of the world should raise their voices and reject nationalistic, isolationist and racist approaches. The Global Compact should be people-centred and human rights-based, with particular attention paid to people in vulnerable situations and in need of special medical or psychological support, especially those who had been victims of physical abuse or torture. Parliamentarians should therefore advocate for a human rights-based Global Compact

reflecting the principles enshrined in the core human rights treaties, including non-refoulement. The Global Compact should also be in line with international labour standards, in particular on fundamental labour principles and employment rights. Migration was a major global phenomenon. Long-lasting solutions were required, based on mutual understanding, solidarity, shared responsibility and true commitment. Ending wars, conflicts and foreign interventions, bridging inequalities and eliminating exploitation remained the ultimate challenges for humankind.

Mr. K.J. KIM (Republic of Korea) said that in a globalized world, migration was a common phenomenon. There was thus a pressing need to set rules for safe and orderly migration. The Korean Government supported the adoption of the Global Compact and had participated constructively in the negotiation process, in the belief that the human rights of all migrants should be respected. All persons should be provided with proof of legal identity and with access to education and health care. Governments should be encouraged to seek alternatives to the non-voluntary return and detention of migrants. Setting migration policies was, however, a matter of national sovereignty. He hoped that the world's parliamentarians would be able to work together and establish a set of realistic measures to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden) said that in a globalized world, migration was a topic of increasing relevance. Deeper cooperation between the world's parliaments would facilitate the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The resolution adopted by the Standing Committee must be consistent with the Global Compact, principally with respect to terminology and definitions. Similarly, the IPU should adhere to the position stated in the Global Compact regarding non-voluntary returns. Acceptance of applications should be at the discretion of each State. States must, however, facilitate safe returns and avoid detaining migrants, especially migrant children. As for statelessness and the solution proposed in the Global Compact, receiving States had an obligation to provide nationality and relevant documentation for children otherwise born into statelessness. Closer cooperation between States was needed to protect stateless children, who represented a particularly vulnerable group. Her delegation had submitted some proposed amendments to the draft resolution with that in mind.

Mr. P. ARAMWATTANANONT (Thailand) said that migration was a global phenomenon that required a whole-of-society approach and close international cooperation. Parliamentarians must share information and experiences and learn from each other about how best to manage migration flows. The Thai Government supported regular migration, as described in the Global Compact, which would contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that no one was left behind. The Thai Parliament was committed to ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability and to helping promote safe, orderly and regular migration. Cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination was particularly vital to promote regular migration. The Thai National Legislative Assembly had undertaken legislative reform, including the passing of royal ordinances on the employment and management of migrant workers, as well as laws to eliminate trafficking in persons and forced labour. New legislation on people smuggling was also in the pipeline. The final draft of the Global Compact constituted a common basis on which the international community could build so as to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration for all.

Mr. H.C. MEENA (India) said that parliamentarians around the world should do their utmost to strengthen their cooperation on migration governance. India provided for the safe and regular migration of skilled workers, businesspersons, students and foreign tourists. National legislation sought to protect labour rights and promote a safe and secure working environment for all workers. Presenting his delegation's proposed amendments to the draft resolution, he said that States must have the sovereign right to determine their own migration policy and the prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in line with international law and in accordance with national policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and employment. Armed conflict, gender-based violence, and natural disasters were humanitarian issues and should not be used to give a negative image of predominantly economic and developmental migration. Sudden onset natural disasters must be distinguished from slow-onset climate change.

Mr. J. LACÃO (Portugal) said that the world's parliamentarians must send a clear message regarding the need to respect the human rights of migrants, both during migration and during integration. All migrants should enjoy the right to education and health care. Every form of discrimination against women and children must be eliminated. Racism, trafficking and smuggling must also be brought to an end. The draft resolution was in line with Portugal's national policy and

perspective with regard to its international obligations as a member of the Council of the European Union, the United Nations and other international entities. Migrants deserved to live in dignity. The rise in radical nationalism, xenophobia and selfishness in richer societies must be tackled. The world's parliamentarians had an obligation to promote international solidarity, defend tolerance and promote human rights everywhere for all people. His delegation therefore supported the draft Global Compact and welcomed the draft resolution.

Mr. K. TSUMURA (Japan) said that discussions were ongoing in Japan regarding the entry of foreign workers, the number of which had more than doubled over the past decade. No agreement had yet been reached on the acceptance of foreign workers however, and the subject of foreign migrants in and of itself was a political taboo. Japan was an isolated island, unaccustomed to receiving foreigners, with a significant language barrier, which made integration of migrants particularly difficult. Gaps in the workforce, however, meant that foreign workers were needed to support economic growth. By way of compromise, a cooperation scheme in human resources development with developing countries had been set up, through which entry for foreigners was allowed on a temporary basis, and the international transfer of skills and knowledge was promoted. Many foreign workers in Japan were therefore technical trainees or foreign students. Challenges persisted, however, with regard to the logistics surrounding accompanying family members. His party thus wished to remove the upper time limit on periods of stay for foreign workers, allow the entry of accompanying family members, and work towards the full acceptance of migrants.

Ms. A. NAUMCHIK (Belarus) said that the adoption of the Global Compact would constitute a turning point in migration governance and would mark the triumph of multilateralism over the negative attitudes towards migration in many places around the world. War and conflict, which were major drivers of forced migration, could be avoided if a new international order was found. The Government of Belarus had offered to host negotiations to that end. Migration remained a major issue on the global agenda, to which the IPU could contribute significantly by adopting the draft resolution currently before the Standing Committee. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in implementing the Global Compact. Her delegation supported the draft resolution and would present some proposed amendments.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the people of Palestine faced the double problem of conflict and terrorism ravaging the countries in which they had sought refuge, in particular the Syrian Arab Republic. Refugee camps had been destroyed and Palestinian refugees had been forced to flee for their lives yet again. The State of Israel, which had been established by virtue of a United Nations resolution adopted in 1948, was run by former gang leaders who perpetuated massacres and had expelled the Palestinian people from their homeland, demolishing some 450 villages. Residents had fled for their lives and found themselves living in dire conditions in camps in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Despite a resolution requesting Israel to facilitate their return and provide compensation for losses, Israel had not allowed their return. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had been established to assist Palestinian refugees, who now numbered more than 5.5 million worldwide. The largest contributor to the UNRWA budget had been the United States of America; the withdrawal of United States funding would have catastrophic consequences.

Mr. S. AL KHATEEB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the people of the Syrian Arab Republic were suffering the grave consequences of aggression and conflict by the United States and other countries. There had been an exodus of the much-needed labour force, whose knowledge and expertise had been taken up by other countries, such as Germany and Scandinavian countries. Forced migration could be brought to an end by stopping acts of aggression and removing support for terrorists and armed groups affiliated to colonial powers. The world's parliaments should urge governments to lift the economic sanctions in place against the Syrian Arab Republic, since those sanctions were disproportionately impacting the lives of the most vulnerable. The Syrian Parliament was making efforts to build employment opportunities and respond to the educational needs of the population in an attempt to curb migration flows. Turkey was occupying part of Syrian territory, and had expelled a large number of people. Refugees were unable to return owing to the persistent aggression. NATO and its allies should cease such aggression and withdraw from Syrian territory. The Syrian parliament condemned all forms of terrorism, inhumane treatment and exploitation of refugees, and looked forward to forging new international relations based on the rule of law and mutual respect.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that his country provided significant humanitarian support and direct assistance to other countries. Unfortunately, the United Nations and its relief agencies were in a state of decline; growing insecurity was leading to increased migration. Most migrants were from



countries in conflict or countries that did not uphold their international commitments or respect the rule of law. The root causes of migration must therefore be addressed. International law must be enforced and the humanitarian and relief functions of the United Nations must be strengthened. Migrants were endangering their own lives undertaking perilous journeys to flee conflict. A bold and clear discussion was thus needed to make real progress. The role of the United Nations should be revitalized to make its institutions able to support peace in the Middle East.

Ms. P. FRASER-DAMOFF (Canada) said that the LGBTQI community must be included in the definition of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Canada was one of a few countries that accepted refugees on grounds of their sexual orientation. A Canadian non-governmental organization, Rainbow Railroad, helped members of the LGBTQI community to escape from countries where they faced persecution. Eight States maintained the death penalty for homosexuality, and in 71 States LGBTQI persons faced the threat of imprisonment. They must therefore be included explicitly in the draft resolution. The Canadian Government had assisted Rainbow Railroad in resettling refugees from Chechnya after news had broken of the anti-gay purges and concentration camps.

Ms. C. MIX (Chile) said that migration had significant repercussions for human rights, in particular of vulnerable groups. Migration by members of the LGBTQI population could lead them into hostile and violent situations. Since half the world's migrants were women, a gender-based approach to migration policies was essential. Combating trafficking in persons, specifically women and girl migrants, required a comprehensive approach. Migration governance must take account of the specificities of the situations facing migrant women, especially the difficulties they encountered in accessing work in countries of destination, the risk of being held in detention and the dramatic impact that migration had on their family life. Migration must be viewed from a human rights perspective, and all migrants treated with humanity and dignity. Migration governance must include protection measures for those most in need. Parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to protect the rights of the most vulnerable; inter-parliamentary cooperation in that regard was essential.

Mr. M. KARAKAYA (Turkey) said that the Global Compact would guide migration policies and serve as a tool to overcome racism, discrimination and xenophobia, which constituted a highly dangerous scourge fuelled by domestic political interests. Cultural tolerance and understanding should prevail. The Global Compact would pave the way for better coordination in migration governance. It could potentially have a significant positive impact on the lives of millions of migrants by dealing with the push factors for irregular migration and helping to strengthen humanitarian aid and development assistance in countries of origin and transit. The Global Compact underscored the contribution of migrants to the development of societies, and was people-centred, gender responsive and child sensitive. It promoted the rights of vulnerable groups, while taking account of the sovereign rights of States, and advocated close international cooperation to counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking. No country was immune to the challenges posed by human mobility. The main aim of the Turkish Government was to protect Turkey's borders and dismantle terrorist groups, focusing on establishing security and stability in the region, and working in cooperation with the international community to ensure the safe return of Syrian refugees.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that her country was not only a country of origin but also of destination and transit for refugees and migrants from neighbouring countries, in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Zambian Government had taken measures to ensure the safe and orderly transit of migrants across its borders, including through the ratification of international instruments, the improvement of national data collection capacity, the strengthening of labour policy and the mainstreaming of gender. The Zambian Parliament had enacted legislation to address the major challenges related to migration, specifically aimed at countering trafficking in persons, regulating immigration and deportation, and eliminating gender-based violence. A national human rights commission had been established, with a mandate to investigate abuses. Parliamentarians must understand the many root causes of migration and legislate accordingly to ensure that the rights of migrants were protected and that they could live in safety and dignity. It should always be remembered that migrants contributed positively to economic development in their host countries as well as in their countries of origin.

Ms. V. ABDULKHALEQ (Iraq) said that as a result of large-scale violations of human rights by Islamic State, some six million people had migrated from Iraq, risking their lives to seek safety, the fate of many of whom was unknown. Of particular concern was the fate of thousands of Yazidi women. Despite facing major challenges, the Iraqi Government was working closely with United Nations agencies and other partners to resettle many displaced persons. Nonetheless, hundreds of thousands of people remained displaced. Legislative measures had been taken to promote the integration of

migrant children into schools and to provide all migrants with health care and welfare. A lack of security prevailed, however, with the threat of terrorism a significant push factor for migration. She therefore called on the international community to support all countries suffering from mass displacement to reconstruct their society and save their people from having to flee for their lives. Environmental disaster would also lead to large migratory flows; seeking solutions would require strong international support and close cooperation.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that the decision to draft the Global Compact constituted a global acknowledgment of the need to take concerted, comprehensive international action to save lives, promote human rights, and ensure that all States shouldered their responsibility to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. Such an approach would be essential to optimize the economic and cultural benefits of migration for all, while maintaining a balance between human rights and State sovereignty. The Global Compact underscored the need to promote respect for human rights, to eliminate discrimination and xenophobia, and to uphold the right to justice, social security, education, housing and health care for all. It also guaranteed the rights of the child, ensuring that migrant children would not be held in detention. Cooperation on climate change and aid for development were essential to assist countries of origin and prevent forced migration. It was disappointing that certain States had withdrawn from the negotiations on the Global Compact.

Mr. M. ABDALL HUSSAIN (Sudan) welcomed the draft resolution and said that organized migration could have a positive impact on the economies both of countries of origin and of destination. That said, some two million people had left Sudan, leading to a "brain drain" in the country. In a similar fashion, large influxes of migrants could also cause social and political instability in receiving countries. The situation was therefore complex, and should thus remain high on the international agenda. Sudan was also a country of destination, and as such took steps to ensure that all people enjoyed their rights to health care and education, and were able to integrate successfully. Moreover, Sudan was a transit country, on the migratory route to the Red Sea. The Sudanese Parliament had therefore promulgated anti-trafficking legislation, and was cooperating with the international community to protect migrants in transit and counter other aspects of transnational crime, such as terrorism.

Ms. B. GUZMÁN GÓMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her country's migration policy was based on sustainable development and human rights. Migration should be viewed as an opportunity for receiving States, not as a burden. Rights must be guaranteed for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status. Comprehensive integration policies were needed to ensure that all migrants enjoyed their rights to housing, health and security, based on principles of complementarity, solidarity and respect for diversity. Migrants should be seen as a bridge between countries of origin and countries of destination. Cooperation between States was essential to prevent exploitation and trafficking in persons. A humanist approach was needed to promote and protect the rights of migrants and ensure their effective integration into host societies.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said that although migration had always existed, the current migration crisis had been exacerbated by recent events and was driven in particular by poverty, caused by the abusive exploitation of natural resources in many countries of origin. Most migrants originated from African and Asian countries that were rich in natural resources, which had been exploited by Western powers. Libya, for example, had been purposely destabilized and its leader assassinated. The resultant political situation had led to swathes of people fleeing the country. Parliamentarians must work together to ensure that governments did not manipulate and exploit others. The global community must live and work together in solidarity. Every effort must be made to prevent the attempts by certain large powers to destabilize countries in the Mediterranean region, and to uphold the principles of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights.

Mr. A. SINMALEZA (Ecuador) said that the right to safe, orderly and regular migration was a universal right. The large-scale migration flows the world was currently witnessing were driven by the search for peace and political and financial security. Ecuador had a human rights-based approach to migration, which focused on guaranteeing equal rights for all. Hundreds of thousands of people had recently fled Venezuela, 150,000 of whom had sought refuge in Ecuador. They had been granted access to health services and education, with a view to ensuring their full integration into society. Many others, however, who had fled Venezuela faced discrimination, exploitation and were at risk of trafficking. The international community must make every effort to foster democracy in Venezuela. Greater international cooperation was required to ensure safe migration flows and to protect migrant communities.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that the Government of Ethiopia had tried to impose a ban on its citizens migrating to find work in the Middle East, but the prohibition had only served to increase irregular migration. Drought, landlessness and unemployment were the key reasons behind the

exodus from Ethiopia. The Government was therefore focusing on promoting economic development. Parliament had allocated budgetary funds to a job creation scheme to strengthen employment opportunities, especially for university graduates. Ethiopia was also a country of destination for migrants from neighbouring countries such as Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan. Those migrants had been granted access to health care, education and the other basic services required for a decent standard of living.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands) commended the draft resolution, which was a balanced text. That notwithstanding, her delegation wished to submit some amendments to the draft with a view to ensuring that due account was taken of the situations that caused some groups of women to migrate, and of the importance of safe migratory routes as a means of protecting migrants against trafficking. Blocking migratory routes was not an effective way to prevent migration. The root causes of forced migration should instead be addressed.

Mr. F. VERDUCCI (Italy) said that migration affected some 250 million people worldwide and was a cause of suffering and slavery. The root causes of forced migration must therefore be addressed. Parliamentary voices must be heard. A selective approach to democracy was not acceptable; democracy could not function without respect for human rights. Solidarity was essential, and should go hand-in-hand with assuming responsibility. Ensuring fair, regular and orderly migration should be viewed as a long-term strategy, rather than an emergency measure. Every effort should be made to eliminate racism, xenophobia and discrimination, and to promote closer cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination for the benefit of all. The effective integration and inclusion of migrants would be key to upholding security and governing migration in an orderly manner. The two global compacts must be implemented together.

Mr. R. MUNAWAR (Indonesia) said that parliaments should contribute to migration governance by ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; working with governments to improve the management of sending and receiving migrant workers, and strengthening cooperation to build developing countries' capacities to handle migration. States must assume their obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Myanmar must protect the rights of the Rohingya people.

Ms. J. NASAIF (Bahrain) said that although migration was a global issue, it had become particularly pressing in places where political conflict was ongoing. Close attention must be paid to protecting the most vulnerable migrants, especially women and children who lacked legal protection and struggled to integrate in many countries of destination. Parliamentarians had a role to play in ensuring the adoption of detailed and comprehensive migration policies through national legislation; promoting respect for international law, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and granting protection to all women migrants. All migrants should have access to education, health care and justice. Every effort must be made to end discrimination against migrant women and foster their integration into and contribution to their host societies. A joint digital platform should be established as a database for all legislation and activities relating to international labour standards, including social dialogue and the protection of migrant workers' rights, among others.

Ms. A. ZANI (Kenya) said that many factors resulted in the vulnerability of migrants. Inter-parliamentary action on migration and migration policy should be coordinated to ensure that comprehensive measures were taken to overcome that vulnerability. Kenya hosted one of the largest refugee populations, numbering close to half a million people, in two main refugee camps. Efforts had been made to ensure the ratification of the relevant international conventions and to legislate at the national level to regulate various aspects of migration, such as protection for internally displaced persons, and prevention of trafficking in persons. Refugees and migrants often travelled without documentation and were thus vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. All of the legislation pertaining to migration that had been enacted in Kenya aimed to improve the situation of migrants. Parliamentarians would have a key role in the implementation of the Global Compact. In that regard, the Kenyan Parliament intended to prepare a plan of action for migration, which would include measures for holding the executive accountable and ensuring the full implementation of all relevant legislation. Every effort should be made to strengthen stakeholder participation, including for migrants themselves, to ensure that their specific situations and needs were assessed and addressed. Parliamentarians should be involved in the negotiation of bilateral agreements and regional policies to address migration-related issues. The root causes of mass migration must be tackled in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. R. MARCOLETA (Philippines) said that there were 10 million Philippine migrant workers around the world, who contributed more than USD 30 billion per year to the Philippine economy. His delegation welcomed the initiatives taken by the IPU to raise awareness and foster implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Global Compact was a pioneering document that encapsulated a broad understanding of how to uphold a humane approach to migration, principally by ensuring that people on the move were able to fully enjoy their human rights, in accordance with international law. The Global Compact would help to combat trafficking in persons and the exploitation of migrants. It would also enhance progress towards ensuring decent work for all and countering the unjustifiably negative narratives surrounding migrants and migration. Intensified international cooperation would thus be required to implement its objectives and achieve those ends.

Mr. M. ALHAIZAAN (Saudi Arabia) said that safe, orderly and regular migration could be achieved by addressing the root causes of mass migration. Some modifications to the draft Global Compact were still required. Cultural exchanges were essential to ensure better understanding and mutual respect between migrants and host communities, and to foster integration. Building bridges between populations was particularly important. Consideration should be given both to the difficulties that migrants faced, and to the concerns of host communities.

Ms. L. CAI (China) said that migration was one of the most distinctive trends in contemporary society and played a significant role in bridging the North–South gap. In China, migration was viewed as an opportunity to enhance cooperation and further economic development, creating benefits that could be shared by all. Every effort should be made to encourage the integration of migrants into their respective host societies and to combat discrimination, exclusion and stigmatization. The international community should work together in a comprehensive manner to tackle all crimes related to migration, specifically trafficking in persons. China had actively participated in the negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Chinese Government was willing to work with all partners to improve global migration governance.

Ms. R. KANDAWASVIKA-NHUNDU (International IDEA) said that migration posed challenges to democratic societies, putting strain on the capacity of democratic institutions in countries of destination to effectively integrate migrants into their host communities. Migration was therefore often at the centre of public debate; in some countries, during election campaigns, political parties promised to limit the number of migrants and restrict their entry. Parliaments must embrace the key principles of inclusiveness and multiculturalism when addressing migration and ensure that their democratic systems were sufficiently resilient to respond to the challenges posed by migration. Parliamentarians should foster a culture of debate that advocated inclusion and cultivated policies to maximize the benefits of migration. A holistic approach would be crucial in that respect.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that migration could serve to develop countries economically, socially and culturally. More than 25 per cent of the population of New Zealand had been born in other countries. New Zealand lacked seasonal workers, specifically in horticulture and viticulture. The Government, in cooperation with neighbouring Pacific island States, had set up a recognized seasonal employment programme, under which Pacific island workers were granted the right to work in New Zealand for four to seven months, after which they returned home with money to invest. Vanuatu, for example, sent some 4,000 people per year to work in New Zealand, who as a result gained the resources necessary to build themselves safer homes, lead healthier lives and send their children to school.

She had chaired a discussion in the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on the draft resolution currently before the Committee. The Forum had emphasized the vulnerability of women migrant domestic workers, who were often isolated, undeclared, poorly paid and at the mercy of their employers with limited access to justice. Their status was often linked to their husband or employer, which rendered them extremely vulnerable if that link was subsequently broken. They should be granted access to justice and employment, education and health services. The rights of migrants must be protected not only in sending and receiving countries, but also in countries of transit. Her delegation supported the proposal made by the delegation of Canada to ensure that the rights of LGBTQI migrants were protected.

Mr. S. DUDIN (Jordan) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the United Kingdom to discuss the issue of migration alongside that of refugees. His delegation also agreed with the delegation of Kuwait regarding the importance of upholding international law with respect to the rights of refugees, and the two delegations had submitted a joint proposal for a subject for discussion under the emergency item on the Assembly's agenda relating to the need to support UNRWA. A

distinction should be made between those who had migrated voluntarily and those who had been compelled to flee for their own safety, as well as between migrants who had fled natural disasters and those who had fled foreign occupation. The right of return should be encouraged for all those who had left their homeland. Palestinian refugees should have the right to return. Irrespective of the rights afforded to refugees by host countries, they must always have the right to return to their country of origin. Every effort should be made to facilitate that return. Countries hosting refugees should be supported; in some cases, those countries had shouldered a very heavy burden, often at the expense of their own nationals, in order to uphold their international obligations.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) said that under the genocidal regime of Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979, which had tortured and massacred thousands of Cambodians in labour camps, hundreds of thousands of Cambodians had fled in search of food, water and asylum. Those people's lives had been saved by countries in Asia, Europe, Australasia and the Americas that had granted them asylum. His delegation wished to thank all those who had taken in and taken care of Cambodians at that time, a juncture in history in which the world had been a much kinder place.

Mr. R. MAVENYENGWA (Zimbabwe) said that the debate on migration was timely and topical in the context of the imminent adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The movement of people, whether voluntary or forced, legal or undocumented, within or across borders, constituted a complex and intricate interrelationship of policy concerns. A multipronged global approach was required to address the many challenges associated with migration. Tackling the root causes of migration, in particular civil unrest, and chronic economic, political and environmental factors, was crucial. In many receiving countries, migrants were deprived of their rights and were at risk of exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Parliaments must therefore ensure the ratification of relevant international conventions, and must legislate at the national level to protect and promote the rights of migrants. International cooperation must also be strengthened. Migrants were not always a burden on host societies; they should be given the opportunity to contribute economically both to their country of origin and to their country of destination.

Mr. P. AKAMBA (Uganda) said that Uganda had adopted a sound migration policy that was fully aligned with its international obligations. A large influx of refugees had been registered, in particular from neighbouring countries such as South Sudan. A comprehensive migration policy had therefore been essential. East Africa had a freedom of movement policy that enabled migrants to enjoy the same rights and receive access to the same services as nationals, without discrimination. His delegation did not agree with the proposal put forward by the delegation of Canada to specifically mention LGBTQI persons as a vulnerable group. Such a reference could not be incorporated into Ugandan law. His delegation therefore supported the draft resolution as currently presented.

Mr. H.A. KHAN (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was a country of origin, transit and destination, which viewed migration as playing a key role in socioeconomic development in source and host countries alike. The Pakistan Government had taken a number of policy, legislative and administrative steps to protect migrants, including the adoption of a law to prevent smuggling and trafficking in persons. The international community should focus on addressing the root causes of irregular migration, in particular by bridging economic disparities between developing and developed countries, and by enhancing legal migration routes. Although States retained the sovereign right to strengthen their border security, that right should be applied in line with international law and must respect the human rights of migrants, irrespective of their status. Gender sensitive approaches must be applied when working with illegal immigrants. Persistent xenophobia, racial profiling and Islamophobia against migrants in countries of destination must be curbed. Enabling migrants to exercise their fundamental human rights in dignity would facilitate their integration into host societies. The negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration were welcome; the international community must take firm steps to ensure the instrument's balanced implementation, with a view to ensuring that migration was beneficial to all and contributed effectively to sustainable development. Close collaboration between source and destination countries would be essential in that respect.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) said that his delegation agreed with the spirit of the draft resolution. Attention must be paid, however, to the devastating impact of migration on receiving countries. Every country had the right to determine its own immigration policy, provided it was not based on race, colour, national or ethnic origin, or other discriminatory factors. Most policies tended to be decided from the negative perspective of keeping people out, rather than looking at how migrants could contribute to the economy. War, hunger, conflict and persecution could lead to mass displacement. Consideration should be given to whether the 1951 Convention required updating. The importance of migration, and the economic contribution of migrants, should not be underestimated.

Ms. S. ERRANTE (France) said that her country had passed a bill in July 2018 designed to consolidate asylum law, address irregular migration and enhance integration. The bill aimed to strengthen protection, harmonize domestic procedures with European law and practice, and bring national law into line with the realities on the ground. The adoption of the Global Compact would be particularly timely, since the challenges of migration governance had been affecting the whole world. No country could meet those challenges alone. Her delegation had submitted eight proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

Ms. C.K. KYENGE (ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly) said that the Global Compact must apply to all migrants, at all stages in the migration process. Migrants in transit often fell victim to theft, rape, violence and even murder. Migrants were drowning in the Mediterranean and the world remained indifferent to their fate. The time had therefore come to shift the focus from migration status to human rights, and to address the root causes of irregular migration, while combating trafficking in persons, ensuring safety at sea and prioritizing integration into the host society with full respect for the human rights of migrants.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all participants for their contributions and for having shared their experiences. The debate had been rich, and had also served to highlight that diverging views still persisted. The resolution must be comprehensive, and must strike the right balance between the urgent needs of migrants with respect to health, education, social security and justice, and the sovereignty of States. The aim of the draft resolution was to promote better global migration governance, and to contribute effectively to the Global Compact. No country could face the challenges of migration alone; international cooperation was crucial.

Ms. Z. GURMAI (Hungary) said that she regretted the decision of the Hungarian Government to withdraw from the negotiations on the Global Compact.

*The sitting rose at 12.55 p.m.*

### SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Mr. A. Desai (India), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

(continued)

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee had considered 97 proposed amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 17 parliaments, and three submitted by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The discussions had been conducted in a constructive spirit, and consensus had been found on many complicated issues.

A delegate from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN requested clarification regarding the fate of the amendment that his delegation had proposed on the insertion of a new paragraph after operative paragraph 9. The amendment had been approved by the Standing Committee in drafting, yet did not seem to have been included in the final text of the resolution.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE explained that two similar proposals for new paragraphs had been approved by the Committee, one by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the other by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. To avoid duplication, those two paragraphs had been merged.

A delegate from KUWAIT said that since preambular paragraph 3 made no distinction between legal and illegal migrants, he wished to know whether other provisions, in particular operative paragraph 9 on labour rights and social security, were also expected to be applied to illegal migrants.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the intention of preambular paragraph 3 was to emphasize the rights of migrants as human beings above all.

*The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted.*

*Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.*

A delegate from POLAND expressed her delegation's reservations to the resolution as a whole, since Poland would not participate in the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Polish public expected their Government to protect their security, labour and social stability by protecting national borders and providing assistance to countries of origin to address the root causes of migration. The Global Compact did not fulfil that expectation.

A delegate from KUWAIT said that while the Parliament of Kuwait firmly wished to uphold the human rights and civil rights of all, he wished to express his delegation's reservations to operative paragraphs 9 and 16 as they did not make a clear distinction between legal and illegal immigrants. In Kuwait, illegal immigrants could not be granted the right to vote or to social security.

A delegate from LEBANON also expressed his delegation's reservations to operative paragraph 9. The number of migrants in Lebanon exceeded the number of the local population. Giving migrants the right to vote would encourage long-term stay, which would place a significant burden on Lebanon.

#### **(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

The CHAIR suggested that Mr. J.I. Echaniz (Spain) should serve as the Rapporteur for the Standing Committee and present the resolution to the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

*It was so agreed.*

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

- (a) Subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee**
- (b) Committee agenda for the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had received one proposal for the subject of the Committee's next resolution, submitted by the delegation of Bangladesh, entitled "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health".

Dr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh) said that although every human being without distinction had the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, at least half of the world's population lived without basic health services. Many people were pushed into poverty by out-of-pocket payments for health care. Universal health coverage (UHC) was a step towards equity, development, social inclusion and coherence. The world had pledged to achieve UHC by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliamentarians had a key role to play. An IPU resolution would be a statement of the commitment of parliamentarians to that global undertaking. Parliamentarians had both the authority and the responsibility to promote the highest standard of health for all people, through advocacy, oversight, budgeting and accountability. A world in which people were forced to choose between sickness and financial hardship should not be tolerated.

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had recommended that the Standing Committee should agree to take up the matter as the subject of its next resolution.

*It was so agreed.*

The CHAIR said that Dr. H. Millat would serve as one of the co-Rapporteurs preparing the draft resolution. The other co-Rapporteur(s) would be appointed by the IPU President. A debate on the subject would be held at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly to afford all participants the opportunity to share their views on the matter. The draft resolution would be prepared for adoption at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly.

*It was so agreed.*

The Bureau had recommended that a panel discussion should be held at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly to examine how IPU Members had followed up on three resolutions adopted by the IPU in recent years, namely: the 2009 resolution on freedom of expression, the 2013 resolution on social media, and the 2015 resolution on privacy in the digital era. She took it that the Standing Committee agreed to that proposal.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Election of the Vice-President of the Committee**

The CHAIR announced that following the receipt of four candidatures from members of the Bureau, the Bureau had elected her, Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands), as Vice-President of the Committee. In the absence of any objections she would take it that the Committee approved that nomination.

*It was so decided.*

*The sitting rose at 3.10 p.m.*



## Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER**

(Afternoon)

*The meeting was called to order at 2.50 p.m. with Mr. J.I. Echaniz (Spain), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda** (C-I/139/A.1.rev)

*The revised draft agenda (C-I/139/A.1.rev) was adopted.*

### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018)**

*The summary record was approved.*

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

The PRESIDENT said that there was one vacancy on the Bureau of the Standing Committee to be filled by a woman from the Twelve Plus Group, which had nominated Ms. A. Shkrum (Ukraine) for the position, and another vacancy to be filled by a man or woman from the Eurasia Group, which would propose its candidate at the next Assembly. He also added that the Asia-Pacific Group had put forward the name of Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) for re-election for a second two-year term. In the absence of any objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Ms. Shkrum and re-elect Mr. Suwanmongkol to the Bureau.

*It was so decided.*

### **Panel discussion on the theme *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation***

The PRESIDENT, introducing the panel discussion, informed participants that a video message had been received from Mr. S.S. Llorenty Solíz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations and Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), which concerned the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

*The video message from Mr. Llorenty Solíz was screened.*

The PRESIDENT introduced the Moderator of the discussion, Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, a leading authority and consultant on disarmament-related matters, many of whose ideas were reflected in the new disarmament agenda *Securing our common future*, launched in May 2018 by the United Nations Secretary-General.

The MODERATOR said that the United Nations Secretary-General's new agenda on disarmament offered many opportunities for parliamentarians to contribute to the success of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Examples included their support for the implementation of relevant treaties and global agreements and their adoption of legislation that ultimately built trust, facilitated verification and created conditions conducive to the further pursuit of disarmament. A timely initiative given the deteriorating international security environment, the agenda outlined a wide-ranging set of practical measures aimed at generating fresh perspectives and exploring areas requiring serious dialogue, with a view to bringing disarmament back to the heart of the common efforts for peace and security.

On that score, the IPU had led the way by hosting a panel discussion on comprehensive disarmament in 2016, and it continued to do so through the Committee's long-term project on parliamentary oversight of disarmament policy. Developed by the IPU and his own institution, SOAS, in partnership with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the project was designed to deepen parliamentarians' knowledge of the international framework on disarmament and non-proliferation and enhance their oversight and law-making skills. Information on the many existing disarmament and non-proliferation agreements was available on the GCSP website, which would also soon include a preliminary list of good parliamentary practices relating to disarmament issues. Further details of the Committee's project could be obtained from the PNND information desk or the Committee Secretary.

He introduced the panellists who would be presenting their views on aspects of the new comprehensive disarmament agenda and the role of parliaments in contributing to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts: Mr. J. Kārklīš, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and President-designate of the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty; Ms. S. Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer at the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA); and Ms. Kerstin Vignard, Deputy Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Mr. J. KĀRKLIŅŠ, *Panellist*, launching the discussion, said that the new agenda for disarmament included a part on disarmament that intended to save lives by focusing on conventional weapons, which existed in their millions and caused many thousands of deaths annually. Essentially therefore, given their devastating impact as weapons of mass destruction, those weapons were the subject of numerous international treaties, including the Arms Trade Treaty, a legally binding instrument that regulated but did not prohibit the trade in such weapons. The Treaty was designed to eradicate illicit trade in conventional weapons and prevent their diversion, with a view to enhancing international and regional peace, security and stability and reducing human suffering caused by irresponsible arms transfers. In force since 2014, it currently had almost 100 States parties amounting, together with signatories, to roughly 70 per cent of Member States of the United Nations.

The Treaty promoted transparency through reporting and voluntary information exchange but placed no requirement on States parties to disclose sensitive information that might compromise their national security. It also promoted human security by preventing the accumulation and circulation of illicit arms and ammunition, and articulated among the principles set out in its preamble the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence as recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Treaty additionally contributed to regional security by, inter alia, helping to prevent cross-border illicit arms and ammunition flows. It similarly reinforced respect for human rights standards in the conventional arms trade, including by highlighting in risk assessment criteria the issue of gender-based violence, an area on which he intended to focus during his presidency of the Conference. The Treaty played a role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably target 16.4 (By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows), target 5.2 (Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls), and Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). Lastly, it sought to establish an international trade standards and compliance framework responsible for ensuring that all transfers were subject to the same risk assessment criteria.

Parliamentarians played a vital role in translating States' international commitments into national realities by way of their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions. Indeed, their oversight function was especially vital in the case of treaties which, like the Arms Trade Treaty, had no review mechanism. Various outreach activities had already been targeted at parliamentarians and model legislation developed, together with a guide to ratification of the Treaty. More remained to be done, however, to raise parliamentarians' awareness of the Treaty and support their engagement in the process of its sustained and meaningful implementation.

Ms. S. MERCOGLIANO, *Panellist*, speaking with reference to disarmament to save humanity, said that the underlying theme of the United Nations Secretary-General's new agenda was partnership among all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society, academia and industry. The deteriorating international security climate stemmed from the erosion of respect for international norms and institutions, which gave rise to risks associated with the development of increasingly lethal new weapon technologies. The agenda thus emphasized the implementation of existing instruments, in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Non-Proliferation Treaty), and a return to multilateral dialogue for disarmament based on a holistic approach encompassing arms control, non-proliferation, confidence-building, restrictions, prohibitions and, where necessary, elimination. In short, disarmament was a tool for promoting, among others, the prevention, mitigation and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of security and stability at all levels, observance of the principles of humanity, and the protection of civilians.

Given the existential threat of nuclear weapons to humanity, the agenda underscored measures leading to the elimination of such weapons as a priority towards which all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, must work by implementing their existing treaty obligations. The eight actions included in the implementation plan towards that common goal were to: facilitate dialogue for nuclear disarmament; affirm the non-use of nuclear weapons; affirm that a nuclear war must never be fought; bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force; strengthen and consolidate nuclear-weapon-free zones; reduce the risk of any use of nuclear weapons; conclude a treaty banning fissile materials for nuclear weapons; and develop nuclear disarmament verification, in which context a

Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification had been established with a membership of 25 States, chosen on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The Group was scheduled to conclude its work in 2019.

Ms. K. VIGNARD, *Panellist*, focusing on the aspect of disarmament for future generations in the light of emerging means and methods of warfare, said that the key ideas advanced on that aspect of the new disarmament agenda related to the implications of developments in science and technology, including new types of weapons repugnant to public conscience or challenging to social norms; responsible innovation and application of new technologies; human control of weapons and artificial intelligence; and peace and stability in cyberspace.

From the international security perspective, new weapon technologies gave rise to fresh legal and ethical issues, proliferation challenges and, potentially, the use of additive manufacturing processes to subvert sanctions or produce controlled items. Some believed that new weapons and means of warfare were inherently destabilizing, while others feared they would lower the threshold for use of force or aggression, with negative consequences for peace and security. Moreover, the innovative technologies traditionally leveraged in weapons systems were now dual use or omni-use and accessible in varying degrees to States, corporations and non-State actors. The biggest risk, however, laid in the potential combination of emerging weapons technologies for use in unforeseen or unintended ways, which demanded a greater understanding of that risk for mitigation purposes. On that front, the existing knowledge gap remained a substantial impediment to responsible innovation.

It was therefore for policymakers to learn about innovations and their multifaceted implications in the interest of developing appropriate legislative responses and regulatory norms, which would be increasingly vital as technologies grew ever more ubiquitous and all-embracing. Policymakers could likewise work for transparency and also demand accountability in relation to emerging technologies, especially given the absence of applicable treaties. Lastly, they must oversee compliance with existing treaty obligations, including payment of the requisite contributions to ensure robust implementation, and allocate funding for policy-relevant research. All such actions were essential to harnessing the extraordinary benefits of innovation while also mitigating any potential harms and risks associated therewith.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their illuminating presentations and invited contributions from the floor.

Mr. T. DURAI (India) said that his country remained committed to disarmament and non-proliferation in pursuit of collective security and a nuclear-weapon-free world, which called for the strengthening of multilateralism and its institutions. It had implemented a robust national export control system, adhered to the related guidelines and codes of conduct, and had successfully tabled before the United Nations General Assembly, including its First Committee, a series of resolutions on matters pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, international security and disarmament, and nuclear weapons. India furthermore supported the commencement of treaty negotiations on nuclear weapon-related issues and also stood prepared to convert its nuclear policy undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements.

Mr. E.C. CHO (Republic of Korea) said that weapons of mass destruction in all their forms had continued to proliferate and that humanity was no freer from their threat than before the Cold War, despite the ongoing disarmament and non-proliferation efforts in which his country was actively involved. The worrisome new arms race being played out in North-east Asia among major global powers called for a discussion in the region on matters relating to disarmament and non-proliferation. Peace and national security were in no way guaranteed by powerful state-of-the-art weapons, which simply normalized terror and increased fears of joint destruction.

Mr. S. KRAIRIKSH (Thailand) said that disarmament and non-proliferation efforts must be increased to achieve peace and collective security. Adopted in 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was a historic milestone that complemented and strengthened the existing nuclear disarmament regime. Among the first to sign and ratify the Treaty, Thailand urged all States to follow suit, with parliamentarians playing an active role in facilitating the requisite national processes. Thailand had also recently ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and furthermore looked forward to continuation of the welcome diplomatic efforts towards denuclearization, peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. E. VELASQUEZ (Chile) said that it was time to move from declarations of principle to action for reducing the production of weapons. Disarmament and non-proliferation should be covered in school curricula in order to raise awareness of the related issues and create responsible citizens. Public funding would be better spent on the provision of such education than on weapons manufacture and military activities. Parliamentarians must work to those ends and give politics a human face.

Mr. S. MOHAI (South Africa) said that his country had voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons programme and firmly supported total elimination; for the few to keep nuclear arsenals and stockpiles while expecting others to remain at their mercy was unacceptable. All States must join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and parliaments must promote funding for disarmament and non-proliferation and work to divert the billions spent on weapons towards fighting poverty, inequality and injustice. Soon itself to ratify that Treaty, South Africa would continue to harness the peaceful use of atoms in addressing socioeconomic development challenges and combat the illicit trafficking of nuclear weapon-related technologies.

Mr. F. CHEN (China) said that the new challenges in the area of international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation called for a strong international response, including responsible implementation of the existing treaty regime. China had always actively engaged in the related processes by fulfilling its treaty obligations, advocating the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons, and opposing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Its idea of building a community of common destiny to address global issues was equally applicable to international security and arms control, as was its proposed new security concept. It would continue its constructive cooperation for international peace and security.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), noting that his country had voluntarily dismantled its nuclear arsenal, wondered about the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and about policy on the nuclear threshold countries, which must all consistently be called out rather than just the usual two. The lack of progress in disarmament and non-proliferation was clearly rooted in the non-compliance with obligations under the related treaties, including the Arms Trade Treaty. A glaring instance was the Russian Federation, which had neglected to tackle the flood of illegal arms into the occupied Donbass region of Ukraine and turned Crimea into an unsinkable aircraft carrier.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that the all-important moral aspect of weapon-related issues was absent from the discourse. In seeking to protect their interests, some States resorted to the use of mercenaries who committed atrocities far beyond any that might be committed by regular soldiers. The practice of hiring mercenaries was thoroughly immoral and tore apart societies, thus meriting the same universal condemnation as terrorism, for which it was a cover. It was also a cause of the illegal arms trade, which the international community could help to eliminate by including ethical dialogue among its methods.

Ms. M. DIAYE (Senegal) said that the proliferation of arms was extremely damaging and that robust action must be taken to tackle the illicit arms trade. Senegal had mounted a domestic campaign aimed at raising awareness of the problem and highlighting related issues, such as cross-border weapon transfers.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) said that the Palestinian National Council had always supported the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, particularly in his region, where conflict and tensions resulted from the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories in defiance of United Nations resolutions. The international community, including parliaments, must exercise political, legal and moral responsibility by obliging the Israeli Government to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as Palestine had recently done, and by subjecting its nuclear facilities to monitoring in view of the danger they posed to international security. He endorsed the comments of the Chilean and South African representatives.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) said that, in the absence of any international commitment to end the flourishing arms industry, weapons circulated without control in small impoverished countries like Chad, which was fighting for survival. Non-proliferation efforts were destined to fail as long as major arms producers ignored the pleas against them. Nor was education the answer. Decisive action alone would put a stop to weapons production. As stated in the preamble to the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, since wars began in the minds of men, it was in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.

Mr. A.A. ANDICAN (Turkey) said that global and regional rivalries were growing, armed conflicts were more frequent and devastating, and military expenditures were at their highest. Nuclear-weapon States were reluctant to reduce their arsenals while others sought to acquire nuclear capability. The

resulting insecurity underscored the significance of the new disarmament agenda and the key role of parliamentarians in working for a collective security system, which demanded the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. An active participant in all disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, Turkey reaffirmed its commitment to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East and to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) proposed measures to promote disarmament, to which Bahrain was fully committed, including: increased investment in disarmament research; a freeze on nuclear testing and fissile materials production; the establishment of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone; new legal and other measures to limit conventional arms production and trade; an international ban on the production of new types of weapons; attention to global, rather than individual, security; diversion of spending on weapons towards, among others, sustainable development, governance, democracy and human rights; the resolution of current Middle East conflicts in particular; and policy agreement among the major powers on terrorist extremism.

Mr. D. CHAPMAN (United Kingdom) said that his party had consistently argued against nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom and was effectively alone in opposing the planned spending of billions on a new generation of nuclear weapons. The United Kingdom nuclear stockpile was nonetheless small compared with others. He wondered what pressure the IPU could exert on the Russian Federation and United States to make further progress towards the goals of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and what the situation was concerning the use of small-scale nuclear weapons. How could regulations and norms be established when some States played fast and loose with the international rules-based order?

Mr. A.H. FULATA (Nigeria) said that arms control was not treated with the seriousness it deserved, first because of the huge profits generated by arms sales. Secondly, most of the States involved in arms manufacture seemingly believed themselves to be above international law because they were Security Council members. The arms they produced were used to kill only in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, without heed to the victims. Were those arms instead used against their manufacturers, he was sure that the problem of non-proliferation would be swiftly resolved.

Ms. Z. AHMED HASSAM GABER (Sudan) said that all weapons had a destructive impact on societies, including their women and children. Parliamentarians must therefore legislate for disarmament and non-proliferation and raise awareness of the threat posed by weapons to international and national security. Weapons should be neither used nor carried without due authorization. In the Sudan, a successful weapons collection campaign had promoted peace and development in the area concerned. Disarmament and non-proliferation efforts would be helped by identifying where the real interest in armament lay.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that all States must pursue initiatives for verifiable non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and dialogue between non-nuclear and nuclear-weapon States, adopting an inclusive step-by-step approach to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Zimbabwe fully supported all measures aimed at promoting international peace and security and eliminating nuclear weapons in line with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. African States played a key role in such endeavours; all except the new South Sudan were parties to the Treaty and all but three had signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Africa was thus the world's most recent and largest nuclear-weapon-free zone.

The MODERATOR said that it had been a privilege to hear such eloquent, powerful and expertly informed interventions and invited the panellists to make closing remarks.

Ms. K. VIGNARD, *Panellist*, said that the passion of the engagement and the breadth of issues addressed in the contributions were inspiring. The work of parliamentarians greatly contributed towards the aim of disarmament and she hoped that they were also now aware of the support available to them in that work. As had been stated, the main issue related not to any lack of instruments but to the effective implementation of the instruments in place.

Mr. J. KĀRKLIŅŠ, *Panellist*, said that there remained room for improving implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, which the remaining 50 non-signatory States had been encouraged to join. The Treaty did in fact have an ethical aspect insofar as it did not prohibit arms transfers except if it was determined through risk assessment that the arms might be used to commit or facilitate certain acts. It also had a voluntary trust fund for assisting States parties and signatories, where necessary, to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty.

Ms. S. MERCOGLIANO, *Panellist*, said that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons would enter into force after the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession had been deposited. Thus far, it had 19 States parties and 69 signatories. Concerning disarmament education, the UNODA website offered a wealth of specific resources and education activities were organized by the main UNODA office in New York and a regional centre in Lima.

The MODERATOR said that the many contributions had energized what had been an important and powerful debate. Through the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security's project, SOAS, GCSP and PNND stood ready with the panellists to provide support to parliaments in their continuing efforts towards comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation.

**Panel discussion on the theme *Combatting sexual violence in United Nations peacekeeping missions and beyond***

The PRESIDENT, introducing the second panel discussion, said that the topic had been suggested as the subject of a panel discussion by Ms. U. Karlsson, a former member of the Swedish Parliament and also a former President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, who would be moderating the discussion. Noting that the IPU had a broad membership representing many different views, he emphasized that all such views must be respected and that no delegation should be singled out for comment.

The MODERATOR introduced the four panellists who would be making their expert contributions to the discussion: Ms. C. Bardet, President of We Are Not Weapons of War, a non-governmental organization (NGO); Ms. W. Cue, Coordinator for Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Ms. P. Damoff, a member of the Canadian Parliament; and Mr. J.P. Letelier, a member of the Chilean Senate and a former member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. She also drew attention to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 to Mr. D. Mukwege and Ms. N. Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

Ms. C. BARDET, *Panellist*, opening the discussion, said that she was well acquainted with the two Nobel Peace laureates through her work and that the award was in recognition of the fact that sexual violence in conflict and fragile environments posed a threat to peace. It was, however, difficult to ascertain the true extent of such violence owing to lack of data. While sexual violence had long been used as a weapon of war, including against men, the use of rape as a tool for ethnic cleansing had come to prominence in the conflicts in Bosnia and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it had also been used to drive populations away from important economic zones.

Her interest in the subject had stemmed from her many years of experience as an international jurist specializing in war crimes and crimes against humanity, in which sexual violence was often a constituent element. In addition to traumatizing the victims, sexual violence in conflict had costly socioeconomic repercussions that called for a holistic approach to tackling the problem, which was not given the priority it deserved. The majority of victims consequently received no support, particularly as their identification was far from easy in time of conflict. Her organization had therefore developed a mobile application through which information could be reported about victims of war rape, to whom appropriate services could then be extended. The tool would also facilitate the collection of reliable data for analysis with a view to the development of effective and coordinated responses. In short, it would have a local impact while also offering a global solution.

The MODERATOR agreed that the lack of data on victims had been instrumental in masking the huge extent of the problem. Neither was the daily provision of three condoms to each of the many thousands of United Nations peacekeepers in the field conducive to changes in attitude towards sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. With reference to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on conflict-related violence, produced pursuant to Security Council resolution 2272 (2016) on sexual abuse and exploitation by United Nations peacekeepers, she invited Ms. Cue to inform participants about measures taken at the United Nations level to address the problem.

Ms. W. CUE, *Panellist*, said that, within IASC, sexual exploitation and abuse was a term used to refer to abuses committed by humanitarian actors against vulnerable beneficiary populations. Such abuses were intolerable, violating all that the United Nations stood for. Concerted efforts were needed to combat the scourge, which was all-pervasive as a global menace and undermined crucial trust. The United Nations Secretary-General had therefore prioritized the issue, building on his predecessor's work to initiate actions and change mindsets. From prevention to response, the United Nations had a special responsibility to set global standards. Its new strategy for preventing and ending sexual

exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel thus focused on putting victims' rights and dignity first; ending impunity; building a multi-stakeholder network against sexual exploitation and abuse; and reorienting the approach to strategic communications for education and transparency.

A Victims' Rights Advocate had been appointed to build support networks and promote the implementation of local laws, including on remedies for victims, and victims' rights advocates were currently active in four United Nations peacekeeping missions. A Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse had also been established in 2016, since which time it had approved funding for victim support projects in three countries. Global leaders had furthermore joined the recently created Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, demonstrating the collective resolve and commitment to implement the Secretary-General's strategy. Numerous Member States had also signed the Secretary-General's new voluntary compact, which set out specific commitments designed to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse. In other measures, the United Nations had provided troop- and police-contributing countries with predeployment training materials and support, was increasing the number of uniformed women peacekeepers as part of the solution, and had published on its website information about cases relating to its peacekeeping operations. It was additionally taking steps to strengthen its investigative capacity system-wide, including with a view to fostering more victim-centred and timely investigations.

Sexual exploitation and abuse were not limited to fragile States or situations of disaster or conflict, however, and the investigation and follow-up of cases were impeded where the rule of law was weak. The United Nations operated a zero tolerance policy to sexual exploitation and abuse and issued peacekeepers and all United Nations employees with a "no excuses" card informing them of their rights and obligations and of the punitive measures imposed for misconduct. Parliaments could play their part by ensuring adherence to international standards, such as prohibition of child marriage, and by also ensuring that their national authorities followed up criminal cases referred to them involving their personnel and informed the United Nations of the outcome. The United Nations was doing its utmost to punish misconduct, which included transactional sex, but the punishment of criminal offences was a matter for the deploying countries alone.

Mr. J.P. LETELIER, *Panellist*, said that the Moderator should be thanked for her role in the organization of a panel discussion on a topic that the Standing Committees had on numerous occasions rejected as a subject item for debate. The commission of crimes by officials in positions of power was particularly appalling and shameful when that power had been conferred on them by the international community, as in the case of humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in the field. Parliamentarians therefore bore a tremendous responsibility to join in the efforts to prevent and end sexual exploitation and abuse by such personnel, which was far too often tolerated. While the true figures were unknown, most of the incidents reported by the United Nations had in fact been committed by humanitarian workers. In short, it was those closest to populations in extreme situations who were largely responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse.

For their part, parliamentarians must act on the premise that sexual offences committed by United Nations personnel were crimes against humanity for which there could be no amnesty or statute of limitations. Another important issue to consider was whether perpetrators should be prosecuted in the country where the crime was committed, in the troop-contributing country, or before the International Criminal Court. The United Nations Secretary-General had courageously broken the silence about sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel and was working to address the problem. The measures under way were not enough, however, to end impunity, which would be achieved only if sexual exploitation and abuse were indeed recognized as crimes against humanity. Through legislation, parliaments must ensure that States assumed the responsibility for acts committed by their nationals working in humanitarian or peacekeeping capacities in other countries.

Ms. P. FRASER DAMOFF, *Panellist*, welcomed the participation of male delegates in the conversation and said that all countries contributing or hosting peacekeeping troops must take a zero tolerance stance to sexual exploitation and abuse. Canada had launched its Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations in recognition of the link between women's involvement in peace operations and the achievement of lasting peace. More field research data were needed, however, to determine and thus address the reasons for the consistently low percentage of women serving in those operations, which might include deployment criteria, working conditions and unequal opportunities for career advancement. Socialization issues, degrading initiation rituals and the discomfort of uniforms designed for men only could also serve as deterrents.

Parliamentarians should seek to remove obstacles to the prosecution of crimes committed in other countries and to strengthen accountability, transparency, victim support and training. Canada strove to be a role model in its efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of which some of its own peacekeepers had been guilty. It thus actively supported the work of the United Nations Special

Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; contributed to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; provided customized training and technical assistance for peacekeeping, as well as financial incentives for promoting the deployment of women; and was engaged in research, monitoring and evaluation for women's meaningful participation in peace operations. It also strongly advocated full implementation of the United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and of the recommendations concerning special protection measures in that context. It further held that all peacekeepers involved in misconduct must be held accountable by their own countries and by the United Nations. Concerted efforts to increase women's involvement in the armed forces, policing and peacekeeping must be vigorously pursued, as a stronger female presence would surely have a beneficial impact on overall conduct and the approach to such issues as sexual exploitation and abuse.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their valuable input to the discussion and invited comments from the floor.

Mr. A.B. TAJUL ISLAM (Bangladesh) said that his country, one of the largest troop-contributing countries, accorded the highest priority to sexual exploitation, for which it had zero tolerance. It used previous lapses as examples in its predeployment training programmes, which included a separate module on the subject. Any Bangladeshi peacekeeper alleged to have engaged in misconduct was immediately repatriated, without further pay or allowances, and underwent psychological assessment. Camp locations were regularly monitored by the command channel, which was also empowered to punish offenders in the field. National investigation officers took up cases, where necessary, and all personnel had been made aware of the consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. P. MNGUNI (South Africa) said that those responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse must be held accountable, with victims receiving appropriate treatment and support. Parliaments must therefore legislate accordingly and oversee national implementation of the special measures encompassed in the United Nations Secretary-General's new strategy. A major contributor to peacekeeping operations, South Africa acted swiftly and robustly against any of its personnel who engaged in sexual abuse. Its predeployment training emphasized the response to conflict-related sexual violence and it had signed the voluntary compact to support victims and strengthen accountability measures. A military discipline bill currently under consideration was also designed to apply to peacekeeping personnel.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India) said that sexual violence by peacekeepers damaged operational effectiveness and undermined the moral authority of the United Nations. All credible allegations of misconduct must therefore be investigated and punished, where substantiated. Welcome initiatives included the online training programme available on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, the new Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Management Toolkit, and the earlier-mentioned Trust Fund. India had contributed the largest number of troops since peacekeeping began. Contemporary peacekeeping operations were rapidly changing, however, and must be resourced accordingly, as must post-conflict peacebuilding efforts, with troop- and police-contributing countries essentially involved at all planning stages.

Ms. M. DIAYE (Senegal) said that Senegalese peacekeepers received awareness training from their superior officers in the field and that punishment was imposed for breaches of the code of conduct. Generally speaking, however, African women tended to refrain from reporting incidents of rape for fear of being stigmatized. Many rape victims were furthermore left pregnant and forced to raise fatherless children without support. NGOs should therefore be involved in raising women's awareness of the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse and of the remedies available to them. Parliamentarians should likewise seek to raise women's awareness around the subject and facilitate anonymous reporting by victims.

Ms. C.K. KYENGE (ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly) said that her Parliamentary Assembly had endeavoured to raise the profile of the topic and to prompt action to address it, including as a priority objective the recognition of sexual violence as a crime against humanity. Sexual violence was practised in many settings, including migration, to which a gender-based approach was essential to ensuring that women victims received the specific services they required. A regional tribunal would also offer the best option for dealing with cases involving sexual violence. Accurate data on rape and sexual violence were needed, as were measures to guarantee that personnel having engaged in such acts were subsequently barred from further deployment.



Mr. S.A. ARBAB (Pakistan) said that, in addition to undermining United Nations efforts, for peacekeepers to engage in sexual exploitation and abuse was to exacerbate the suffering already endured in the country concerned. The appointment of a Victims' Right Advocate was therefore a welcome step. A major troop-contributing country, Pakistan had always supported United Nations action on sexual exploitation and abuse and exercised zero tolerance towards any related misconduct by its nationals, who were liable to repatriation and court martial proceedings. At the international level, more work and consultation were required to produce viable solutions and strengthen the legal framework for dealing with cases.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) proposed measures for combating sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, including: increased representation of women in peacekeeping operations; capacity-building for civilian protection; recruitment of interpreters to improve communication with women especially; gender-sensitive training; strengthening of disciplinary procedures; victim support training for women; guaranteed protection of women from violence in line with international standards; training for NGOs in monitoring and documenting cases of sexual violence against women; national budgetary allocations for dealing with sexual violence in conflict situations; and action to ensure that perpetrators of crimes against women and children were held to account and received maximum penalties.

Ms. Á. VADAI (Hungary) said that sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel was demoralizing for their innocent colleagues and shameful for parliamentarians in their role as legislators. While laudable, the many initiatives under way were unlikely to have the desired effect without a change in the culture that allowed peacekeepers to commit the crime of rape with impunity. The media should be enlisted to help in promoting that change, which also called for greater legal robustness and the sharing of good practices. Women who endured war and rape were furthermore doubly victimized. Everything possible must therefore be done to provide them with the requisite support and assistance.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that misconduct by military or civilian personnel compromised the success of peacekeeping missions. Personnel and victims tended to lack awareness concerning standards of conduct, added to which the United Nations response to breaches was generally inadequate; the process was lengthy, the follow-up of allegations poor and impunity widespread. Changes of mindset and legislation were therefore needed. His own country operated a zero tolerance policy towards misconduct by its peacekeeping troops, which was punishable by law. Parliamentarians and the United Nations must cooperate more closely to improve their processes and responses, which should include awareness-raising and periodic reporting on peacekeeping operations.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) said that peacekeeping commanders sometimes invoked privileges and immunities extended to peacekeeping missions to protect personnel involved in sexual exploitation and abuse, which impeded the prosecution of those responsible. Peacekeepers could fall victim to vested interests, as bitter experience had taught Chad, albeit that its troops were well recognized for their honourable conduct. In cooperation with the United Nations, troop-contributing countries should prosecute all their respective personnel who engaged in misconduct. Local courts should be established for that purpose, with NGOs offering support to victims, including with a view to identifying the perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The MODERATOR thanked delegates for their contributions and invited the panellists to make closing remarks, excepting Mr. Letelier, who had been unable to stay for the duration.

Ms. W. CUE, *Panellist*, said that the United Nations encouraged States to explore ways in which domestic law could recognize and act on criminal conduct by their nationals while in its service. It thus relied on States for information concerning criminal sanctions. Secondly, measures to address taboos and stigma were a priority for ensuring the reintegration of victims into their communities, with which it was important to establish communication channels, especially as peacekeepers were deployed in difficult circumstances and often had little understanding of the vulnerable communities they served. Lastly, the United Nations was working to strengthen the vetting of personnel, including civilians, to ensure that no one who had been sanctioned was re-employed elsewhere in the sector. Again, that relied on Member States to provide relevant information.

Ms. C. BARDET, *Panellist*, said that the contributions had been extremely interesting and agreed that sexual exploitation and abuse committed by United Nations personnel was a shame on all. The sexual violence of which she had spoken was wider in scope but nonetheless related. Legislation apart, the international community must act in concert to change mindsets and achieve an

impact, in which context NGOs indeed had a crucial role to play. Her organization in fact worked with local NGOs to learn about situations on the ground, but a major problem for those NGOs was funding. She suggested that it would be instructive to hold a future seminar on the overall topic.

Ms. P. FRASER DAMOFF, *Panellist*, said that women the world over were fearful of reporting sexual violence, especially to police, and agreed that advocates should be available to support survivors and that good practices overall should be shared. It was also essential to see justice done; not forgetting that effective zero tolerance was dependent on the existence of clear legal frameworks.

The MODERATOR again thanked the panellists and other speakers for their contributions to the discussion, which she urged the IPU to explore further with a view to promoting change for the better.

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.*

## SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

*The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m. with Mr. S. Rakhmanov (Belarus), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Expert hearing on the theme of *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights***

The CHAIR, recalling that the Committee had chosen the theme of the expert hearing as its subject item for the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly, said that the discussion would undoubtedly help to guide the work of the two co-Rapporteurs tasked with preparing a draft resolution on the item, Mr. K. Albakkar (Jordan) and Mr. B. Tarasyuk (Ukraine), both of whom were present to listen to the views expressed. He introduced the two experts whose presentations would set the scene for the discussion:

Ms. J. Aparac, a member of the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; and Mr. W. Bruyère-Ostells, a university professor of contemporary history at the Institute for Political Sciences in Aix-en-Provence, France. He invited the two experts to make their presentations.

Ms. J. APARAC, *expert*, in her presentation, said that the Working Group of which she was a member had been established in 2005 to monitor and study the impact of mercenaries, mercenary-related activities and private military and security companies on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly the right of peoples to self-determination. At the end of the cold war, the ancient phenomenon of mercenarism had re-emerged in the new form of private military companies that were effectively parties to armed conflicts. By the time of the outbreaks of conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq, however, those companies had been largely eclipsed by private security companies limited to playing defensive roles in support of States and their militaries, although they had more recently extended services to, among others, the humanitarian, maritime and prison sectors.

In 2014, against the backdrop of the Syrian conflict, the Working Group had undertaken a year-long study on the linkages between mercenaries and foreign fighters, which it defined as individuals who left their country of origin or habitual residence and became involved in violence as part of an insurgency or non-State armed group in an armed conflict. It had consequently identified key similarities between those fighters and mercenaries and their respective activities, including armed conflict, terrorism and organized crime. While ideological motivations set foreign fighters apart from mercenaries, both groups shared an interest in financial or material gain.

International law neither prohibited nor sought to control mercenary activities, which were narrowly defined in article 47 of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts. Albeit with some distinctions, other similar definitions were contained in the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted in 1989, and the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa, adopted in 1977. As to national legislations, they often did not criminalize all mercenary activities, or did so without defining the term, which made it impossible to prosecute individuals. Taking into account all of the legal definitions, a mercenary could best be described as a fighter who was not a member of the armed forces of a State party to a conflict and fought primarily for financial gain. Those definitions were problematic, however, as they did not cover the range of mercenary-related activities in the contemporary setting.

The definition of foreign fighters adopted by the Working Group in the absence of an internationally accepted definition focused on the fighting element, thus overshadowing the sizeable contingent of individuals who travelled to provide non-violent support. Furthermore, in the similar

absence of any consensual international definition of terrorism, so-called "foreign terrorist fighters" – a category not covered by the Working Group – could be conflated with foreign fighters not necessarily engaged in terrorist groups or activities. The Security Council definition described foreign fighters as individuals who travelled to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict. Foreign fighters shared many key characteristics with mercenaries but did not qualify as mercenaries under international law. During armed conflicts, the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law applied, whereas international human rights law applied in all situations, including those not covered by the former.

With the aim of preventing and combating impunity and strengthening access for victims to effective legal assistance and remedies, the Working Group would continue to provide expert support to parliamentarians in their crucial task of ensuring that mercenaries and mercenary-related activities were clearly and precisely defined and criminalized in their respective national legislations. With regard to the activities of military and security companies, a global study conducted by the Working Group in 2012 had identified significant legislative gaps detrimental to human rights. It was therefore working to elaborate a legally binding international legal framework for the regulation, monitoring and oversight of those activities. It additionally favoured soft law and non-regulatory approaches, as exemplified in the Montreux Document on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for States related to operations of private military and security companies during armed conflict and in the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers. It had also provided input for model national legislation; enumerated five broad categories of past and present national reactions to foreign fighters; and concluded that the likelihood of achieving consensus on the adoption of specific international measures regulating such fighters was remote.

Mr. W. BRUYERE-OSTELLS, *expert*, in his remarks illustrated by a slide presentation, said that mercenaries had always been historically associated with war and could be defined as professionals who provided services requested by States, armed forces or enterprises. The difficulty entailed in uniformly defining mercenaries was compounded by the variation in the definitions contained in national and international law, which was attributable to differing sociological, anthropological and historical factors, including geopolitical issues.

In earlier times, three types of mercenaries had also been present, specifically: those integrated into national armies, such as the Swiss Guards hired to protect the Vatican; the entrepreneurial mercenaries of late medieval times, who commonly sold their services for financial gain through direct contracts; and finally the ideological mercenaries, the most difficult group to identify. That latter type of mercenary, whose motives were partly financial and mostly ideological and political, counted among its members the Garibaldi family, who had briefly joined the French Foreign Legion at the beginning of the First World War. In more recent times, mercenarism had re-emerged as a means of providing support for weakened armies or in domestic uprisings, including, on occasions, at the behest of States with ulterior motives.

Originally developed in response to the situations prevailing in decades past, the existing legislation on mercenarism had grown obsolete and required updating in the face of modern-day realities. In that regard, the integrated form of mercenarism posed few problems, although those professionally engaged in it might subsequently be persuaded to move towards the other forms. As to the entrepreneurial form of mercenarism pursued by large private military companies, it was precisely the lack of regulation that had allowed certain incidents to occur in the 2000s, such as those in which Blackwater contractors had been involved in Iraq. With the advent of the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers, however, those primarily Anglo-Saxon companies had sought to assume a more non-combative role, whereas smaller non-Anglo-Saxon private military outfits had not and were thus engaged in proxy wars or activities driven by secret services or criminal groups. Any regulations to be formulated must therefore be based not on the status of mercenaries as legal or natural persons but on their actions and complicity with international actors. The risk otherwise was that large private military companies might be minded to resume an active role in military offensives.

The ideological form of mercenarism was more problematic insofar as the fighters involved in it could be armed volunteers for whom financial gain was not the prime incentive. An internationally agreed legal definition was therefore complicated, especially as ideological fighters might eventually be driven by financial straits to become paid mercenaries. Furthermore, their remuneration – pecuniary or otherwise – was not easily identifiable or proven. In short, the international legal framework on mercenarism should not focus primarily on the financial aspect but rather on the use of mercenaries to perpetrate concerted acts of violence that endangered peace and stability in the country of operation.

The CHAIR thanked the two experts for their enlightening presentations and invited comments from the floor.

Mr. M. MOUSHOUTTAS (Cyprus) said that countries facing protracted economic challenges were vulnerable to instability and conflict that might prompt them to hire professional soldiers. All mercenaries worked to specific mandates, were motivated by monetary gain and had no allegiance to the countries in which they operated and no commitment to the well-being of the inhabitants. The practice of hiring armed forces persisted, encouraging human rights violations, disregard for national legislation, radicalization and the harbouring of terrorists. In addressing mercenary-related issues, parliamentarians must legislate effectively, promote cooperation with civil society, establish accessible complaints mechanisms, adopt anti-corruption measures, and work to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that the international legal framework relating to mercenaries was inadequate to cope with the new complexities of armed conflict involving non-State actors. Mercenary-related activities were rising and the related legal gaps had led to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Parliamentarians must therefore work to ensure that mercenaries were held accountable for their actions, while the international community, for its part, must work to narrow all legal gaps, address impunity and promote respect for the rule of law. Thailand encouraged the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue, had never employed mercenaries and regulated the operation of private security companies.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India) said that, irrespective of motivation, mercenaries were soldiers for hire and were increasingly linked with groups engaged in terrorism and trafficking. The universal principle was, however, that States alone could legitimately use force in defence of national security. The outsourcing of military functions to private companies thus undermined democracy and the rule of law, while the recruitment of children as mercenaries was unspeakable. India had enacted legislation on private security agencies and welcomed the findings and activities of the Working Group, which had confirmed the need to strengthen international norms and best practices insofar as industry-led self-regulatory mechanisms had proven to be insufficient.

Mr. D.A. FIKARNO (Indonesia) said that multinational companies often used private policing services, prompting the involvement of mercenaries in their human rights and environmental abuses. The presence of mercenaries, including private military and security companies, damaged peace and security, undermined national sovereignty and increased the risk of serious crime. A more advanced international system was therefore vital to identifying and holding all mercenaries to account. The Committee's future draft resolution must address such issues and advocate heavy penalties for private military and security companies involved in armed conflict, for they frequently violated gun control regulations and failed to provide appropriate human rights training for their operatives.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that parliaments must urge their governments to accede to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. As to States, they must be fully alert to the dangers posed by mercenaries and their financing and take the necessary legislative and other measures to ensure that their territories and territories under their control were not used for mercenary-related activities. In developing countries, those activities merited particular condemnation; they threatened peace, the rule of law and exercise of the right to self-determination. He called on all Members to support the future draft resolution on the subject.

Mr. A. NAJAFI KHOSHRANDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that all parties to conflict must be held accountable for any violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, by which mercenaries were bound albeit exempt from the special protections afforded to belligerents thereunder. The draft resolution to be prepared on the subject must be guided by the related findings of international bodies; advocate a new legal definition of the term "mercenary" that excluded volunteer combatants not sharing the nationality of the belligerents in a conflict; and take into account the fact that not all countries represented at the IPU, including his, had ratified the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that mercenarism was associated with interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States and that the definition of "mercenary" in Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 was generally recognized as a customary international norm. The International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries contained a definition but was not in force. Classified under international humanitarian law as illegal participants in international armed conflicts recognized as such, mercenaries were not granted

prisoner-of-war status and should not be confused with ideologically-motivated volunteers. Under international law on neutrality, moreover, no neutral power was responsible for persons crossing frontiers separately to offer services to a belligerent.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that mercenary-related activities were challenging to regulate in view of their clandestine nature. Mercenaries operated without accountability, oversight or respect for human rights and freedoms. Zambia had ratified international and regional instruments aimed at addressing, inter alia, the threat posed by mercenaries to peace and security, especially in developing countries, and its Parliament had established a national security committee. Specific legislation was needed, however, to prohibit the use of mercenaries and private military and security companies, notably in conflict zones, and enhance oversight of the security sector, which should also receive more budgetary funding to prevent the rise of violent extremism.

Mr. I. POPOV (Ukraine) said that foreign fighters, including some contracted by private military companies, were participating in the eastern Ukraine war and received financial and logistical support, weapons and military training from the Russian Federation. Numerous volunteer fighters had been granted Ukrainian citizenship and were now serving in the Ukrainian army in dangerous uncontrolled territories. Returning foreign fighters posed a threat in their home countries, some of which had prosecuted them under new laws, with varying success. As to private military and security companies, it was difficult to prohibit them entirely and their mandates should therefore be limited to contracts with internationally recognized governments.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that she recommended various measures, among them: emphasis on relevant international resolutions and instruments and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations; condemnation of States that tolerated mercenary-related activities aimed at overthrowing recognized governments or combating national liberation movements especially in developing countries; vigilance and legislative measures to combat mercenarism in all its forms; accession by all States to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries; and ongoing monitoring and study of mercenaries, including private military and security companies, and their impact on human rights, in particular the right of peoples to self-determination.

Mr. J. WHITTINGDALE (United Kingdom) said that the proud service of regiments such as the Brigade of Gurkhas, long integral to his country's armed forces, must always be permitted to continue. The United Kingdom strongly supported the Montreux Document and the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers' Association but saw no need for specific national legislation relating to private military and security companies normally used for protection purposes only. As to returning ideological mercenaries, they could pose a national security threat and were liable to prosecution in the United Kingdom as foreign terrorist fighters. The formal identification of such fighters in the field was problematic, however, and required solutions.

Mr. F. CHEN (China) said that, in addition to individual mercenaries, private military and security companies were commonly active in various conflict zones, undermining peace and national sovereignty and committing human rights abuses. In the absence of robust oversight and accountability mechanisms, they operated with impunity and grew ever more unscrupulous. Concerted international efforts were therefore needed to establish appropriate mechanisms in order to bring offenders to justice in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law. China had enacted specific legislation governing security-related activities and would be pleased to share its experiences in that area.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) said that the memory of African mercenaries who had participated in his continent's struggles for independence and self-determination must never be tarnished. By contrast, the use of mercenaries by former colonial powers to overthrow African regimes that failed to serve their interests was nothing short of interference in the domestic affairs of the countries concerned. Such interference continued in the alleged name of democracy, including through the use of "rebels" engaged to fight proxy wars, a situation with which Chad was all too familiar. The international community must act to ensure respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States.

Mr. R. TAU (South Africa) said that mercenaries, including private military and security companies, were oblivious to all but profit. The international efforts under way towards regulation of their activities must be supported and national legislation enacted to that same end, with appropriate financing allocated to the necessary institutional capacity-building. Provision must also be made for extraterritorial jurisdiction to enable the prosecution of mercenaries and the personnel of private military and security companies in both their home and contracting States, with stiff penalties for those convicted on account of their activities, as was the case in the South African justice system.

Ms. Z. AHMED HASSAM GABER (Sudan) said that decision makers must do their utmost to combat the scourge of mercenarism, which was wholly profit-driven and had assumed new dimensions. Mercenarism threatened domestic peace and international security and must be criminalized in order to bring to justice and punish those who engaged in it, in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. In addition to joining the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, States must refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other States and from applying double standards concerning the use of mercenaries.

Mr. M. EL SHAZLY (Egypt) said that mercenaries, including private military and security companies, were materialistic, immoral and indifferent to the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. To counter the many adverse consequences of their actions, States should: prohibit all mercenary-related activities, including the financing thereof, on their territory and territories under their control; comply fully with their related international obligations; exchange information with all stakeholders concerning the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights, in particular the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; and work towards a consensus on a comprehensive international definition of a mercenary.

Mr. Y. AL SOUD (Jordan) said that mercenaries killed for money and were given safe passage to travel from around the world to commit abuses in his region, armed and funded by major powers brazenly claiming to be advocates of peace. Those powers should be held accountable. Together with international human rights organizations and NGOs, they simply stood by as thousands were held captive by Israel, which had adopted racist laws, created destruction and driven people from their homes. That was the very essence of mercenarism. It was shameful that a delegation representing the Israeli Knesset was attending the Assembly; it should be expelled and its words universally ignored.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that the definition of mercenarism could not be confined to individuals directly employed for remuneration, as it did not cover those involved in State-sponsored mercenarism. With respect to ideological piracy of the sort mentioned by the previous speaker, the IPU as a human rights champion must take a firm stand. Pondering the difference between piracy, terrorism, State terrorism and mercenarism, he noted that no comprehensive definition of Daesh had yet been formulated for various reasons. In that light, the present topic should be pursued no further by the Committee, which was unqualified to address it.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) said that mercenaries and private military and security companies flouted all principles of international humanitarian law and threatened global peace. Palestine had endlessly suffered under occupation from the activities of mercenaries in the form of Israeli agents dressed as Arabs, who carried out brutal assassinations and unlawful arrests. Endorsing the statements made by the Egyptian, Jordanian, Kuwaiti and South African delegates, he called on parliamentarians to unite in tackling the dangers posed by mercenaries, including those regrettably protected by major powers, such as the United States, and by occupying States such as Israel, which was also a sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. M.E. ARABI KATBI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that an internationally agreed definition of terrorism would end the problem of interpretations based on different assumptions. All mercenary-related activities ran counter to international law and must be punished. Often the most vocal in condemning those activities were the very States providing the support for their implementation, which in his country had enabled mercenary terrorists hiding behind religion to wreak utter havoc. The States concerned would pay a high price, however, once those terrorists returned home. Focus should be placed on punishing States and individuals alike for their mercenary-related crimes and on developing effective measures, policies and legislation to combat mercenarism.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that, to avoid identification as the aggressor in a conflict, some States unlawfully engaged mercenaries driven by material gain to commit atrocities and human rights violations, bringing loss of life and economic damage. A robust international framework was therefore essential to preventing the recruitment, training, financing and use of mercenaries, backed up by national legislation to criminalize all such activities and by campaigns to raise awareness of the adverse effects of mercenary-related activities, with an emphasis on the human rights aspect. States must also fulfil their obligations under the various international and regional instruments in place on the subject.

The CHAIR thanked delegates for their contributions and invited the two experts to make closing remarks.

Ms. J. APARAC, expert, acknowledging that the definition of mercenaries in international law was very problematic, invited all States to provide input to assist the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group established to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, relating to the activities of private military and security companies. As to the cross-border activities of those companies and indeed mercenaries, they could not be tackled through national legislation alone and thus demanded international judicial cooperation, including with respect to the elements of proof. All States were invited to follow and provide input to the activities of the Working Group in that regard.

Mr. W. BRUYERE-OSTELLS, *expert*, speaking about the three identified categories of mercenarism, said that the integrated form was traditional and must indeed be excluded from criminality under any international legal framework relating to mercenaries. As to the entrepreneurial form, some private military and security companies would currently be defined as mercenaries while others would not. The key focus must therefore be on their acts of violence rather than on their legal status. Concerning the ideological form, it was for individual parliaments to enact legislation to deal with nationals who engaged in mercenary activities elsewhere as foreign fighters.

*Mr. J.I. Echaniz (Spain), President of the Committee, took the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT thanked the experts for their interesting contributions and invited the co-Rapporteurs to add their comments.

Mr. K. ALBAKKAR (Jordan), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the valuable information and comments imparted during the hearing would certainly be taken into account in preparing the draft resolution on the topic. Ways must be found to control mercenarism and deal with those who provided support and financing for its activities, which knew no boundaries and therefore demanded even more concerted efforts to tackle them. Parliamentarians must take the issue fully on board with the aim of enacting robust laws and ensuring compliance with the international instruments relating to mercenaries, whose activities endangered lives and stability.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the hearing had indeed provided much food for thought that would prove useful in preparing the draft resolution.

#### **Any other business**

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that, at its previous day's meeting, the Bureau had discussed the matter of the Committee's future activities, including the development of the draft resolution relating to mercenaries on which the Committee would focus exclusively at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the organization of field visits, in which connection a formal invitation to Jordan was expected in the near future.

*The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

**SITTING OF MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with Ms. S. Dinica (Romania), member of the Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda** (C-II/139/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018)**

*The summary record was approved.*

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

The CHAIR said that Ms. J.N. Mhlanga (Zimbabwe), President of the Committee, had resigned. The African Group, which was entitled to hold the presidency, must therefore nominate a candidate to replace her. It must also nominate a new member to the Bureau.

### **Debate on the theme of the draft resolution entitled *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation***

The CHAIR said that the co-Rapporteurs of the draft resolution entitled *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation* had prepared a short paper listing provisional suggestions for the resolution. She invited the co-Rapporteurs to present their ideas.

Mr. J. WILSON (Australia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that, throughout history, trade had not tended to be free or fair, leading to imbalances in development and increased inequality. However, trade could be a force to drive sustainable development and reduce inequalities if it was conducted in accordance with an open, rules-based, consistent, multilateral system. The system must have clear principles and shared objectives that promoted collective well-being and were appropriately flexible. Such a system, however, was not easy to achieve. There would always be factors that could cause a retreat from free trade towards isolation. The World Trade Organization (WTO) had noted that the recent increase in trade restrictive measures would impact most negatively on least developed countries. It was thus vital to address obstacles that prevented developing countries from benefiting from free and fair trade. The interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was such that, in addition to Goal 17 which focused specifically on trade, there were also a number of trade-related targets in other SDGs, such as Goal 2 on hunger and Goal 14 on ocean conservation. The system must therefore go beyond mercantile and economic development outcomes alone and include measures to promote broader environmental and social values. It must also take into account issues relating to industrialization, infrastructure and innovation. Although development assistance funding was increasingly directed at trade-related outcomes, it should be done in a sincere and meaningful way. Given that the executive usually negotiated trade agreements, the draft resolution should consider the role of parliaments in ensuring that trade and investment was freer, fairer and more effective at achieving the SDGs. It was not only important to identify ideals and principles but also practical mechanisms, including ones that allowed for proper analysis, oversight and monitoring of trade agreements.

Ms. S. RASKOVIC IVIC (Serbia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that developing countries would become colonies if they focused solely on free trade. They must instead foster industrialization and innovation, with a particular emphasis on the high value-added and labour intensive sectors. For instance, they could export wooden furniture in addition to the wood itself. The paper listing provisional suggestions for the draft resolution focused on a number of SDG targets. Under target 8.A, the international



community should show solidarity by increasing the aid they awarded to developing countries for trade support. Under target 9.3, efforts should be made to help job seekers become job creators, thus preventing many people living in developing countries from migrating abroad. Under target 10.A, developing countries should be given special and differential treatment to reduce inequalities. The role of parliaments was to pass laws in support of the SDGs. The aim of the draft resolution was therefore not to ensure that all countries were equally developed but to create equal opportunities for development.

Mr. H. IDDRISU (Ghana), *co-Rapporteur*, said that fair and equitable trade had the potential to accelerate the implementation of many of the SDGs. However, global trade between developed and underdeveloped countries remained neither fair nor equitable. The relationship between exports and imports had an impact on the balance of trade as well as on trade deficits. It was therefore important to analyse how trade could be expanded. The local, national and international trade agendas should incorporate the trade-related SDGs. Parliaments must also play their part in upholding free and fair trade by passing relevant laws and regulations and scrutinizing trade agreements.

Ms. E. TOKUNAGA (Japan) said that, while free trade increased interdependency and bolstered prosperity, it could also be destructive if promoted excessively. Although the Japanese Government had entered into negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), there was widespread concern that an expansion of free trade would impact negatively on Japanese agriculture and food safety. It was important to ensure that national agricultural production was sustainable and did not involve the use of harmful substances, such as pesticides or food additives.

Mr. V. SOCATIYANURAK (Thailand) said that his country supported multilateral trade and investment liberalization under the framework of the WTO and had taken many measures in that regard. For example, it had constructed several high speed railroads and sea ports to increase connectivity and had established a trade competition commission to regulate business operations. The Thai Government had also launched a national policy on technology which aimed to transform the country into a value-based, innovative economy. Under the policy, it had supported many start-ups in their efforts to develop a new market for digital content and had set up a fund to promote research and development in the field of medical technology. The IPU, for its part, should draft regulations on financial technology and payment systems for investments. Steps should also be taken to provide the financial assistance required to develop and raise awareness of digital technologies. Parliamentarians should assume a key role in drafting laws to facilitate trade and investment in the digital era.

Ms. L. CAI (China) said that trade and investment were a driving force for economic growth and inclusive sustainable development. The WTO should play a key role in promoting trade and investment, particularly given that nine of the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related closely to trade. Parliamentarians should support negotiations under the WTO framework on topics such as agricultural subsidies and food security, while also discussing new actions, such as e-commerce. In recent years, China had opened up its markets to the outside world. For instance, it had placed low tariffs on items such as medicines and automobiles. It also planned to loosen restrictions on foreign investment in financial services and other industries. The country's overall aim was to improve the national business environment, introduce measures that complied with international rules, enhance transparency, reduce poverty, encourage competition, and bring an end to monopolies. China would integrate the SDGs into its long-term development strategy and encouraged other countries to do the same.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that there was no doubt that free and fair trade and investment would be important for the attainment of the SDGs. Kuwait had set up a development fund consisting of USD 33 billion. However, it had faced a number of difficulties in protecting the fund once it had been paid abroad, corruption being one of them. Moreover, some countries had closed their borders to trade and investment upon entering into conflict with others. Those types of issues must be addressed globally, with the United Nations playing a more prominent role. The IPU Statutes should also include a provision which obliged parliaments to incorporate IPU resolutions into national law to assist in that regard.

Mr. C.G. JONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his country was a people-centred State that strived to ensure that its people lived an opulent and civilized life, including by providing free medical treatment and housing. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) would continue its march towards economic prosperity by increasing production. The Government's five-year strategy for national economic development laid the foundation for sustainable development

by bolstering the economy as a whole and ensuring balance between economic sectors. Sustainable economic development could not happen without peace; it was therefore important to improve North-South relations on the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Q.A. DUONG (Viet Nam) said that IPU Member Parliaments must strengthen the role of free and fair trade and investment as part of their efforts to achieve the SDGs, including by improving their respective national legal and policy systems to create a more equal business environment and by raising awareness among all stakeholders of the central role of free and fair trade and investment in fostering sustainable economic growth and social welfare. They should also exercise greater oversight over free trade agreements, paying particular attention to issues relating to labour and the environment, and adopt policies and laws that complied with their international commitments. Governments should devise a road map for fair trade implementation which encouraged domestic producers and traders to participate in global fair trade value chains. It was also important to specify the key priorities for sustainable goods and services. Producers and traders should be encouraged to comply with free trade standards through incentives, such as exemptions or reductions on import duties. Developed countries must continue to assist less developed countries in implementing fair trade standards.

Ms. P. MABE (South Africa) said that her country was concerned by the protectionist actions of some countries that had rendered WTO ineffective. The international community must resist all efforts to weaken the multilateral approach to international trade. The South African economy had not grown fast enough to lift people out of poverty. However, a number of positive trends had been observed. For example, the President had pledged to raise USD 100 billion in investment to boost economic growth. Similarly, the automotive sector had recently attracted ZAR 45 billion in investments. Through their oversight function, parliamentarians must ensure that governments prioritized investment in infrastructure. It was therefore important to allocate a higher percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) to research and development. Furthermore, governments, particularly in developing countries, should tackle the issue of brain drain and encourage their skilled nationals to use their intellectual capacities for development in their home countries.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden) said that sustainability was key when it came to trade and investment. Trade was not only in goods but also in values, such as respect for human rights and the environment. Trade should thus contribute not only to the economic aspect but also to the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In respect of the economic dimension, action should be taken to ensure inclusive growth and full employment as stated explicitly in Goals 8.1 to 8.5 and implicitly in Goal 1 on eradicating poverty. Although Goal 5 on gender equality fell under the social dimension, it was also closely linked to full employment and inclusive growth. Gender equality not only increased women's economic independence, it also boosted the prosperity of the country as a whole. Parliamentarians should therefore take a gender-responsive approach to government budgeting. A number of SDGs fell under the environmental dimension, including Goal 13 on climate change and Goal 7 on energy. It would therefore be useful to mention the Green Climate Fund in the resolution. The international community must help those developing countries hardest hit by climate change.

Mr. J. AL HAI (United Arab Emirates) said that his country had an exemplary sustainable development plan. It had invested in new technologies, particularly in artificial intelligence, and had set up a national body to promote innovation. It was also working on its post-oil vision and had been the largest donor of external aid in 2017. Investment remained paramount when it came to the SDGs. Parliamentarians must guarantee the level of such investment by holding their governments to account, exercising oversight, promoting transparency and ensuring that the appropriate frameworks were in place. They must also engage in diplomacy, forge strategic partnerships with the private sector, and coordinate work between national parliaments and regional and international organizations. Efforts should also be made to monitor the implementation of the SDGs, including through the establishment of specialized committees and databases designed for that purpose. Monitoring technology and innovation would be particularly valuable in that respect.

Mr. A.A. YOUSEFNEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that free trade policy played a key role in promoting growth in developing countries. Trade openness generated productivity gains which, in turn, translated into higher incomes. Similarly, foreign direct investment led to technology spillovers, better human capital formation and a more competitive business environment. It was particularly important to invest in technology. Iran had promoted foreign direct investment in its legislation, which granted foreign investors the same rights and protections as domestic ones. Although the participation of developing countries in global trade had grown significantly in recent years, many obstacles remained. Some examples of those obstacles included the fact that certain countries were employing protectionist policies and coercive, economic sanctions.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that the benefits of international fair and free trade must extend to all people across the globe. WTO Member States must seek to preserve the multilateral, rules-based trading system since it brought stability and predictability to global economic activities. It was important to provide financial, technological and technical support to developing countries, particularly in respect of building sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on ensuring affordable and equitable access for all. In that context, countries must follow the principle of non-discrimination and combat protectionism. There was also a need for global partnerships which took into account the priorities and realities of developing countries. The SDGs must be underpinned by a supportive international economic environment. That should include more aid and investment in infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, as well as a supportive multilateral trading system and a strengthened framework for technology transfer.

Ms. E. ANYAKUN (Uganda) said that the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, had been at the forefront of discussions in Uganda with a number of measures being taken in that regard. For instance, the Buy Uganda Build Uganda policy aimed to increase consumption of local products and enhance the participation of local establishments in the trade industry. The Government had also engaged in a number of bilateral and regional initiatives to reduce trade barriers, and enforced standards and quality assurance. It was concerning that international trade and investment promoted a situation in which developed countries exploited the least developed countries. Trade and investment should be economically inclusive and empowering for all, but particularly for marginalized groups. It was important to recruit, train and employ local community members, including those living in poverty, and integrate them into the local value chain as producers, suppliers, distributors or vendors. Trade and investment should drive poverty eradication, for example by introducing a living wage policy and improving access to basic goods and services. It should also engage government in a transparent and accountable way.

Mr. A. ALKINJ (Syrian Arab Republic) said that parliaments must set up systems to foster free and open trade and investment, which were drivers of development and growth. Developed countries should support the efforts of developing countries in that direction. The Syrian Government had tried to pass legislation to bolster free trade and investment and had been cooperating with partners to exchange knowledge in the field. Nevertheless, it had been encountering setbacks. Parliaments should pressure their governments to lift the sanctions on the country so that it could achieve its goals.

Mr. Y. SOW (Senegal) said that fair and equitable international trade and investment were crucial to achieving the SDGs, particularly Goals 1 and 2. Least developed countries would achieve equity in two ways, namely by protecting agricultural producers who mostly engaged in subsistence farming and investing in technology to give young producers equal opportunities, and by gaining better access to the biggest markets. The biggest markets however were implementing increasingly protectionist policies, such as the introduction of overly strict quality control requirements, which rendered their markets inaccessible.

Mr. M. ABDELRAHMAN MOHAMED HAROUN (Sudan) said that free trade would ensure growth and thus help to achieve the SDGs. Although free trade had become more common, fair and free trade had proven more difficult to achieve. All parliaments must play a role in fostering fair and free trade, including through their legislative and oversight functions. It was particularly important to combat corruption so as to strengthen investor confidence. Sudan had put in place a number of bodies, mechanisms and committees aimed at achieving sustainable development. Other parliaments should do the same. Developing countries should receive assistance to help them add value to their production lines.

Ms. D. SOLIS (Ecuador) said that her country's Constitution recognized three types of economy: the public sector, the private sector and the popular and solidarity economy. The popular and solidarity economy placed human beings, not profit, at the forefront of income-generating activities. It was highly inclusive of small- and medium-sized businesses and prioritized issues such as employment, food security, sustainability, women's empowerment and youth participation. The Government of Ecuador had taken a number of measures to advance the popular and solidarity economy in the country. For instance, it had passed specific laws, created the necessary incentives, provided the necessary technical support and established the relevant banking and financial structures. Other parliaments should adopt similar best practices such as dedicating a percentage of government expenditure to the

popular and solidarity sector and incorporating references to it into trade agreements, as Ecuador had done in its trade agreement with the European Union. The popular and solidarity economy had a vital role to play in the attainment of the SDGs, particularly those relating to fair trade. It was therefore important to make reference to it in the resolution.

Mr. M. KHALIFA (Egypt) said that economic growth represented the driving force to achieving the SDGs, particularly in developing countries. The international community must therefore promote international trade. It was important to increase investment, open up markets, boost exports, improve the consumer's ability to purchase and invent new technologies. However, developing countries were facing many barriers in that regard. For instance, they were being restricted by the protectionist policies of developed countries and did not have the same access to technology. It was thus necessary to provide developing countries with the appropriate support and assistance. Egypt had taken a number of measures to improve fair trade, notably by establishing free zones and encouraging investment.

Ms. E. SCHMUCK (Hungary) said that trade and investment was a powerful force for growth and development but was not always sustainable or environmentally friendly. Indeed, trade and investment had boosted domestic material consumption, increasing pressure on resources and aggravating environmental impacts. Some so-called "sustainable" innovative solutions were also aggravating the problem. For example, electric cars and solar panels required the use of rare earth materials, such as lithium. Similarly, extraction of materials used for digitalization often created toxic waste. It was therefore important to decouple GDP growth from environmental impacts. Countries must put in place assessment tools that measured the environmental, strategic and sustainable impacts of all policies. Innovation must also be ecological. A holistic approach and strong political commitment were necessary to tackle the problem of sustainability.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that the world urgently needed a new framework that allowed nations to trade and invest on an equal and barrier-free basis. However, a number of setbacks had arisen in that regard, including the use of trade protectionism by some powerful countries to preserve their own interests, thus preventing others from accessing their markets. Trade protectionism undermined the attainment of the SDGs: an agenda to which those same countries had signed up. It was important to address such contradictions in the system, for instance, through multilateral negotiations or regional agreements.

Mr. A. ALKAINIE (Iraq) said that water shortages were a big problem in many countries, including in Iraq. By ensuring that farmers had a reliable water supply, countries could boost production and consumption, promote trade and increase economic growth.

Mr. P. KAST (Chile) said that the only way to develop sustainable economic systems was to reduce consumption, enforce rules on production and safeguard individual liberties. Trade agreements were important but would only be successful if they were based on respect for consumers and producers. Attempts to impose certain models on countries would not last. Trade agreements would be unlikely to achieve worldwide scope unless major powers participated in them. Protectionist measures should be avoided since they limited the possibility of small countries to engage in a fair exchange globally. It was necessary to take a consumer-focused approach to trade while also considering ways to achieve justice, attain environmental sustainability and combat violence. Such an approach would promote sustainable industries, while also protecting them from monopolies and political coercion. In addition to treaties and agreements, it was essential to explore other measures, such as interacting with consumers via social networks, labelling and certifying products, and protecting the workforce. There must be a global campaign to promote fair and free trade.

Mr. K.D. KHAN (Pakistan) said that a multilateral rules-based international trading system was one of the most effective strategies to lift people out of poverty, increase productive potential and achieve the SDGs. The system, however, was presently under threat. Pakistan called for a more robust and intellectual defence of the system, particularly at the local level. There was still a long way to go in terms of reducing inequalities between countries. While many countries were living through a technological revolution, others, mostly in the developing world, had economies that were based mainly on the export of primary materials. It was particularly important to ensure that international e-commerce systems did not exclude developing countries. Parliaments should facilitate investments while also respecting national sovereignty.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said that that free trade was paramount to sustainable development. It was important to address the challenges of producers, eradicate unemployment and respect employees' rights. There must be a balance between supply and demand as well as between exports and imports. Local and international markets must stress the importance of services, infrastructure and

diversity. Efforts should be taken to redistribute any wealth accumulated from investments, for instance, in the education or technology sectors. A particular focus must be placed on helping developing countries to achieve sustainability. Countries that had started to impose unfair tariffs should go back to free trade measures.

Mr. D. KUNDOTI (Zambia) said that trade was an important channel through which to achieve economic growth. The resources generated from economic growth were necessary to make the investments required to attain the SDGs. Trade restrictions should therefore be abolished to allow for the free flow of goods, services, technology, ideas and people across borders. Policymakers should prioritize infrastructure, particularly in developing countries where it was lacking. It was particularly important to provide appropriate financial, technological and technical support in that respect. Infrastructure made it easier to produce goods, conduct business and connect to global and regional markets. It also helped to drive investment and increase competitiveness. The infrastructure gap was hindering African development significantly. The problem, however, would not be easily solved. Given the large-scale and long-term nature of infrastructure projects, a high level of investment was required that went far beyond the individual capacity of African countries. Governments should use trade to generate the income needed to reduce the gap, including by imposing taxes, tariffs and licensing fees on imports and exports. Trade could also mobilize a significant amount of private sector investment from both domestic and foreign sources.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that, although innovation was very important, it required a circular economy in which countries could reuse earth materials and waste. It was important to look at the entire value chain rather than at parts of it. That could be done by reaching agreements with all those involved, including workers, employers, non-governmental organizations, governments and parliaments. One such example was the agreement that the Netherlands had signed with Bangladesh which sought to ensure a sustainable production chain in the textiles industry. Raising awareness among consumers was also important so that they could make informed choices. It was paramount that countries measured their progress on the SDGs, including those related to trade. The Netherlands had set up a statistics bureau which produced yearly reports to that end. The Rapporteurs should take into consideration the good practices of the Netherlands in drafting the resolution.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that resource constraints represented a major challenge in achieving the SDGs; free trade would therefore be essential to addressing that challenge. It was important to find innovative ways to operationalize fair trade so that developing countries received a better deal. Fair trade policies must be inclusive and equitable. They must address imbalances of power within the current system and seek to reduce inequalities. Efforts should be made to empower people who were poor, marginalized or disadvantaged, notably by ensuring fair wages and creating employment opportunities. Trade barriers should also be removed.

Mr. N.N. NIK AHMAD (Malaysia) said that trade and investment were imperative to achieving the SDGs, particularly those on economic growth. However, they would only be beneficial if they operated on a free and fair basis. Countries must be allowed to increase their exports and expand production with minimum restrictions, as well as have access to foreign markets without discrimination. However, rising protectionist sentiments were undermining trade with many economies suffering because most of world trade occurred through global production and the interconnected supply chain. It was important to continuously promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the aegis of WTO. All trade issues must be addressed through WTO. It was also important to reconcile the social, economic and environmental pillars of development. Proper attention must be given to developing countries, particularly the least developed ones.

Ms. S. ZAOUALI (Tunisia) said that the entering into force of her country's Constitution in 2014 had obliged the State to protect the environment, ensure climate security, combat pollution, manage natural resources effectively and promote human rights. In addition, the Constitution had provided for the establishment of a body to promote sustainable development and preserve the human rights of future generations. Environmental protection was also an important aspect of the body's work. Sustainable development must be economically effective, socially fair and ecologically sustainable. A comprehensive approach must therefore be adopted. Parliamentarians should implement laws that encouraged private investment from both foreign and national sources. They must also ensure that trade treaties respected the SDGs particularly those on economic equality, the environment, employment and sustainability. It was important to aim for a positive trade balance.

Mr. M.L. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe) said that his Government had incorporated the SDGs, particularly those on free and fair trade, into its own agenda for development and taken a number of measures to implement them including the introduction of a national policy seeking to guarantee a reliable energy supply and improve energy efficiency. It had also drafted new business reforms with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, partners and interest groups. In addition, a programme had been launched which aimed to improve the skills of people living in rural areas and thus offer them better employment opportunities. Many water and sewage infrastructure projects were also under way in several urban areas.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that trade and investment were key to achieving the SDGs, particularly those relating to economic growth and job creation. However, free and fair trade was impossible to achieve without the relevant infrastructure, which many developing countries lacked. Internet commerce was another avenue that could bring prosperity, if made readily available to the whole population. The Russian Federation had taken a number of measures towards social and economic development. For example, one of its priorities was to speed up technological innovation. It had also proposed the establishment of a free trade zone across Asia and Europe. Some countries had imposed trade sanctions which went against the Charter of the United Nations and contradicted basic principles of international trade. The Russian Federation remained committed to an open, transparent, fair, multilateral trade system.

Mr. H. IDDRISU (Ghana), *co-Rapporteur*, said that three main points had come out of the discussion. Firstly, the existence of the strong nexus between fair and equitable trade and enhanced investment had been made clear. Secondly, there had been clear recognition of the need for a strong, multilateral trading system led by WTO and not subject to the unilateral decisions of its Member States. Thirdly, the role of parliaments in establishing a stronger trading system had been acknowledged, particularly their responsibilities in relation to exercising oversight, ensuring transparency and holding the government to account, including in negotiations for bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The Ghana EXIM Bank aimed to support export trade and improve value addition. The President had also launched a programme called Ghana beyond Aid designed to propel trade and investment and reduce reliance on aid.

Ms. S. RASKOVIC IVIC (Serbia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that there was a consensus that trade should be free but not uncontrollable. Delegates were also in agreement that growth alone would not eliminate poverty. All of the resolutions of the Committee should refer to the need to eliminate poverty and preserve the environment. Preserving the environment would require the development of new technologies.

Mr. J. WILSON (Australia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that trade was important for development, and development would, in turn, reduce poverty, end hunger and provide access to health, education and other social goods. However, the benefits of trade and economic growth would not come automatically and must thus be pursued collectively. Countries should always be mindful that trade and economic growth had an impact on the environment, including through resource depletion. It was a valuable exercise to look at free and fair trade through a parliamentary lens. The resolution should steer away from broad generalities and instead focus on specific, practical measures. It was also necessary to be realistic in terms of what could be achieved and how failures could be overcome.

### **Parliamentary contribution to the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference**

The CHAIR said that the IPU was organizing a parliamentary meeting at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Katowice, Poland. The meeting would give parliamentarians the opportunity to obtain first-hand information on the main areas for discussion at the Conference as well as to interact with senior officials and experts. An outcome document would be adopted at the parliamentary meeting. The preliminary draft of the outcome document had been prepared by the Rapporteur appointed by the Polish Parliament, Ms. A. Paluch. She invited Ms. Paluch to present the document. Delegates would subsequently have the opportunity to voice their own comments and opinions regarding the text.

Ms. A. PALUCH (Poland), *Rapporteur*, said that the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would take place in Katowice, Poland. The UNFCCC had paved the way for the Kyoto Protocol, and, subsequently, the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement provided the world with an opportunity to reduce the rate at which carbon dioxide was emitted into the atmosphere so that the average global temperature rise did

not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels. It laid the foundation for the signatories to develop low emission economies that were resilient to climate change. The Agreement set out a number of key ideas. Firstly, it recognized that a joint effort would be required from all countries, not only developed ones, to reduce emissions. The participation of the largest economies was particularly important. Secondly, it provided for all participating countries to determine their own national contributions to the climate change issue in line with their own capabilities and specificities. The process for assessing nationally determined contributions would adhere to the following cycle: global review, submission of contributions, transparency assessment and implementation. Thirdly, it called for the introduction of a harmonized accounting system to record greenhouse gas emissions and absorption, as well as a system to monitor, report and follow up on progress. Fourthly, the Agreement recognized the fact that climate change actions should be supported with economic stimuli, such as market mechanisms that created favourable conditions for investment, including by the private sector. Lastly, it underscored that global warming had a negative impact on many different populations, affecting their rights and development opportunities. To mitigate those impacts, States should raise public awareness, promote education and encourage citizens to participate in tackling the matter. States should also encourage labour market transformation as a means of guaranteeing decent work and upholding respect for human rights.

The contributions of signatories were wide-ranging including instituting emission cuts, achieving a peak in emissions, and implementing adaptation measures or measures to encourage absorption of greenhouse gases by forests. The latter was an area on which Poland had been focusing. Given the wide range of potential contributions, a new system would be required to guarantee the transparency and comparability of contributions. The final details of such a system would be prepared at COP24. Other important points for consideration included the need to combine improved energy efficiency with lower energy consumption. Programmes should also be established for countries with economies that were highly dependent on fossil fuels to support them in their transformation towards cleaner, more sustainable economies. Katowice was a case in point of a city undergoing such a transformation.

The draft outcome document emphasized the following key points. Climate change was a complex social, economic and environmental problem which posed a threat to global development, well-being and peace. In spite of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, global emissions of greenhouse gases were growing: a trend that the international community must stop and reverse. In particular, the signatories must adopt and implement national programmes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change actions would help to fight poverty and ensure equal opportunities for sustainable development. The signatories should further take into account the relationship between the different spheres of nature, including the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere. It was also important to design tools and support programmes for regions traditionally associated with the extraction of fossil fuels. Countries should therefore increase spending on research and development, foster more scientific cooperation and develop further mechanisms for the transfer of innovative technologies. Adaptation was another important part of climate policy, as was the need to provide financial support to the poorest countries. All comments would be taken into account and incorporated into the draft document.

The CHAIR said that the document was right to emphasize the important role of parliamentarians in education and awareness-raising on issues related to climate change.

Mr. Y. UBUKATA (Japan) said that he supported the outcome document. In 2018, global warming had caused extremely high temperatures and typhoons in Japan and other countries. It was paramount that the international community attained the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions required to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C, pursuant to the provisions of the Paris Agreement. If the global temperature rise exceeded that limit, global warming would no longer be controllable. Discussions during COP24 must therefore strongly emphasize the need for regulations to control emissions. They should also focus on the importance of greater international cooperation. The Government of Japan had recently passed a law on climate change and had donated billions of dollars to the Green Climate Fund.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that, in the view of developing countries, COP24 should serve as the opportunity to finalize the rules, modalities and guidelines required for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, particularly for the pre-2020 period. It also represented a chance to share knowledge and best practices as part of the facilitative dialogue. Countries must work together to ensure the full ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol as well as the full implementation of the Bali Action Plan. It was particularly important to implement the provisions on technology, finance and capacity-building support for developing countries. The success of the post-2020 climate change action plan was contingent on the full implementation and achievement of the

pre-2020 commitments. Climate change agreements were based on the principle of equity and highlighted the need for common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The same principles should be reflected in the final draft of the Paris Agreement rule book. India had launched several climate change projects and had been awarded the Champions of the Earth award.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that the Rapporteur should indicate how many signatories had ratified the Paris Agreement. Ratification was vital since it was what made the agreement legally binding. The outcome document had weaknesses with regard to monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The international community must redouble its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement since limited progress had been made to date. Discussions during COP 24 must highlight the importance of the Paris Agreement rule book and focus on guidelines for its implementation. Access to climate funds should be simplified so that small countries including small island developing States could access them more easily. The IPU should act as a pressure group within the United Nations to ensure that State parties to the Agreement took their commitments seriously. It would not be possible to achieve the SDGs without controlling carbon emissions.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that countries must do more to tackle climate change as many of the measures taken thus far had been ineffective. The outcome document must highlight the need for data and information, capacity-building, knowledge transfer and renewable energy resources. It should also reflect the fact that controlling climate change would create a better environment. A better environment would have positive effects on many areas of life, including health, and thus lead to sustainable development. The IPU should set out concrete obligations for parliamentarians to ensure that they acted on climate change.

The CHAIR said that climate change responses would only be effective with the participation of all relevant stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels, including the business and financial sectors and civil society. It was also necessary to take a coordinated, multisectoral approach which took into account the environment, foreign policy, security, the economy, health, migration, development cooperation and other aspects. The outcome document should also underscore the role of international cooperation in enhancing early warning systems and preparedness for emergency situations, particularly for vulnerable countries.

Ms. A. PALUCH (Poland), *Rapporteur*, responding to the question from the delegate from the Seychelles, said that 181 countries had ratified the Paris Agreement to date. All suggestions from delegates would be incorporated into the outcome document.

*The meeting rose at 12 p.m.*

### **SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 4.30 p.m. with Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

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

The CHAIR said that there were three vacant posts on the Bureau of the Standing Committee. The African Group had nominated Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) to complete Zimbabwe's term which expires in March 2020 and the Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) to complete Armenia's term which expires in March 2020. A nomination from the Asia-Pacific Group was yet to be received. She took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the two nominations received.

*It was so agreed.*

The CHAIR announced that the African Group nominated Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) as the President of the Standing Committee. She would serve until the 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Preparations for the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had met the day before to discuss the work plan for the next Assembly. Given the breadth of the resolution that the Committee would be tasked with drafting, the Bureau proposed that the Committee dedicate all its sessions at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly to the presentation, debate and drafting of the resolution.

*It was so agreed.*



**Panel discussion: *Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy***

The CHAIR introduced the guest speakers Ms. S. Lozo and Ms. M. de Blonay from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Mr. T. Pringle from the Irish Parliament would present Ireland's fossil fuel divestment bill, and Ms. B. Höhn, former member of the German Bundestag, would describe Germany's cooperation efforts in Africa.

Ms. S. LOZO (IRENA), *Panellist*, said that the global energy transformation was well under way. While its momentum was encouraging, many questions were being asked about the policy, financial and technological challenges that lay ahead. Renewables had the potential for great social and economic benefits, including as a significant provider of employment; projections were that renewables would provide jobs for 29 million people by 2050. The energy transition could also fuel economic growth and an increase in GDP. The right policies were needed, however, to ensure that the transition was just and fair. Benefits would go beyond economic indicators to include access to affordable, reliable and clean sources of power, as well as social and health benefits.

Renewable energy currently accounted for a quarter of the world's electricity, and demand for renewables had consistently exceeded demand for traditional energy sources since 2011. While in the past, hydroelectrics had been the main renewable energy source, the use of solar photovoltaics and wind energy was increasing. The geographic reach of renewables had also broadened considerably, with Asia being the new major location of renewable energy development and adoption. Thanks to strong government support, Asia had accounted for 40 per cent of new renewable energy capacity added in 2017. Developing countries were also embracing renewables, although resources were lacking in some regions.

The power sector only accounted for 20 per cent of the world's energy consumption, however, and the uptake of renewables still lagged behind in the transport and the heating and cooling sectors. Broader decarbonization efforts were therefore required, along with supporting policies. Nearly all countries now had targets for renewable energy, and the number promoting renewables through policy measures had tripled since 2004. In the power sector, policies had increased and were adapting to changing market conditions. Some of the most popular measures remained taxation-related.

Auctions were used to tender for renewable energy in a well-planned, cost-efficient manner. Record-breaking low bid prices had been achieved in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for solar photovoltaics, and low prices had been set in India, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. While auctions had contributed to low renewable energy prices, they were not a panacea; their success depended on several factors, including macroeconomic stability in the country concerned. IRENA had issued several reports on auctions, highlighting key lessons learned from country experiences.

Improvements in technology, the growing experience base and supportive policies were all contributing to increasing the competitiveness of renewable energy compared with traditional power sources. As the cost of renewables had decreased, they had become a compelling investment proposition. Investment had increased exponentially since 2004, with faster investment growth in developing countries. Most direct investment came from private sources, although public investment remained significant in some countries. Public finance, in particular from direct finance institutions, remained important for mitigating risks. The instances in which those institutions worked together with private capital providers and local financial institutions were increasing. Investment in renewables in India had thus increased to USD 1 billion over the past seven years. Private investment sources were diverse, with growing activity from corporations and households. Financing methods were increasing in variety and sophistication. New business models were emerging, including corporate procurement and pay-as-you-go models, which were also important for the development of local skills and capabilities. New financial instruments were being developed, to help developers access renewables.

To speed up the energy transformation, a massive scale-up of all the aforementioned trends would be required. In that regard, IRENA could assist governments with resource development, project development, linking projects with capital providers, and facilitating co-financing. The use of renewables was linked to the attainment of all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not only mitigating environmental degradation but also providing employment and economic opportunities, improving access to water thus boosting agricultural production, and increasing access to electricity for schools and hospitals, thereby resulting in improvements in education and health-care facilities. Governments should use all renewable energy supporting policy options to ensure the broadest range of benefits was achieved.

Ms. M. DE BLONAY (IRENA), *Panellist*, said that IRENA had disseminated information for parliamentarians on how to implement the IPU resolution *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*, including issuing a periodic brief for parliamentarians and

posting a link to the resolution on the IRENA parliamentary network web page. Targeted media and social media campaigns had been run to promote the resolution, and the resolution had been shared with IRENA's 158 Member States. A one-page fact sheet was being prepared to support parliamentary action in relation to the resolution, including infographics, up-to-date figures, and policy recommendations. IRENA's recommendations would be linked to each paragraph of the resolution. A questionnaire would be circulated among IPU Member Parliaments, seeking their feedback on the fact sheets.

The IRENA Legislators' Forum would be held in January 2019 to discuss the post-SDG 7 review. The Agency was tracking SDG 7 attainment, and had published *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report*, which highlighted the gaps that remained to be bridged and provided guidance on how to do so. The Report would be presented at the Forum, and a public-private dialogue would be held to enable representatives of the private sector and parliamentarians to discuss opportunities and challenges faced by the private sector, and to consider how parliaments could create an enabling environment for private sector involvement.

Mr. T. PRINGLE (Ireland), *Panellist*, said that the fossil fuel divestment bill, which he had initiated, sought to encourage the Irish Strategic Investment Fund to offload its investments in fossil fuel companies within five years, and to prevent it from investing in fossil fuel companies in the future. The definition of "fossil fuel" in the bill included coal, natural gas, oil and peat, and a "fossil fuel company" was one that derived 25 per cent or more of its revenue from the exploration, extraction or refinement of fossil fuels. The Fund would be obliged to report annually on its implementation of the bill. Some exemptions had been written into the bill, including allowing the Fund to invest provided it was satisfied that the company in which it was investing was in line with the Government's decarbonization objective, the State's climate action targets and national policy. The Fund was obliged to state clearly any case in which such an exemption had been applied. Certain indirect investment products had been excluded from the bill, including financial derivative instruments, exchange-traded funds and hedge funds.

The bill had been presented to the Irish Parliament in November 2016. In November 2017, Trinity College Dublin and the National University of Ireland had announced decisions to divest following student campaigns. Other universities had followed suit, giving a strong message to the Government on the importance of moving away from fossil fuels. The bill had received majority support from Parliament, owing to lobbying from climate change groups, and had been sent to the parliamentary Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform for detailed consideration. One of the key recommendations made by the committee was to engage with the Government to advance the bill further. A climate conference had been held by University College Cork, at which participants had pledged their support for the bill. The process for the drafting of joint amendments had begun in March 2018. A compromise had been agreed and in July 2018, the bill had been passed with unanimous cross-party support. It was scheduled to be signed by the President by the end of 2018.

The openness of the minority government in Ireland to civil society and opposition voices had allowed the fossil fuel divestment movement to enter the political arena. The Irish Strategic Investment Fund held a large volume of public money, which could easily be targeted for divestment purposes. The Government was already aware of the processes required for divestment, having divested from, among others, cluster munitions and tobacco. Ireland had a strong civil society, which had full access to Parliament, and several academic institutions had run student campaigns.

The bill had forced a balance to be struck between divesting while allowing the exploration and drilling of oil and gas off-shore. As the first country to successfully divest, Ireland had shown that it was possible to take divestment from the campaign agenda and turn it into real government policy. While the private sector needed to be engaged in promoting renewable energy, it would ultimately be the public sector and civil society that would force change. In order to meet the 2030 deadline for the transition to renewables, politicians must insist that fossil fuel companies switched to renewable energy production.

In several countries, environmental activists were being killed and deforestation was being sponsored by governments to allow fossil fuel companies to exploit vast swathes of land. The death toll had risen sharply in recent years and would continue to do so if governments and businesses failed to act. Legislation allowing for exploration and drilling was continuing to be drafted by governments around the world, with activities continuing beyond the 2030 deadline. Fossil fuel companies could and must use their resources and expertise to reduce carbon emissions by transitioning to cleaner energy. That transition was the only way to move from an expansionist to a resource-led global economy by 2030.

Robust, transparent and accountable political institutions were crucial. Governments must stop drafting laws that allowed fossil fuel companies to destroy the environment, and parliamentarians should form alliances with climate activists. Efforts must be made to support the United Nations

Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in its work to prepare an international convention on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. Governments should foster engagement with civil society on renewable energy projects and stop subsidizing developer-led projects. Companies should be forced to share their technology with developing countries to ensure access to clean and affordable energy for all. Lastly, funds must be divested away from fossil fuel companies, to encourage a move towards renewable energy production.

Ms. B. HÖHN (Germany), *Panellist*, said that the energy transition in Germany, which had been promoted by parliamentarians from all parties, was progressing well; by 2017, 38.5 per cent of electricity in Germany had come from renewables. Renewables and energy efficiency went hand-in-hand. The time had come to move from political declarations to real investment in renewables. Cross-party development cooperation projects were being undertaken in Germany, including to promote renewables and access to clean energy in Africa. Some 600 million people in Africa, 75 per cent of whom lived in rural areas, had no access to electricity. The German project was seeking off-grid solutions, including harnessing solar energy and providing energy-efficient cooking stoves to households. The measures being taken would not only bring electricity to the population but also create employment opportunities and contribute to overcoming poverty.

In Germany, although much remained to be done, the transition from coal to renewables thus far had meant that there were now 20 times more jobs in renewables than in the coal industry. Renewables were therefore not just an issue of environmental importance but also of social importance. She wished to set up an international parliamentarians' network on renewables, which would allow exchanges of information, ideas and best practices between regions, to ensure that effective action was taken to meet the SDGs. Renewables would contribute not only to the environmental goals, but also to economic goals, poverty reduction, and overcoming gender inequality. Parliamentary action and cooperation was essential, as parliamentarians were the bridge between political action and the population. Their role must therefore be strengthened.

### Debate

Ms. O. BIELKOVA (Ukraine) said that access to stable and affordable energy was a basic requirement for a decent standard of modern living. Although Ukraine had developed sufficient capacity to meet its current energy needs, demands were changing. In recent years, reduction in consumption of fuel had been observed but the volume of electricity required by the population was rising. Lack of primary energy sources, inefficient energy use, outdated generation and transmission systems and the cost of energy remained challenging. Only 1.3 per cent of Ukraine's energy currently came from renewables; the transportation industry relied heavily on fossil fuels and therefore remained one of the largest polluters. To overcome those challenges, energy efficiency was particularly crucial; smart metering should be more widely introduced to ensure that consumers only paid for the energy they used, and incentives should be given to households to become "prosumers", producing their own energy and consuming it. Investors should be encouraged to choose renewables over fossil fuels and to modernize transmission systems. Energy must be made more affordable for households. Integration between regional markets should be increased to ensure that the greatest benefit was gained from cross-regional power transmission.

Ms. E. TOKUNAGA (Japan) recalled that her delegation had submitted an amendment to the resolution on renewable energy, drawing attention to the potential for hydrogen production from renewable sources. In that regard, a project was under way in Hokkaido, Japan to investigate building a supply chain for hydrogen produced through wind power. The project took into account measures for the production, transportation, storage and use of hydrogen. Building a community supply chain for hydrogen would enable the required amount of power to be produced at the necessary time and place. The approach would be energy efficient and would contribute significantly to the reduction of carbon emissions. The use of fuel cell vehicles would not only reduce emissions but would also be able to produce power as an emergency source in times of natural disaster, such as the recent earthquake in Hokkaido, after which power had been lost for two days. Such vehicles therefore had a significant role to play in building resilient communities. The 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo would be an opportunity to showcase Japan's hydrogen society; hydrogen-based energy would be used to power the Olympic village and all transport would be provided by fuel cell vehicles.

Mr. N. SATIROGLU (Turkey) said that in Turkey, renewable energy production was considered an important means of diversifying energy sources, reducing dependence on imports and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. The target set in 2009, by which renewables should account for 30 per

cent of the national energy supply by 2023, had already been met. Regulations set incentives for the use of renewable energy sources. The legal framework for the production of renewable energy had been set in 2005, on the basis of which a renewable energy support mechanism had been launched by which different tariffs had been introduced for energy according to source.

Mr. J.S. CHONG (Republic of Korea) said that meeting environmental challenges and adopting renewables as a key element of the energy supply were no longer merely an option, yet the renewable energy industry had low commercial viability and a long period of return on investment, which made it difficult for private companies to engage. Governments around the world should therefore set up partnerships to encourage investment in renewables. The importance of nuclear energy must not be forgotten in the energy mix as a clean energy source that emitted almost no carbon dioxide or fine dust, which could meet the needs of countries with high energy demand. New developments in storage and disposal were offering efficient solutions to the problem of nuclear waste. Given the growing energy demands around the world, it was necessary to pursue a rational combination of renewable and nuclear energies. Financial resources for technologies were limited; it was therefore necessary for more developed economies to expand their official development assistance (ODA) projects for renewable energy. In that regard, the Republic of Korea had provided funds amounting to USD 142 million over the past three years, including for the construction of solar power generation infrastructure. Energy solutions must be sought that were both environmentally friendly and sustainable.

Mr. S. ALMUTAWA (United Arab Emirates) said that the United Arab Emirates was fully aware of the need to seek renewable energy sources. Several initiatives had therefore been undertaken to reduce dependence on fossil fuel. In its efforts to meet the SDGs, the Government of the United Arab Emirates had incorporated sustainable sources of energy into its national development strategy, as part of which it had committed to hosting the headquarters of IRENA. The establishment of the Agency had been accompanied by a package of measures for working towards the future development of renewable energy sources. Implementation of the national renewable energy policy had begun in 2008, with the introduction of solar panels, following which an entirely energy self-sustainable solar-powered city had been planned. Nuclear energy production had also been launched. Close cooperation was being established between the private and public sectors, and a new plan was being developed to investigate the potential for energy creation from waste incineration. Every effort was being made to ensure that renewable energy sources would come to the fore over the coming years.

Ms. L. CAI (China) said that the Chinese Government aimed to develop a clean, efficient, safe and sustainable energy system by 2020. The development of low-carbon energy was the focus of a shift in China's energy consumption. By June 2018, renewable energy production in China had reach 680 million kilowatts, which accounted for nearly 37 per cent of total power generation. China's private enterprises had made a positive contribution to the development of renewable energy. Of the top 10 global wind power manufacturers, four were Chinese. China was committed to strengthening international and South-South cooperation to promote the development of new energy sources around the world, to ensure access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy for all. One example of such cooperation was a joint hydroelectric project with Pakistan. The future of renewables was promising and would be successful if all countries, stakeholders and partners worked together to transform the world's energy structures.

Mr. Q.A. DUONG (Viet Nam) said that Viet Nam had adopted a green growth strategy in 2012, a renewable energy development strategy in 2015, and a national action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2017. The National Assembly had taken measures to raise public awareness about environmental issues and sustainable development and had made efforts to engage with the private sector to encourage dialogue between policy-makers, businesses and civil society. The National Assembly had also passed legislation to promote the production and use of renewable energy and to stimulate private investment, such as by setting energy efficiency targets, raising eco-tariffs on fossil fuels. Despite those efforts, challenges persisted with regard to developing a competitive electricity market and improving the quality of transmission and distribution. The support of developed countries through the transfer of technologies was therefore greatly needed. The IPU resolution on renewable energy provided useful guidance on developing laws and policies for optimizing private sector engagement in achieving the SDGs in general and Goal 7 in particular. Each parliament should do its utmost to ensure that the resolution was implemented effectively.

Mr. K. BALLAH (Chad) said that in Chad a national development plan had been adopted in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts were being made to encourage private sector investment in projects for the plan's implementation. Investment opportunities were being sought for the development of renewable energy sources; with support from the Government of China,

a solar energy project had been undertaken, and access to digital technology had been expanded to rural areas. Opportunities were being sought to cooperate with other parliaments, and to adopt their best practices to work towards the attainment of the SDGs.

Mr. S. KRAIRIKSH (Thailand) said that the Thai Parliament had made substantial progress in implementing the resolution on engaging the private sector in renewable energy. An integrated energy blueprint had been adopted, which aimed to diversify Thailand's energy sources by focusing on domestic sources and promoting community participation in energy management, thereby raising the proportion of Thailand's energy provided by renewables to 30 per cent by 2036. The private sector would play an important role in that regard. The Government had reached out to students, local administrative authorities and civil society to raise public awareness about waste management and the potential to transform waste products into energy. An action plan on renewable energy had been prepared, which aimed to transition Thailand to a low-carbon society. Steps were being taken to encourage the private sector to produce alternative energies, in particular biofuels. Parliamentarians had a vital role in supporting the transition to renewable energy. A new draft law was being prepared on energy efficiency and the production and procurement of energy. Parliamentary seminars on renewable energy would afford an opportunity for the world's parliamentarians to share information and best practices, and to work together to broaden the use of sustainable, renewable energy sources.

Mr. M. ABDELRAHMAN MOHAMED HAROUN (Sudan) said that it was clear that to ensure a healthy environment and to guarantee the well-being of all, the use of renewable energy was crucial. The transition to clean energy required resources. Private sector investment was therefore crucial and incentives must be applied. In some countries progress had stalled; the development of renewables must be put back at the top of the political agenda. In Sudan, wind power and solar energy were readily available but funding was lacking and progress was therefore slow. Investment in the development of renewable energy sources would have a positive impact on employment and job creation, would reduce poverty and would address several of the root causes of mass migration. An IPU delegation would be welcome to visit Sudan to look into the work being done to develop the use of renewable energy sources.

Ms. R. KABAGENYI (Uganda) said that the use of renewable energy was contributing to economic transformation in Uganda. Uganda was well endowed with renewable energy sources, and had low per capita energy consumption rates. Although energy coverage had expanded significantly over the past 10 years, challenges persisted. Prices remained high, and there were few institutions that were mandated to build private sector capacity in the management of renewable energy investments. Appropriate financing mechanisms were lacking for encouraging investment, and monitoring systems were not in place. Production and use of biomass was inefficient and had led to deforestation and health hazards caused by indoor air pollution. Information on renewable energy technologies was lacking and the data available on potential indigenous renewable energy sources was inadequate. Efforts were being made to identify ways in which parliamentarians could contribute to encourage private sector engagement and promote renewable energy investments.

Ms. M. ADJI DIARRA (Senegal) said that renewable energy production had been opened to the private market in Senegal. Senegal had the first solar energy farm in West Africa. Targets had been set to raise the quality and quantity of energy available, to lower prices and bring an end to energy cuts that had affected the country in 2011 and 2012. In some rural areas, however, access to electricity was still lacking. Despite remarkable progress, much remained to be done. Legislation aiming to promote the development of renewable energy across the country had been adopted in 2010.

Mr. A.A. YOUSEFNEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that without optimizing the expertise and investment of the private sector, the SDGs would not be attained. Fossil fuels remained the main source of energy in the Islamic Republic of Iran. There was huge potential for meeting the country's growing energy needs through renewables. The national grid was currently connected to a network with neighbouring countries, in an active cross-border electricity exchange. In order to build the required capacity to develop the renewable energy sector, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was considering how best to encourage nongovernmental investment in renewable energy, and had included provisions on the matter in its national energy plan.

Ms. T.V. MUZENDA (Zimbabwe) said that in line with the IPU resolution on engaging the private sector in renewable energy, the Parliament of Zimbabwe had moved a motion on gender and renewable energy seeking to raise public awareness about renewables and their impact on women, and to encourage the involvement of women and young people in the energy supply chain. The President had committed to continue to pursue policies on using renewable energy sources.

Ms. H. MARTINS (Portugal) said that Portugal had clear public policies on renewable energy and the roles of the public and private sectors. Energy diversification had been achieved using local resources, and targets had been set to increase the generation and use of solar, wind and thermal energy. In 2015, 27 per cent of Portugal's energy supply had come from renewables, and as such Portugal was the seventh greatest consumer of renewable energies in the European Union. Efforts to promote the use of renewables must continue to ensure cleaner energy for all.

Ms. E. SCHMUCK (Hungary) said that the world's energy consumption was predicted to increase by 28 per cent between 2015 and 2040. Renewables were expected to be the fastest growing energy source, with consumption rising by an average of over 3 per cent per year. Fossil fuels would, however, continue to account for more than three quarters of the world's energy consumption. In 2017, global energy demand had grown by 2.1 per cent. More than 70 per cent of that demand had been met by coal, oil and natural gas, thereby increasing carbon monoxide emissions by 1.4 per cent. Renewables were not yet substituting fossil fuels but were being used to meet increases in energy demands and to respond to environmental concerns. All efforts were made to improve private sector engagement and investment in renewables, but it was also necessary to consider how to cap and reduce fossil fuel consumption.

Mr. E. ARSLAN (Turkey) said that in Turkey, renewable energy generation projects commissioned before 31 December 2020 would be entitled to benefit from support mechanisms for 10 years and to sell electricity at tariffs set by law. Such purchasing guarantees would provide important protection for foreign investors against market risks for 10 years, thereby eliminating ambiguity. Such an approach would provide greater security for project funding and was considered an important incentive for the development of renewable energy sources in Turkey.

Ms. S. LOZO (IRENA), *Panellist*, thanked all participants for their contributions and said that the number of improvements mentioned in the uptake of renewables was very positive. Renewable energy made sense not only from an environmental perspective, but also from social and economic points of view. Private sector investors were calling for a level playing field. While priorities with regard to the energy transition differed between countries, it was clear that considerable progress had been made. That said, challenges persisted in facilitating the transition to clean energy. IRENA would continue to provide information and facilitate that transition.

Ms. B. HÖHN (Germany), *Panellist*, welcomed the examples of progress made and said that the discussion had afforded an excellent opportunity to learn from each other, so that action could be taken. Solar power was particularly competitive. Investment in rural areas was particularly important to provide prospects for economic development to people in those areas and thereby reduce rural–urban migration. Investment in renewable energy in rural areas would go hand-in-hand with better water management and improved harvests. The concept of decentralized renewables and the notion of "prosumers" were particularly important. It was also important to take into consideration the impact that the uptake of renewables would have on the quality of life of women, particularly in developing countries.

*The sitting rose at 6.20 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

**SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

(C-IV/139/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

The PRESIDENT said that, for over two decades, the IPU had been concerned with the democracy gap in international relations. Too many decisions at the international level were left to governments alone with not much input from parliaments. Those decisions, therefore, did not reflect the views of the people. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs aimed to strengthen the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations, for instance, by helping parliaments to better understand how the United Nations system worked. The focus was on the institutional aspects of the United Nations, such as funding, rather than the issues it dealt with. The Committee sought to understand why certain issues were not advancing and how parliaments could help. The sessions of the Committee provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to ask tough questions directly to UN officials.

### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2018)**

*The summary record was approved.*

### **Panel discussion: *Would a UN intergovernmental tax body help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion?***

The PRESIDENT said that corporate tax evasion and avoidance was not only unethical but also cost governments hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue each year which could be invested in social goods. The solution was not to increase the taxes of regular working people or create more jobs since that would aggravate the economic situation of many countries. Another problem was tax competition. Governments around the world were lowering the rate of corporate tax in an attempt to lure in businesses to their countries. The policy was undercutting the system, allowing corporations to pay much less tax than smaller businesses or individual tax payers. Developing countries had asked for an intergovernmental tax body to help level the playing field on corporate tax globally. Developed countries, however, were against such a body. He introduced the panel.

Ms. S. BLANKENBURG (Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development-UNCTAD) *Panellist*, said that the UNCTAD was in favour of a UN intergovernmental tax body to help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion. However, it should not only deal with tax evasion but with abusive tax practices in general. Corporate tax evasion and abusive tax practices had developed in the context of corporate rentierism. Corporate rentierism referred to the large scale operations of multinational corporations that focused on deriving rent income from the control and ownership of assets and dominant market positions, rather than from innovative entrepreneurial activities or productive deployment of resources. Multinational corporations captured that income through tax evasion and other abusive tax practices. Such practices undermined tax revenue, thereby making it more difficult to mobilize resources for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, the practices undermined external debt sustainability which could, in turn, lead to serious financial distress.

UNCTAD was primarily concerned with the impact of the phenomenon on developing countries, although it had also affected developed ones. In recent years, the global losses that had arisen from profit shifting amounted to approximately USD 200 billion (8% of corporate income tax), out of which USD 90 billion belonged to low-income developing countries. Between the end of the 1970s and 2008, it was estimated that the amount that had been lost to such abusive tax practices in Africa was

equivalent to the amount the continent had received in official development assistance. There were similar estimates for Latin America and the Caribbean. The main reason behind the loss of tax revenue in poorer countries was tax avoidance. However, tax evasion was also a concern. Indeed, multinational companies were engaging in aggressive tax planning for the purposes of minimizing taxes. There had been a period which had seen governments of both advanced and developing countries drastically cut expenditure on public goods, while, at the same time, cutting corporate taxes. The average corporate tax rate had fallen from approximately 50 per cent to 24 per cent since the 1980s, thanks to the provisions of many trade and investment treaties. Those losses had been compounded by abusive tax practices aiming to reduce the tax liabilities of multinational corporations. One famous case was that of the company, Apple, which had shifted USD 130 million of revenue from around the world to Ireland, where it had paid USD 14.5 billion less tax than it would have elsewhere. Although a court had later obliged Apple to pay the difference, the Irish Government had refused to take it. It was of concern that Apple had been able to act in the manner described above within the European Union, which had vast regulatory, administrative and institutional capacity. Developing countries, which did not have the same capacity, would be even less likely to challenge such abuses. To address the problem, it was, however, important to look at a whole range of tax-related practices without being limited to those that had already been addressed by courts.

Although an intergovernmental tax body was not officially in place, a number of similar mechanisms had existed for a number of years. For instance, in the 1980s, the United Nations had adopted the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. Nevertheless, UNCTAD argued that an official tax body would be valuable in bringing an end to the vicious cycle in which corporate financial dominance influenced regulatory processes and political decision making, thus reinforcing the dominant position of partial interests. The United Nations was the natural place for such a body because it gave a voice to developing countries where other organizations did not. However, it was important to be aware of the political resistance against such a body, particularly in advanced countries. Despite that resistance, the issue was being discussed frequently in many forums within and outside the United Nations, as well as in the press. Therefore, the international community might start to tackle the issue more systematically than it had done thus far. On the initiative of the G77, UNCTAD had set up a new expert group on financing for development, which had looked into the question of illicit financial flows. One of the policy recommendations of the group had been to introduce country-to-country reporting. Given that UNCTAD already had a full intergovernmental process in place, the establishment of the expert group showed there was a willingness at the international level to proceed on international tax matters.

Ms. T.M. RYDING (Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Network on Debt and Development—EURODAD) *Panellist*, said that, although taxation was a matter of national sovereignty, tax avoidance and evasion were undermining the ability of sovereign States to collect taxes. A global tax body was therefore necessary to prevent such behaviour. International tax rules had been in place for approximately 100 years. Those rules, however, were not working since corporate tax avoidance was costing the world hundreds of billions of dollars each year. While there used to be a tax process within the United Nations, for the past 50 years the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had formally decided on global tax standards. Those standards were, however, being negotiated without the participation of many developing countries. Indeed, the most recent review on base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), which aimed to reevaluate the rules on taxing multinational corporations, left out more than 100 developing countries. Although developing countries were not originally obliged to follow the rules, they were later forced to do so despite not having had any input in drafting them. Indeed, in December 2017, the European Union (EU) had published a blacklist of non-cooperative jurisdictions (tax havens); one of the criteria was a failure to comply with the rules of the OECD. The blacklist did not include many of the tax havens located within the EU. However, it did include countries, such as Mongolia, which were not tax havens, but had simply not committed to the rules of the OECD. Countries on the blacklist had been threatened with sanctions if they did not commit to the rules. It was clear that such a situation was not democratically justifiable.

International tax rules, however, were failing everywhere, not just in developing countries, and must therefore be reformulated. A legally binding document, which allowed all countries to participate on an equal footing, was also necessary. Although the issue of establishing a UN process on international taxation had been raised repeatedly, particularly by developing countries, it remained unclear whether the UN General Assembly would table a resolution on the matter. In contrast to the confidential process at the OECD, a UN process would ensure that international tax negotiations were open and transparent. The issue of establishing a UN tax process was gaining ground, particularly among civil society. The EU, however, had not spoken out in favour of such a process despite mounting pressure.



Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that countries would not give up their right to establish their own tax systems. The EU had agreed to harmonize many policies but would never agree to harmonize their Members' tax policies. It was, nevertheless, important to combat tax evasion and avoidance. Tax evasion and avoidance were human nature since people would always pay less if they could, especially if it was legal to do so. Tax competition was another difficult problem, particularly with regard to property tax, income tax and corporation tax. For instance, Ireland and the Netherlands had set a low level of corporation tax, thereby encouraging companies to move their headquarters there. It was also worth mentioning free tax zones, which were being used for illicit purposes, including terrorism and drug trafficking. A global agreement was necessary to put an end to tax evasion and avoidance. The international community should create a tax forum within the United Nations, rather than the OECD, since it would give all countries the chance to participate in negotiations. Although such a forum would unlikely bring rapid change, it would be a good place to share best practices and experiences. A world tax system to finance climate change would also be a valuable mechanism.

Ms. P. MABE (South Africa) said that it was unfortunate that the world's richest countries continued to block initiatives that could prevent the loss of vast amounts of tax revenue. Africa alone was losing billions of dollars that could be used for development. Developed countries had a historic and moral obligation to establish a fair global economic environment and eradicate illicit financial flows. South Africa was in favour of an intergovernmental tax body under the auspices of the United Nations. Indeed, the United Nations was the organization with the most power to achieve a more equal, humane and inclusive world. Parliaments of developed countries should push their governments to support such an intergovernmental tax body. In the meantime, they should also support the establishment or strengthening of independent institutions responsible for preventing illicit financial flows, such as financial intelligence units and anti-fraud and corruption agencies. In addition, governments should create mechanisms that allowed all relevant institutions to coordinate and share information.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that it was a matter of grave concern that developing countries were losing large amounts of revenue due to tax evasion. Such revenue losses seriously curtailed public funding and thus negatively affected the SDGs. Under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, countries must improve the fairness, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of their tax systems. Establishing a coherent, coordinated, fair and unbiased tax policy at global level was paramount to plug leakages of tax revenue lost through tax evasion and avoidance. The global policy must also be inclusive with all countries having an equal say. The UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters had carried out some excellent work in areas such as capacity building. However, its mandate should be expanded and even upgraded to that of an intergovernmental body. Only a United Nations-based body would bring positive results.

Mr. M. PILLAI (Singapore) said that a United Nations intergovernmental tax body should go in tandem with capacity building efforts to help countries develop strong and robust tax systems. The body itself must be inclusive and neutral with the ability to drive the adoption and implementation of standards that promoted consistency and a level playing field. The body should be adapted from an existing platform, such as the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, which already had a number of members, including some developing countries.

Ms. T.M. RYDING (Policy and Advocacy Manager, EURODAD) *Panellist*, said that the EU's behaviour was contradictory. Although its decisions on tax required internal unanimity, it was happy to force global standards upon developing countries. It was difficult to understand that OECD countries showed strong support for global tax standards, yet did not want those standards to be negotiated within the United Nations. Countries that were competitive in tax terms were effectively stealing profits that belonged to other countries. Given the strong negative transboundary effect associated with national legislation that allowed corporations to hide their profits, the problem must be addressed internationally. It was the OECD that had set the rule that enabled companies to keep a substantial amount of their profits at their headquarters, but the rule could be changed. Since most headquarters of multinational corporations were based in OECD countries, many developing countries had strongly objected to the rule.

The system had worked thus far because it had been veiled in secrecy. However, secrecy was no longer possible in the current age of information and communication technology (ICT) as many of the details would be leaked to the media. As a result, political momentum towards changing the

system was growing. Furthermore, more and more countries had been taking unilateral action against the problem, for instance, by imposing very harsh tax rules on multinationals. Such action was disturbing trade and investment could potentially lead to a break down in the current system. It was necessary to set up a coalition of progressive countries that were not tax havens. In doing so, they would isolate those that were not cooperating. The current system was extremely political and rigged with powerful tax havens having the authority to blacklist their smaller competitors and even write the rules themselves. Before capacity building could start, it was crucial to change the system as a whole.

Ms. S. BLANKENBURG (Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD) *Panellist*, said that some rules belonged in the international sphere, while others were a matter of national sovereignty. The international community must be clear on what belonged where. It was absolutely possible to change the rules on international taxation. If the United Nations did not change them, others would change them in favour of partial interests which would, in itself, be an attack on national sovereignty. Discussions must take into account the fact that the net resource transfer came primarily from developing countries to advanced countries. Capacity building was also essential in preventing imbalances of power. Although the United Nations did not work quickly, it was capable of achieving many key objectives. Examples of actions it could take included upgrading the existing UN tax committee or passing resolutions. Results would depend on whether there was a sufficiently strong coalition of States interested in the matter.

Mr. T. JIA (China) said that his country was in favour of establishing a UN intergovernmental tax body with broad representation so that developing countries could have an equal voice. The current UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded into an intergovernmental tax body. Many developing countries were already participating in international programmes on combatting tax evasion and avoidance. The mandate of the body should therefore be aligned with current bilateral and multilateral rules on taxation.

Mr. E. EKHTIARY KASNAVIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that tax revenue was one of the main sources of financing for sustainable development. It was therefore important to end tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit flows of capital. International cooperation was imperative in that regard. Developing countries should be included in all economic norm setting procedures, including on tax. It was unacceptable that many countries were forced to follow tax rules without being given a chance to participate in making them. Establishing a UN intergovernmental tax body was vital since it would allow all governments to participate equally. It would also ensure that the process was transparent and that global action was taken. Newly founded, knowledge-based firms should enjoy tax exemptions.

A delegate from MOROCCO said that it was important to clarify the terminology, including the terms "tax evasion" and "tax havens", as there were key differences between them. Countries must be clear that tax evasion was criminal. Upon joining the World Trade Organization (WTO), developing countries had opened up their markets which in turn had seen them lose tax revenues. Free zones were created to compensate for those losses by drawing in investments. Free zones, however, had led to the establishment of tax havens. They were also creating unfair competition from which rich countries were benefitting. The United Nations must rectify the situation to create a more equitable global tax system.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that no country should support tax avoidance. It was unacceptable that a select group of countries had come together and imposed rules on others. It was vital that countries could participate on an equal footing. Tax matters must be discussed within the United Nations. However, the Pan-African Parliament should engage with the European Parliament to resolve certain tax issues before they were referred to the United Nations.

A delegate from SUDAN said that tax revenues were the main source of development funding, particularly in developing countries. It was therefore vital to tackle tax evasion. Although free zones could lead to illicit financial flows, they also created favourable conditions for investors. Sudan therefore hoped to expand free zones. Reducing tax rates in certain areas of the economy could also encourage investment. The international community should put in place an intergovernmental tax body to combat the activities of tax havens. It was also important to carry out a study which drew upon the experiences of different countries, in order to find a viable solution to the problem. The international community must distinguish between tax evasion and tax avoidance

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that the panel should explain how tax evasion affected the local markets of countries considered as tax havens. In her opinion, local markets did not enjoy a positive return as a result of such activities.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that it was thought that 215 economic entities in Ecuador were engaging in tax evasion, leading to losses of USD 260 million. A new form of corruption was emerging in which companies were evading tax through tax havens, ghost companies and subsidiary companies. Ecuador was deploying great efforts to improve tax collection, build a more transparent system and foster a tax culture. Indeed, taxation was important since it guaranteed an equitable redistribution of wealth. A global tax body should give countries access to all relevant information, including on the money trail and the efforts that might be taken to combat corruption. It was not only a matter of collecting tax in a more effective manner but also of tracking the activities of ghost companies.

Mr. A. MOTTER (Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU) said that transnational corporations consisted mainly of subsidiaries and affiliates, all of which were considered separate entities under the current tax system. It was that rule that made tax evasion possible. A global taxation agreement was therefore necessary. He asked the panel to clarify the status of two key proposals on the matter: country by country reporting and the registry of beneficial ownership. In particular, the panel should explain whether the proposals had been agreed and, if so, by whom. They should also indicate which jurisdictions had put the proposals into practice and whether they were working.

Ms. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia) said that tax evasion was criminal. It should be combatted not only nationally but also within an inclusive international framework that treated all countries equally. It was in the interests of all to establish a universal and well-resourced UN intergovernmental tax body to supervise and regulate tax matters. She urged parliamentarians to support such a body. The current economic system privileged a select few, drove inequality and hurt the environment. Countries must work together to transform it into a system which would eliminate inequality and poverty and fostered sustainable development. The United Nations was the only institution that could deal with financial crime internationally since the OECD covered developed countries only.

Mr. A. BAKR (Syrian Arab Republic) said the international community often overlooked the specificities of individual countries when putting tax regulations in place. For instance, Syria had been facing war and terrorism for eight years. The Syrian Parliament was working on a comprehensive tax system that was favourable for investment and industry. Doing so was the best way to ensure economic development. Encouraging productivity was also important as it would allow the Government to collect the taxes in question. It would help the country to recover its industry if tax exemptions were awarded to some areas of the economy, such as imports of instruments necessary for production.

Ms. M.E. ZABALA MONTENEGRO (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that Bolivia, along with many developing countries, was in favour of an intergovernmental tax body. Tax evasion impeded transparency and led to losses in revenue which would make it less likely to achieve the SDGs. The international community must share responsibilities on international tax matters. Countries must be consistent in their discussions and actions. It was inconsistent for OECD countries to allow tax evasion to happen on their territory while, at the same time, imposing strict tax rules on others. The panel should clarify how to proceed given that developed countries were blocking the wish of developing countries to establish an intergovernmental tax body. Developing countries were ready to deploy extraordinary efforts to improve revenues, but needed help.

Ms. S. ZAOUALI (Tunisia) said that her country had done a great deal to help foreign companies set up in the country by offering them significant tax benefits. To prevent tax evasion, if practiced by those companies, it was important to establish automatic data exchange systems. The Tunisian Parliament had recently voted on a law to establish a government agency to combat tax evasion and money laundering by serving as a relay between different financial, tax, customs and trade bodies. Although Tunisia was on the EU blacklist, it hoped to be off it by the end of the year.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that tax evasion was indeed a crime. International cooperation was therefore necessary to combat that crime. Most countries were not ready to give up their right to define their own fiscal system. International rules were, nevertheless, necessary. They should be set within a forum, such as the United Nations, where all countries could participate.

Ms. T.M. RYDING (Policy and Advocacy Manager, EURODAD) *Panellist*, said that she agreed that no country was ready to give up the right to regulate their own fiscal system. It was for that very reason that the international community must change the current system which imposed rules on certain countries. All countries must have the opportunity to participate. In response to the Cyprus delegate, it was a risky business to become a tax haven. Although some tax havens had made a great deal of easy money, others found that their economies had become unstable. In response to the comment from Singapore, the Inclusive Framework on BEPS had been set up to implement the BEPS rules that the OECD had decided. Countries who wanted to join had to pay a fee. It was also becoming extremely clear that the rules themselves were outdated. Indeed, the EU had been discussing the prospect of introducing a unitary tax system as well as public country to country reporting, both of which went against the BEPS rules. Developing countries were free to join the Inclusive Framework on BEPS if they so desired but it would not be the end solution. Developing countries had come close to winning the debate about putting in place a UN intergovernmental tax body and could potentially win it in the future. In response to the delegate from Bolivia on how to proceed, parliamentarians should contact their Government's mission to the United Nations in New York and push them to put the matter of establishing an intergovernmental tax body on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. They should also remind them that the United Nations made decisions by majority. Given that the majority of countries were tired of being excluded from decisions on international tax matter, there was enough political will to rectify the situation.

Ms. S. BLANKENBURG (Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD) *Panellist*, said that she agreed with the delegate from China that the best way to go was to upgrade the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental tax body. Any country that signed up to the body would not be narrowing their fiscal policy space. If the rules were changed so that tax havens were less viable, a period of structural adjustment would be required. Small countries, such as small island developing States (SIDS), would be particularly in need of support. The separate entity assumption was indeed at the heart of the problem. Although policy recommendations had already come out of the United Nations, there was a long way to go before it would put in place any actionable measures. An intergovernmental tax body was therefore necessary if the current situation continued as it was. To make changes in the tax system, the United Nations required that a consensus be reached. It would be fairer to introduce democratic voting.

**Panel discussion: *What scope for cooperation between parliaments and WHO as the leading UN agency for global health?***

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) had developed a partnership over the years to address health issues around the world. They worked together primarily through the IPU Advisory Group on Health. He introduced the panel.

Ms. M. BOCCOZ (Assistant Director General for External Relations, WHO) *Panellist*, said that WHO and the IPU had enjoyed a very close and productive partnership for many years. WHO was headquartered in Geneva, but had a large number of regional and country offices as well as many partner organizations and staff working worldwide. It was governed by its 194 Member States which determined WHO policies at the annual World Health Assembly. Those policies were then given effect by the Executive Board. WHO worked with countries by conducting policy dialogues, offering strategic support, providing technical assistance and delivering services. Since its creation in 1948, WHO had enjoyed a number of successes such as eradicating smallpox and increasing life expectancy from 48 to 71.

WHO had recently adopted a new five year strategy consisting of the "triple billion" goals. The strategy aimed to put one billion more people under universal health coverage, make one billion more people safer from emergencies and improve one billion more lives. The strategy covered a number of platforms, including human capital, communicable and non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance and health determinants. Achieving the above goals by 2023 was key if the international community wished to stay on track for the SDGs.

WHO was the directing and coordinating authority on international health with a mandate to shape the health research agenda, set norms and standards on health, articulate evidence-based policy options, provide technical support and monitor and assess health trends. However, it required the help of the IPU to deliver on that mandate. Parliaments were a core element of the national and global health agenda with a responsibility to promote the right to health without discrimination, particularly among vulnerable populations. The key functions of parliaments included passing legislation, ensuring accountability, allocating budget and engaging in advocacy work. WHO and the

IPU had therefore been working together to strengthen the links between the two organizations. For example, WHO had become a permanent observer and a technical partner at the IPU, participating actively in the IPU Advisory Group on Health. A number of resolutions had been adopted to boost cooperation, the most recent of which was the UN resolution on the interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU of May 2018. The two organizations had held a technical briefing at the 2018 World Health Assembly and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration and align their policies. WHO was also collaborating directly with national parliaments.

WHO and the IPU shared a number of priority policy areas, including universal health coverage, global health security, health promotion and capacity building within parliaments. Together, they hoped to bridge science and policy as well as to contribute to the SDGs. The policy areas were a direct reading of global priorities and indicated where parliamentary action was most needed. For instance, universal health coverage was a priority because half of the world population did not have access to essential health services. The UN General Assembly had passed a resolution the previous year calling for all people to have equal access to health services. Similarly, the Parliament of Bangladesh had presented a proposal to the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for an IPU resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The IPU resolution would represent the main parliamentary instrument on the matter, spelling out concrete actions to be taken by parliamentarians.

Mr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh, Chairperson of the IPU Advisory Group on Health) *Panellist*, said that in May 2018 the UN General Assembly had adopted its latest resolution on the interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. It was the first time that a UN resolution on the topic had mentioned WHO. In doing so, it recognized the pivotal role of the IPU in achieving the health-related SDGs. The IPU and WHO had enjoyed a long and successful collaboration on health. Substantial progress had been made in two areas in particular. First, their work had built a bridge between the parliamentary and scientific communities to ensure that health laws and policy were informed by evidence. Second, parliaments became the primary institution responsible for exercising oversight over the executive on health matters. Thanks to the strong partnership between the two organizations, members of parliament from across the world could participate in the work of the World Health Assembly and other global health processes.

It would not be possible to achieve the targets under SDG 3 on health without strong parliamentary action. Parliamentarians must pass legislation, exercise oversight and allocate budget to health programmes and interventions. IPU Member Parliaments had responded in a variety of ways to advance the objective of global health. In 2006, the IPU had established the Advisory Group on Health which consisted of parliamentarians from all regions of the world and served as a global parliamentary focal point on health. So far, the group had mainly focused on HIV/AIDS as well as women's, children's and adolescents' health. It had had many successes at country level. For instance it had helped the Parliament of Uganda to strengthen its advocacy capacity and increase its budget for health workers in rural areas. However, many challenges remained, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as young people and women. It was particularly important to promote universal health coverage and health security with an emphasis on equity in access, quality of services and affordability. In that regard, the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had recently endorsed a resolution on universal health coverage. Similarly, WHO and the IPU had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in certain thematic areas. All future engagement would encourage parliaments to contribute to achieving universal health coverage as well as to ensuring that the most vulnerable and marginalized people had access to health services.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that the world, particularly the developing world, was facing many health-related challenges. For example, cholera had become a big problem in Zimbabwe. The need for parliaments and WHO to cooperate on health was vital. WHO should therefore join the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which already provided technical and financial support to parliaments. By doing so, WHO could build the capacities of parliamentarians on health-related issues, for instance through awareness raising campaigns. Parliamentarians must foster a favourable legal and policy environment that allowed development agencies to provide critical health services. WHO should list national parliaments as one of its prominent partners on its website. The relationship between WHO and parliaments indicated the importance of democracy in delivering healthcare. WHO must therefore make legitimate governance part of its broader strategy of improving health outcomes.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand) said that WHO had frequently commended Thailand for its strong health system. Since 2002, the entire population of Thailand had been covered by publically financed health insurance schemes. The country had also launched a number of awareness raising campaigns in both rural and urban areas, including anti-alcohol and anti-smoking campaigns. The campaigns aimed to prevent non-communicable diseases. It was important to strengthen collaboration between the IPU, parliaments and WHO, particularly on universal health coverage and non-communicable diseases. Collaboration could involve sharing practices, exchanging legislative data and holding closer consultations. Indeed, Thailand had a strong history of working with WHO. Furthermore, the IPU and its Member Parliaments should capitalize on the expertise of the IPU Advisory Group on Health which could offer them technical support.

Mr. M. SALEY (Niger) said that Niger, in collaboration with WHO, had implemented a bold national programme to combat non-communicable diseases. It had also set up a number of health-related parliamentary networks, including on nutrition, tobacco and alcohol. Parliament was considering two draft laws on healthy nutrition in schools as well as on tobacco use. Several awareness raising campaigns were underway to help prevent the onset of certain diseases, such as cancer, as well to encourage people to go for screenings. Niger was also lobbying several mining companies to encourage them to provide funding for health.

Mr. E. EKHTIARY KASNAVIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that achieving universal health coverage was crucial to ending extreme poverty. However, it would require the cooperation of many different stakeholders, including UN agencies, national authorities, non-governmental organizations, experts and philanthropists. Parliaments must pass the necessary legislation to ensure universal health coverage. The IPU should also assist parliaments in attaining the unfinished health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as combatting HIV and AIDS. WHO practised health diplomacy which helped countries to find common solutions to health challenges, thus contributing to peace and security. By working with partners, such as the IPU, WHO could prevent and control communicable and non-communicable disease, promote health throughout the life course and strengthen health systems, among other things. WHO must formulate comprehensive international health-related policies and norms that reflected the concerns of society. Parliaments should then incorporate those policies and norms into domestic legislation. The IPU and its Member Parliaments must make sure that health issues did not become politicized.

Mr. S. JAISWAL (India) said that he commended the IPU Advisory Group on Health for addressing the health needs of vulnerable groups in partnership with WHO. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that healthcare could reach every citizen. They must do so by enacting legislation, exercising oversight, ensuring accountability, allocating budgets and engaging in advocacy work. Health was not determined by medical factors alone but also by social determinants, such as poverty, malnutrition and poor sanitation. Parliaments must address those factors as effectively as possible. Every parliament should form a Group of Friends of WHO that worked towards universal health coverage and health security. In doing so, parliaments would be kept abreast of scientific advancements made in the field of health. Parliamentarians should strengthen their partnership with WHO and other stakeholders so that they were better equipped to address health challenges.

Ms. M.J. CARRIÓN (Ecuador) said that equitable access to healthcare, especially for vulnerable groups, was vital for democracy. Indeed, the Ecuadorian Parliament was currently discussing a law in that regard. However, access to healthcare must go hand in hand with access to medicines. It was essential to have a global framework to monitor the pricing of medicines. Such a framework should ensure that pricing was adequate and just. Ecuador stood ready to cooperate with WHO on those issues.

Ms. A. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had a successful health policy. It had been working together with WHO to improve access to healthcare, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as those living in poverty. It had also been providing support to hospitals, both private and public. Furthermore, the Government had vaccinated hundreds of thousands of children against polio and offered assistance to Yemen in the face of its cholera outbreak.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations) noted that while many developing countries were embracing vaccinations, many developed countries were abandoning them. She asked the panellists to clarify how they would ensure that developed countries did not lose the gains they had already made. Further she asked them to explain how the WHO works in situations of conflict where many people were suffering from diseases.

Ms. M. BOCCOZ (Assistant Director General for External Relations, WHO) *Panellist*, said that the delegates had underlined many fundamental issues. The IPU and WHO must work on them together to achieve the SDGs. WHO was governed by its Member States which included both governments and parliaments. Indeed, parliaments had a crucial role to play. She commended the efforts that countries were taking, particularly on universal health coverage and non-communicable diseases. She agreed that WHO should highlight the partnerships it had developed with parliaments on its website. Although the United Arab Emirates, Ecuador and other countries had been working towards immunizations, other countries had been mounting resistance. That resistance was problematic given that many vaccines worked on the basis of herd immunizations. In other words, they could only prevent diseases if a large number of people were covered. If immunization campaigns came to an end, diseases such as measles could re-emerge. The international community was close to eradicating polio with huge efforts being taken by WHO, civil society, governments and parliaments in the last three countries in which the disease was still circulating. There would also be a ring vaccination campaign to stop the spread of Ebola, preventing it from becoming an international emergency. She agreed with the need to prioritize vulnerable populations who were the most difficult to reach, such as women, children and adolescents.

Mr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh, Chairperson of the IPU Advisory Group on Health) *Panellist*, said that not many of Bangladeshi parliamentarians were involved in the health sector nor did many collaborate directly with WHO. Plans to increase collaboration were a valuable step forward. Without parliaments, it would be difficult to make a success of any policy. Universal health coverage should extend to all countries and members of the population, regardless of their income status. Although a universal list of essential medicines did exist, countries should be able to adjust it according to their needs.

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

The PRESIDENT said the Committee had received a number of nominations to fill the vacancies of the Bureau. They were: Ms. A. Theologou (Cyprus), Mr. L. Iemets (Ukraine), Mr. M. Melkumyan (Armenia), Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan) and Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia).

*The nominations were approved.*

Mr. L. IEMETS (Ukraine) said that he was the Vice-Chair of the Legal Committee in his Parliament as well as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It was a great honour to be nominated.

The PRESIDENT said that Ms. S. Al-Hashim (Kuwait) had been nominated to fill the vacancy of Vice President of the Bureau.

*The nomination was approved.*

Ms. S. ALHASHIM (Kuwait) said that she was grateful for the support she had received.

*The sitting rose at 5.55 p.m.*

## Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

### SITTING OF MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), President of the Forum, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda (FYP/139/A.1)**

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Country updates on youth participation**

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that efforts were being made to raise awareness of social responsibility among young people in the Russian Federation. Youth meetings had been held, in which more than 150,000 young people had participated. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sought to empower young women and encourage them to take public roles as well as family responsibilities. More than 2,000 women had participated in the Second Eurasian Women's Forum, during which a panel discussion had been held on the positive energy of young people. The role and responsibilities of women in promoting peace around the world had also been discussed. The only disadvantage of youth was that it passed all too quickly.

Ms. Z. YILDIZ (Turkey) said that, as a result of the referendum on constitutional change, the minimum age for election had been reduced from 25 to 18 years; the youngest member of the Turkish Parliament was now 22 years old. In the most recent elections, 79 candidates had been under the age of 30, and there were presently 165 Turkish parliamentarians under 45 years of age. Those figures were testament to the success of measures taken to encourage youth representation in the Turkish Parliament.

Ms. E. MUTEZINKA (Burundi) said that Burundi had made progress with regard to youth participation in parliament and could serve as an example to other countries. Several committees had been established to promote the role of young people in society, including a committee on youth employment for sustainable development. Young people were encouraged to learn about the work of the National Assembly by visiting it and participating in meetings. There were now three female parliamentarians in the National Assembly who were below 35 years of age. Bursaries were used to encourage young people to attend higher education; a State-funded grant was available to medical students. Employment-generating schemes were in place and young people were increasingly active in society.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that the ambitions of young people were limitless. Youth participation was not only a question of encouraging young people to become parliamentarians but also of ensuring that they were active in all spheres of society. In Kuwait, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs had been established, and State funding was provided to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises as well as youth employment in the private market.

One other delegate from KUWAIT said that young people in Kuwait received considerable support from the Government, in particular with regard to education and employment.

Ms. O. SOTNYK (Ukraine) said that youth was not a question of age but of mentality. The world was changing rapidly; young people must contribute with their ideas to society that could adapt and adjust to contemporary challenges. In Ukraine, three main challenges persisted with regard to youth participation: decision-making, elections, and political education. Her political party had a youth branch, with a website and resources, including a simulation activity in which participants could play the roles of the President or members of parliament, which had sparked young people's interest in participation. Youth councils had been established around Ukraine, to which young people could propose projects and receive funding. Consideration was being given to setting quotas on youth participation in political parties. In that regard, an international web-based platform for sharing experiences and best practices would be useful.



Mr. A. BAKR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic was suffering from terrorism, which had greatly affected many young people, some of whom had been recruited into terrorist groups, while others had been forced to flee for their safety. Despite considerable challenges, the Government had maintained the education and health-care systems, and had managed to encourage young people to participate in decision-making, through representation in the National Assembly. Young people had a particularly key role in post-conflict reconstruction and development. With that in mind, the national programme for post-war reconstruction included provisions on young people's role, with a focus on technology and innovation to promote peace, stability and democracy.

Mr. S.A. GARCÍA SEPÚLVEDA (Mexico) said that in Mexico, 35 per cent of voters were young people. It was therefore important that policies targeted young people. Optimum use must be made of new communication technologies and methods to canvas for votes, disseminate policies and increase political engagement. The dangers of the dissemination of "fake news" must, however, also be taken into account. Given that many jobs were being lost as a result of automatization, particular efforts must be made to legislate to protect young people against unemployment. The Supreme Court of Mexico had recently ruled on a universal basic income, which would enable access to basic food, education, health and housing for all.

Ms. H.V. GAVIT (India) said that young people were the most energetic, innovative, vibrant and productive segment of society. They were the future of a nation and their participation in politics was essential to sustain democracy and achieve comprehensive, inclusive development. Sixty per cent of the world's population under 35 years of age lived in developing countries. Young people were mostly underrepresented in political processes. In India, to enhance youth participation in politics, the minimum voting age had been lowered from 21 years to 18 years. Similarly, the minimum age for election to local bodies had been lowered from 25 years to 21 years. Steps had also been taken to encourage young people to enrol as voters. The National Youth Policy provided a holistic vision for youth empowerment. Youth development agencies afforded excellent opportunities for young people to participate in nation-building activities. Political training activities through elections to university student unions were also encouraged. The youth wings of political parties afforded young people the opportunity to mix with senior leaders to learn about various aspects of public life and political participation. There were currently 47 members of the Lok Sabha who were under 40 years of age. Study visits could be conducted to inform students about the roles, responsibilities and functional dynamics of parliament.

Mr. S.H. PATWARY (Bangladesh) said that he was the youngest member of the Bangladeshi Parliament. Considerable gaps persisted in youth participation. While youth was indeed a matter of shared values, young people tended to be more focused on developing their careers, rather than becoming involved in politics. They often felt that their perspective was not taken into account in politics, and that politics was not a lucrative career. With a view to changing young people's perceptions of politics, political parties had been encouraged to set up youth wings, which engaged with young people through social media. All parties were being encouraged to nominate more young people for election.

Mr. T. MACHAKARIKA (Zimbabwe) said that more than 60 per cent of young people in Zimbabwe were registered voters. Youth therefore constituted an important political stakeholder. A quota had been set for youth membership of the Cabinet, and a Youth Council had been established under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment, with subgroups for young women, young migrants and young people living with HIV. Every effort was being made to promote youth employment.

Mr. Y. MPAWENI (Malawi) said that much progress had been made in Malawi with regard to the participation of young people in parliament, in particular through the establishment of a young parliamentarians committee to address issues that affected young people, including education, social welfare and early marriage. Early marriage was a particular problem for young people in Malawi; efforts were therefore being made to encourage young people to remain in, or return to, education. Elections would be held in 2019 and many young people were showing an interest in running as candidates. Lessons learned and experiences shared by other countries through the IPU were facilitating great change in Malawi.

Ms. E.S. CARVALHO (Timor-Leste) said that Timor-Leste was a young democracy. Young people accounted for 60 per cent of the population, 20 per cent of parliamentarians and 50 per cent of ministerial posts. Political parties had a duty to ensure that young people were fairly represented. Young parliamentarians must participate actively in drafting legislation and representing the people. Being "too young" was not an excuse not to participate in political life.

Ms. I.Y.R. PUTRI (Indonesia) said that several obstacles continued to impede youth participation in politics. While youth participation should contribute to furthering the empowerment of young people, in Indonesia most young people did not know how to participate in politics or how to contribute to public life. Parliamentarians must therefore set an example. With that in mind, the Indonesian House of Representatives regularly hosted a youth parliament, to encourage young people to participate. Participants gave input to government programmes and policies and were expected to improve their awareness of policy-making and democratic processes as a result.

Mr. S. SOK (Cambodia) said that the world was witnessing a fourth industrial revolution, marked by the development of artificial intelligence, nano- and biotechnology, and the Internet of Things (IoT), among others. Yet challenges to democracy had persisted throughout modern history, including communism, colonialism, two world wars, the Cold War, and the war on terror. Cambodia was celebrating 20 years of peace, having abandoned communism and a planned economy; a liberal, multiparty democracy had since flourished and the market economy was steadily growing. Young people accounted for a significant proportion of the Cambodian population, and enjoyed unprecedented opportunities. They were involved in all aspects of public life: the private sector, civil society and politics. Political participation was increasing; 83 per cent of registered voters had participated in the 2018 elections.

Ms. P. MABE (South Africa) said that Turkey should serve as an example to all, having successfully integrated young people into its mainstream economy, including its traditional industries. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians should be a platform for setting standards to be applied by all. South Africa had a youth parliament and children's parliaments, which took place during school holidays, to encourage young people to develop an interest in politics. Without effective parliamentary platforms for young people to be heard, effective inroads into higher education, and mechanisms for the involvement of young people in law making, young people's concerns could not be adequately represented and the SDGs could not be met.

Mr. N.N. NIK AHMAD (Malaysia) said that the effective engagement of young people in politics was crucial to global democracy. Young people in Malaysia accounted for more than 40 per cent of eligible voters. While interest in politics was growing among young Malaysians, there was room for improvement. The political system in Malaysia was still not conducive to young people entering politics. Several initiatives had been undertaken, resulting in positive outcomes, with young parliamentarians accounting for 25 per cent of the membership of the House of Representatives and 15 per cent of the membership of the Senate, following the recent general election. A youth parliament had been set up to encourage young people to learn more about the functioning of parliament and raise their awareness about the workings of government. Steps were being taken to lower the minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years. Individual political parties had also taken measures to reduce the age of the members of the youth wing from 40 to 35 years.

Ms. H. SIBUNGO (Namibia) said that the lack of a legislative framework to encourage young people's involvement in politics remained an obstacle to youth representation in parliament in Namibia. Practical measures were needed to legislate to ensure that young people were adequately represented; the youth of today were the leaders of the future.

Mr. A.S. DURRANI (Pakistan) said that around 64 per cent of Pakistan's population was under the age of 30 years. There were therefore immense opportunities for the young people of Pakistan. Over recent years, the Government had launched several initiatives for the empowerment of young people and to promote their contribution to democracy. Parliament simulation and model United Nations events were held to enable students to gain experience in the functioning of parliamentary democracy and governance. Student unions and societies were encouraged, and a parliamentary internship programme had been set up for university graduates. Regular tours of the Senate were organized for students and young professionals, and parliamentary forums had been set up to spot talent and prepare young people for careers as parliamentarians. The current Chairman of the Pakistani Senate was only 40 years old. Young people's energy must be channelled towards democracy.

Mr. D. FORCELLINI (San Marino) said that San Marino, despite being one of the oldest republics in the world, had the youngest President in the world, who had been elected at the age of 27. Youth representation was not just a question of age; young parliamentarians must bring with them dreams, hopes and a vision for a brighter future.

Ms. R. CUTAJAR (Malta) said that she had been elected mayor of her hometown at the age of 22. Malta had been the second country in the European Union to lower the minimum age for voting to 16 years through a unanimous amendment to the Constitution; around 9,000 young people would vote for the first time in the 2019 European elections and local council elections. That amendment was a step towards a positive change. That said, there had been some resistance caused by the popular belief that young people were not mature enough to make political decisions at the age of 16. The right to vote must be accompanied by adequate political education on the functioning of parliament, the duties of parliamentarians, and what the vote would achieve.

Mr. A. ZEID AHMED (Arab Parliament) said that young people represented a significant proportion of the Arab population. They were innovative and ambitious, yet they needed to be equipped with the tools to face contemporary challenges and take ownership of their future. The Arab Parliament had adopted specific policies for addressing poverty and unemployment, linking education with the labour market. All means of promoting youth participation in political life should be encouraged. Investment in young people was crucial for the attainment of the SDGs.

The PRESIDENT said that young parliamentarians accounted for 20 per cent of participants in the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. She encouraged all parliaments to continue their efforts to engage with young people, and to build on their efforts to include young parliamentarians in their delegations to future IPU assemblies.

#### **Panel discussion: *Identifying a target for youth participation in parliaments***

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname), *Moderator*, recalled that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had asked the IPU to hold consultations on the possibility of setting targets on the proportion of young people to be represented in parliament. Those consultations had been conducted online and had resulted in two proposals for youth targets, which the Forum must consider. He introduced the panellists who had participated in those consultations and who would present their views to the Forum. He asked why setting a target proportion for youth representation in parliament was important, and how such an approach would break the barriers to youth participation.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia), *Panellist*, said that targets were aspirational and as such would play an important role in changing attitudes by giving a direction to policy and facilitating monitoring. Without a target, there would be no movement in the right direction. Setting quotas and legislating to compel political parties to accept young people as members and to fund them fully—since the lack of resources was a significant hindrance to participation—would help ensure seats in parliament for young people. The minimum voting age should be aligned with the minimum age for standing for election. When such targets were set, budgetary allocations would improve and the participation of young people would increase at all levels of governance.

Ms. M.L. KROOK (Rutgers University), *Panellist*, said that although since 2014, there had been an overall increase in the number of young parliamentarians around the world, many parliaments did not have any young parliamentarians at all yet. Male parliamentarians continued to outnumber their female counterparts across all age groups. That said, the focus on youth participation in public life was increasing, in particular in international settings such as the United Nations. Around the world, quotas for parliamentary representation were being set for young people. The IPU wished to take that progress forward by setting an international target. A 30 per cent target had been set in the 1990s for women's representation and that had proved to be very effective at the global and national levels.

The main questions asked during the IPU consultation on targets for youth participation had been on age limits. Different countries had different definitions of "youth", which had resulted in a suggestion to adopt thresholds with three ages: under 30, under 40 and under 45. Consideration had been given to whether separate targets should be set for each threshold. Given that countries differed widely in their demographic composition, it was also considered whether a formula for calculating the target should be developed to align it with the proportion of the youth population.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM, presenting the results of the consultations, said that it no longer sufficed to call for greater youth representation in parliaments; precise targets were required. While some countries already applied quotas, the latter were very diverse. In some cases, they were

applied at the initiative of individual political parties, while in others they were set out by law. Some set the upper age limit at 30 years of age, while others set it at 35 or 40. The proportions also varied considerably: some countries aimed for 10 per cent youth participation, while others aimed for 30 per cent or more. Quotas had also been set at the regional level, including by International IDEA and the European Youth Forum.

The consultations, which had been conducted online, had enabled the exchange of ideas and information. Five experts and academics, as well as parliamentarians, had given their input. It had been concluded that when calculating the target the following had to be taken into account: the size of the youth population at country level, the different age groups, and gender parity. It had also been agreed that targets should be considered as a minimum, not as a ceiling.

In the light of the foregoing, the following targets were proposed:

- parliamentarians aged 20–29 years: 15 per cent;
- parliamentarians aged 20–39 years: 35 per cent; and
- parliamentarians aged 20–45 years: 45 per cent.

The targets reflected the proportion of people in the three age brackets as a percentage of the population, calculated according to global averages. Currently, only 1.9 per cent of parliamentarians fell within the first age bracket. The proportions would be split equally between male and female parliamentarians. The timeframe for meeting the targets would be set at 2035. The Forum's views were sought on the feasibility of those targets.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden), *Panellist*, responding to questions on why the target was so important and what strategies from the women's movement could be used to achieve it, said that 30 years previously, the global target for women's representation in parliament had been set at 30 per cent. So far, as a global average, 23.4 per cent women's representation had been achieved. Given that the target had been aspirational, it should perhaps have been more ambitious: a 50 per cent target for women's participation would have better reflected the proportion of women in society. Young people were skilled, with considerable knowledge and capacity to contribute to the decision-making process, and should therefore be proportionally represented in politics. In Sweden, 25 per cent of parliamentarians were under 35 years of age, yet proportionally Sweden had an ageing population, and it could be argued that people over 65 were underrepresented in parliament. Setting targets for three age groups and in a demographically proportionate manner, although more complex than simply setting one quota and one age cap, was a more appropriate approach and more representative of society as a whole.

Mr. D. JOSHI (Singapore Management University), *Panellist*, said that modern parliaments were based on a system of quotas, usually geographic quotas. The concept of quotas challenged older models of representation, which had been based on elitist criteria. All age groups in the population were significant in society, and should be included in parliament to be adequately represented and have their voice heard. The number of young parliamentarians should be increased for several reasons: as a matter of justice, after years of exclusion; to bring a younger perspective to parliament; to ensure representation of young people's interests; to contribute different skills and expertise than those found among other members of the population; and to enrich democracy. In many countries, people under the age of 45 represented the majority of the adult population, which meant that if only 15 per cent of members of parliament belonged to that age group there was a serious crisis of underrepresentation. The higher the number of young parliamentarians, the better the representation of the diversity of society. Young people had diverging views and perspectives, which should all be included. Young people tended to be alienated from formal politics in many countries; the only solution to that would be to include them in decision-making, otherwise they might turn to alternative ways to be heard, which could disrupt society and formal institutions.

Ms. J. BELSCHNER (University of Bergen), *Panellist*, responding to a question on whether a youth participation quota might overshadow quotas for women's participation, said that political parties had a tendency to adapt to youth quotas in such a way as to ensure that they did as much as necessary, while doing as little as possible, selecting men as close to the upper end of the age bracket as possible for political office. Young women could therefore often face a double disadvantage. Discrimination against them was not always direct; young women tended to have more care responsibilities than their male counterparts. If youth targets were set at under 40 years of age with no gender provision, the quota would likely be met predominantly by 39-year old males. The parity provision and nesting of the quotas by age tranche were therefore useful approaches.

### Interactive dialogue

Mr. T.J.P. TAPSOBA (Burkina Faso) said that electoral law in Burkina Faso stipulated a requirement for electoral lists to comprise 30 per cent of women, and 30 per cent of young people. The law did not, however, explicitly state where those people should be placed on lists of candidates. Targets must therefore be more specific. He hoped that the IPU would produce good recommendations in that regard, which he could forward to the President of the National Assembly, who was under 50 years old and was open to change.

Mr. J. SCHMALE (Canada) said that Canada's system of single member, single constituency, first past the post, would make applying the targets as presented very difficult. He asked whether consideration had also been given to term limits and matters of succession planning, in particular encouraging older politicians to give way to the younger generation. In Canada, young people had been engaged in recent elections through awareness-raising and social media campaigns, which had resulted in 60 per cent turnout in voters aged 18 to 24 years.

Mr. G. KHATIDZE (Georgia) said that young people constituted a large proportion of the global population; their engagement must therefore be guaranteed. More than 50 per cent of Georgia's parliamentarians were young people, including the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and various committee chairs. The younger generation was also well represented at the ministerial level, including the Prime Minister. Georgia had offered to host the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in 2020. Given the success of quotas on women's representation in parliament, he was confident that application of the youth quotas, as presented, would be effective.

Mr. S.H. PATWARY (Bangladesh) said that quotas were temporary and transitional measures; supportive interventions were necessary. Young people were underrepresented in parliament in Bangladesh. Women's quotas had been applied, without great success. While it was important to set targets, other interventions were needed to increase young people's engagement in the political system.

Mr. S. SOK (Cambodia) said that seven per cent of Cambodian parliamentarians were under the age of 40, which represented a three-fold increase since the previous elections. He wished to know whether a correlation had been found between the level of economic development in a country and the representation of young people in parliament.

Ms. R.B. ITAMARI CHOQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that in 2008, a constitutional amendment had been approved in Bolivia to guarantee the right of young people to participate in politics and be elected to the Executive. Progress was being made with regard to the inclusion of women, who presently accounted for 50 per cent of the membership of the Legislative Assembly. She wished to know whether the consultations had shown any trends in the attitudes of young parliamentarians and their feelings on whether progress was being made, and whether the application of quotas would be a positive measure.

Mr. A. BAKR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian Arab Republic had a longstanding history of democracy. Any citizen aged 25 years had the right to stand for election. Youth were represented in all aspects of government. During the terrorist war that had been waged against Syria, young parliamentarians had played a crucial social role, launching reconciliation processes and peace-building interventions. Before the war had taken hold, a youth parliament had been in place, to educate young people on parliamentary processes and practices. Parliaments must ensure that sufficient space was allocated to young people to enable them to fulfil their role in society.

Ms. M.L. KROOK (Rutgers University), *Panellist*, said that the aim of the discussion was to establish a target for young people's representation in parliament. Setting quotas might be one way of attaining those targets. In the case of women's representation, in countries where quotas had been set, swifter and more significant improvements had been made than in those without quotas. That notwithstanding, not all quotas worked equally effectively in different electoral systems. Other potential solutions for meeting the targets, including political financing, measures to encourage young people to participate, encouraging party leaders to promote youth representation, changing parliamentary working hours, and encouraging youth participation in local politics, would also be presented in the forthcoming report on the matter.

Mr. D. JOSHI (Singapore Management University), *Panellist*, thanked the participants for their contributions and welcomed in particular the comment regarding the importance of the position, rather than just the number, of young people on party lists. Different electoral systems posed different challenges with regard to the application of quotas and attainment of targets. Systems of proportional representation tended to be more conducive to youth participation. Term limits would promote turnover of personnel, but would not necessarily promote younger personnel. It was indeed an ideal that quotas would be temporary. Regarding the correlation between levels of economic development and youth representation in parliament, while some research had shown that countries with lower GDP tended to have older members of parliament, the parliaments with the largest proportion of young parliamentarians were in developing and post-colonial countries. When parliaments had initially been formed in Yemen and Papua New Guinea upon gaining independence, 70 per cent of parliamentarians had been under the age of 40. Similarly, in Nepal in 1990, 60 per cent of parliamentarians had been under the age of 40.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia), *Panellist*, said that targets were set to avert discrimination and ensure that vulnerable or underrepresented groups were heard. Targets aimed to increase inclusivity. Older people should be called on to share and impart their experience and cultivate youth participation, helping young people to gain the experience they required. Young people were the trustees of posterity. It was therefore not simply a matter of young people replacing their older counterparts, but rather of a joint effort to be made by all age groups to ensure inclusivity, also taking account of gender.

Ms. J. BELSCHNER (University of Bergen), *Panellist*, responding to the question raised by the representative of Bolivia, said that the impression gained from the consultations had been that not all young people had thought that quotas were the optimal way forward, but that setting targets would, however, be a very important signal for all parliaments and all young parliamentarians.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname), *Moderator*, thanked all those who had participated and asked whether the Forum wished to adopt the proposed quotas.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Interactive discussion: *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

The PRESIDENT said that young parliamentarians were familiar with technological developments and as such were well placed to modernize parliaments. She introduced guest speaker Mr. P. Lomas, founder of Raspberry Pi, a very low-cost computer that had been developed in the United Kingdom which could be used to learn programming, and who had broken the boundaries of access to computing.

Mr. P. LOMAS (Director of Engineering, Raspberry Pi), *guest speaker*, said he believed that technology was of the greatest value when it could be deployed as widely as possible around the world. In a world where technology knew no borders, communities must be empowered to harness technology for their local benefit. Education was critical, to engage and empower young people to harness exciting technological opportunities. Despite the exponential increase in new technologies over the past 10 years, there had been a decline in the uptake of science, engineering and mathematics as fields of study. Children were becoming consumers of technology, rather than creators.

The mission statement of the Raspberry Pi foundation was to put the power of digitalization into the hands of people all over the world. The formal education system in the United Kingdom could not keep pace with the development of new technological employment opportunities, and skill shortages among teachers persisted. The employment landscape was changing rapidly. Collaborative projects based on mutual learning would be the key component of the new curriculum. Young people must be inquisitive, agile, engaged and resilient, to allow them to move between job opportunities. Analytical problem solving needed greater prominence. Raspberry Pi had several outreach schemes in that regard.

The enabling technology of the world wide web had allowed young people around the world to access Raspberry Pi's digital resources. The low-cost nature of Raspberry Pi put it within reach of even the most modest budgets. The minimal power requirement made it easy to deploy in off-grid locations where solar could be the only power possibility. Regular opportunities were provided for young people to showcase their innovations, which improved their presentation and communication

skills and developed collaboration. Some of the Raspberry Pi student achievements had visible potential and had the makings of viable products. Many of the students were not just programming games, but creating programmes that would have a positive societal impact. Raspberry Pi had ambitions to become global, and was supported by a vast network of volunteers. Its resources had already been translated into 26 languages and a further 24 were in the pipeline. While initially used as an educational tool, Raspberry Pi could have a major impact on local communities.

A recorded message from Ms. M. NURZHAN (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament—PNND) was shown, in which she said that her organization had cooperated with the IPU to produce a handbook for parliamentarians on nuclear disarmament, and had co-hosted events on children's rights, violence against women and nuclear disarmament. PNND was working with parliaments to promote renewable energy and act on climate change. Information and communication technologies played a crucial role in parliamentarians' communication with their constituencies and strengthened the links between members of parliament and the public.

Parliamentarians lobbying for nuclear disarmament used ICTs to disseminate legislation, policy developments and decisions taken at the global level, such as by the United Nations Security Council resolutions, or the International Court of Justice. New technologies provided a common platform for connections between the public, parliamentarians, civil society groups and global partners. Cooperation was essential for peace and development; technology could play an important role in keeping the lines of communication open. Education must also be provided to the public, not only through the dissemination of information, but also through transferring the skills necessary to assess and analyze that information. While social media and communications technologies were an effective means of communicating with the younger generation and encouraging youth participation in public life, it was important to remember that the older generation could benefit from learning computer literacy skills, which would allow them to feel included in society.

Mr. A. BAKR (Syrian Arab Republic) asked what could be done to invest in technological methods to fight against terrorism.

Mr. S.H. PATWARY (Bangladesh) said that cross-border cooperation regarding intellectual property rights was essential where technology transfers were concerned. Mobile technology should be introduced in schools, along with efforts to ensure that teachers were technology savvy.

### **Update and discussion on the Forum's work plan and activities (2018-2019)**

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM recalled that at the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, a requirement had been set for the inclusion of at least one young parliamentarian in every delegation to future assemblies. Implementation of that requirement had begun and as a result, 20 per cent of delegates to the present Assembly were young parliamentarians. The Forum had a mandate to monitor and promote compliance with the requirement.

Over recent months, the IPU had been preparing a report on youth participation in national parliaments, which would be launched before the end of the year, and which included fresh data and analysis. The IPU had also been requested to prepare a campaign on youth participation in parliaments. As soon as decisions had been made on how to proceed with setting the targets for youth participation, the campaign would be launched and members of the Forum would be required to promote it at the national, regional and international levels.

On international youth day, the IPU had organized a Twitter chat with the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics), a very active network with an informative website available in four languages.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Forum that the next IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians would be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in December 2018.

Mr. K. BAYRAMOV (Azerbaijan) expressed his delegation's readiness to host the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. Young people were a crucial sector of society in Azerbaijan, accounting for over 65 per cent of the total population.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that invitations would be sent, either to Speakers of parliament or heads of delegations to IPU assemblies, requesting that they field a young, gender-balanced delegation to the Global Conference.

**Preparations for the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly (April 2019)**

The PRESIDENT said that two rapporteurs must be appointed to prepare youth overview reports on the subjects of the resolutions for consideration by the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security and on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. The Bureau of the Forum had recommended that Mr. O. Altabtabaee (Kuwait) should be the youth rapporteur for the former, and Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia) should serve as youth rapporteur for the latter.

*It was so agreed.*

**Any other business**

Mr. Y. MPAWENI (Malawi) expressed disappointment that there was not sufficient attendance throughout the Forum's meeting. He cautioned that with so few participants at the end of the meeting, the Forum would not make progress and would not be taken seriously.

The PRESIDENT agreed that poor attendance was disappointing. Many delegates had left during the course of the discussions, which rendered the work of the Forum very difficult. She called on those still present to encourage their colleagues to participate in the Forum's work. The young parliamentarians of the IPU were the future leaders of the world. Responsibility therefore began with them.

*The sitting rose at 6.15 p.m.*



## Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.35 a.m. with Ms. S. Tadjbakhsh, Deputy Director, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in the Chair.*

### Ending Statelessness by 2024 – Pledges, Action and Results

The CHAIR said that, under customary international law, stateless individuals were those who were not nationals of any State. UNHCR had a mandate to work on statelessness. Its mandate was to identify and protect stateless persons but also to support States in preventing and reducing the numbers of stateless persons worldwide. Statelessness was a significant problem which deprived the individuals concerned of a wide range of rights. However, unlike the situation of refugees or internally displaced people, statelessness was not difficult to solve and often required simple adjustments in law and practice.

In 2014, UNHCR had launched an ambitious campaign called "I Belong" which aimed to end statelessness by 2024. Since its launch, the campaign had already achieved many successes. For instance, 20 countries had acceded to the statelessness conventions, the most recent of which was Spain. A total of 13 countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had started developing national action plans to end statelessness. A total of six countries had reformed their nationality laws to allow stateless children born on their territory to acquire nationality. There had also been improvements in statelessness determination procedures which enabled States to better identify stateless people on their territory. Madagascar and Sierra Leone had amended their nationality laws to allow mothers to confer nationality to their children on an equal basis as their fathers. Similarly, a number of formally stateless people had recently been granted nationality in Central Asia, Thailand, Malaysia and Kenya. Despite the abovementioned progress, a great deal remained to be done. Indeed, large populations of stateless people still existed worldwide. There were also 25 States in the world which still did not allow mothers to confer nationality to their children on an equal basis as their fathers.

It was important to organize events that galvanized efforts for the "I Belong" campaign. UNHCR would be holding a High Level Event on Statelessness in October 2019. The event aimed to showcase noteworthy advances made towards ending statelessness as well as to provide an opportunity for States to make further pledges. There was still time for States to implement commitments prior to the event. The role of parliamentarians was crucial in that regard. UNHCR and the IPU would be launching a handbook entitled *Good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness*. The handbook would address broad thematic issues related to statelessness and present model laws. She encouraged parliamentarians to apply the handbook at home. She introduced the panel.

Ms. B. NASARRE (Spain), *Panellist*, said that the problem of statelessness was invisible, yet was affecting millions of people worldwide, particularly vulnerable individuals, such as children. Stateless people did not have a nationality and therefore did not enjoy fundamental rights, such as the right to education or healthcare. The problem was putting the safety of children at risk. It was essential to put an end to statelessness. As such, Spain had been actively involved in the Global Compact on Refugees. In September 2018, it had also ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, although its national legislation had been aligned with the Convention for many years. She encouraged other countries to do the same. By ratifying the Convention, countries would not only be making a stand against statelessness but also protecting vulnerable groups and advancing human rights. Parliamentarians must raise awareness in their home countries and come up with solutions.

Ms. A. ZANI (Kenya), *Panellist*, said that Kenya had taken a number of measures to address statelessness. Under the Kenyan Constitution of 2010, it was not possible to lose citizenship through marriage. Similarly, any child who was born in Kenya and was aged eight years or less, would be considered Kenyan unless otherwise proven. The Constitution had also granted women the right to confer nationality to their children, thereby eliminating gender discrimination on the matter. Kenya had ratified a number of charters, joined the "I Belong" campaign and organized an exhibition on

statelessness called "The Struggle to Belong". It had also prepared a paper on the importance of birth registration. In general, Kenya considered statelessness as a human rights problem therefore aimed to be as inclusive as possible on issues of citizenship. It was critical to ensure political, social, cultural and economic inclusivity.

There were a number of specific groups living on Kenyan territory who could be considered as stateless. For example, many women from abroad had lost their nationality after marrying a Kenyan man who had died before the authorities could draw up their new identity papers. There were also several stateless minorities, including the Pemba, the Shona, the Shirazi and the Rundi. One success story, however, was that of the Makonde who used to be stateless but who had later acquired citizenship. Without citizenship, people did not have access to basic rights, such as the right to education, work or healthcare. Statelessness therefore led to enhanced inequalities. It was also important to draw attention to groups, such as the Boni, who were not stateless but who were nevertheless marginalized.

Countries must ensure that their policies and legislation were geared towards identifying stateless people, preventing statelessness as a whole and protecting those who had no possibility of becoming citizens. Many countries had effective legal instruments in place but did not have helpful procedures.

Ms. N. HAIDAR (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women—CEDAW), *Panellist*, said that the CEDAW Committee had been working for many years on the issue of nationality. One of the main articles of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was Article 9 which referred to the right of women to acquire, change and retain nationality as well as to transfer it to their children. There were still 25 countries worldwide which had not legislated in that direction. The Committee had made a number of recommendations to Member States. General recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women had emphasized the need to end statelessness within one decade, particularly by addressing the gender-related dimension of the matter. UNHCR had later brought the recommendation to life through the "I Belong" campaign. Nationality was important because it gave citizens the right to have other rights, such as the right to healthcare or work. Nationality made people visible where they would otherwise be invisible. The Committee focused on women and girls because they were the most vulnerable to statelessness. However, statelessness was a much larger issue that extended beyond gender alone.

In the Middle East, stateless populations were known as the Bidoon. The Committee had been in constant dialogue with them to ensure that they and their children were documented. However, the situation had been exacerbated by conflict. In Lebanon, many Syrians had been born in refugee settings and thus had not always been registered. Furthermore, Palestinian refugees were in a situation of statelessness not comparable to any other. Not only were they stateless but they also did not have rights in the country where they were being hosted. Similarly, many stateless refugees from Myanmar could not return home since they had been deprived of nationality and could not prove their link to the country. Such cases showed that identity could be used as a dangerous weapon in conflict.

Parliamentarians should take action if their country was among the 25 that did not allow women to confer nationality to their children. Such laws were discriminatory and left women feeling disempowered and helpless. Parliamentarians should also consider the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee as well as the concluding observations of the most recent dialogue that the Committee had had with their respective country. They must then advocate for reform in their home parliaments.

Mr. C. NASH (Director, European Network on Statelessness—ENS), *Panellist*, said that the ENS was an alliance of organizations and individual experts committed to addressing statelessness in Europe. It was common to overlook statelessness in the context of the refugee crisis in Europe. However, many refugee and migrant children were born in exile and had never possessed a nationality. In 2015, the ENS had produced a report titled *No child should be stateless*. The report was based on studies conducted in eight countries and an analysis of the nationality laws of all 47 Member States of the Council of Europe. The ENS had also embarked on the #StatelessKids campaign. The campaign included an online petition signed by 26,000 people which had been handed over to the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2016.

*An animation on the work of the European Network on Statelessness was shown.*

One common reason why children were growing up stateless in Europe, particularly in the migratory context, was that births were not being registered. A survey in Lebanon had found that the births of 50,000 Syrian refugee children had not been registered. Similar obstacles were noted in Turkey, Iraq and Jordan. In other cases, children were born to stateless parents who could not confer a nationality. In 2016 and 2017, 70,000 asylum seekers who had arrived in Europe had registered as either stateless or of unknown nationality.

Under Article 7.1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children were entitled to a nationality and to be registered at birth. Under Article 7.2, States were required to implement those obligations in accordance with their national law. Although setting rules on who acquired nationality remained within the sovereign preserve of States, the 1961 Convention regulated how that should be done to avoid new cases of statelessness. The problem could be easily solved if all states recognized their international commitments, incorporated them into domestic law and applied them in practice.

Europe was performing well in terms of accessions to the key conventions on statelessness. A total of 33 states in Europe, including most recently Spain, were parties to either or both the 1961 Convention and European Convention on Nationality. However, not all States had incorporated their obligations into domestic law; some even violated them. Furthermore, in many European countries, including Germany and Sweden, a child or their parent must have legal residence in the country if they wished to access safeguards on acquiring a nationality. Such a policy conflated immigration policy with children's rights and undermined the best interests of the child. In some cases, such as in Malta, laws were in place that allowed children to naturalize but were not applied in practice.

He wished to make a number of key recommendations. First, it was important that more countries acceded to the statelessness conventions and in turn improved their nationality laws. Second, better practical guidance was necessary so that officials did not overlook safeguards that would allow stateless children to acquire nationality. Third, countries must improve their asylum screening procedures, train officials properly and build capacities. Parliamentarians should exercise oversight in that regard. Fourth, more countries in Europe should adopt statelessness determination procedures. However, the solution to the problem did not lie in Europe alone. Countries outside of Europe should reform their nationality laws and improve procedures to register births. The European Union (EU) should influence those efforts through its external relations policy.

Parliamentarians had a vital role to play not only as legislators but also as catalysts for change, particularly in regional parliamentary bodies, such as the European Parliament and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. As part of the #StatelessKids campaign, the ENS had worked with the European Parliament's intergroup on children's rights. The collaboration had led to a European Parliament resolution on children's rights, which included strong language on preventing childhood statelessness. Although there was a strong nexus between statelessness and children's rights, other nexuses also existed, including on gender, minority rights and anti-discrimination. It was key to tap into those linkages and thus broaden the coalition working on the issue. There was growing momentum with many events and campaigns underway. With the requisite political will, the international community could achieve the objectives of the "I Belong" campaign to end statelessness by 2024.

The CHAIR said that it was important to stress a number of key points. First, statelessness made people invisible. Without nationality, people did not have rights and were thus dehumanized. Addressing statelessness was also about addressing inequalities. Second, all countries must ratify the existing conventions on statelessness and amend their nationality laws accordingly. States should use General recommendation No. 32 of the CEDAW Committee to guide their work on the matter, as well as the forthcoming handbook of the IPU and UNHCR. Third, it was vital to raise awareness of relevant provisions that were in place as well as to address discriminatory practices that prevented people from accessing them. One solution could be as simple as educating parents about the value of registering their children. Fourth, the measures promoted in the Global Compact on Refugees were important. For instance, it was vital to support States in establishing statelessness determination procedures, whether they were stand-alone or integrated into existing procedures on determining refugee status. The Global Compact also highlighted the importance of birth registration, particularly in conflict situations, with a view to enabling the voluntary return of refugees in safety and in dignity. Parliamentarians should also take note of statelessness as a root cause of displacement and act to prevent it.

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya) asked the panellists to clarify whether the 25 countries that did not allow women to confer nationality to their children were represented at the IPU. If so, the IPU should lobby those parliaments so that they made the necessary changes at home.

Mr. M. EMIR (Turkey) said that terrorist groups had been carrying out proxy wars on Turkey's borders. International humanitarian law (IHL) should be expanded to include such issues. Countries should work to resolve the problem in an effective and results-oriented way. In Turkey, 300,000 children had been born stateless. It was a humanitarian issue that could lead to a lost generation. As a result, Turkey had granted Turkish citizenship to more than 55,000 Syrians.

A delegate from SENEGAL said that her country had recently passed a nationality law that allowed Senegalese women to confer nationality to their husbands and children. Adopted children could also acquire nationality as long as one of their parents was Senegalese. There were two categories of stateless people in Senegal. First, there were parents and children from neighbouring countries who often practiced begging. Second, there were Senegalese people who were stateless in their own country. Some parents passed on their children to religious organizations, such as the Marabout. Those children had identification issues as adults and could not enjoy basic rights, including the right to education or healthcare. The panel should indicate how to respond to the situation in Senegal. Although the country had many organizations working on the rights of women and children, none worked specifically on the issue of statelessness.

Mr. S. AL-KHATHLAN (Saudi Arabia) said that the right to a nationality was the most important right. As a result, there was a significant movement in the Gulf on combating statelessness. Civil society had been particularly helpful in finding legislative and procedural solutions. However, a great deal remained to be done. The problem of statelessness was not only rooted in the fact that 25 countries did not allow women to pass on nationality to their children. There were cases of statelessness in other countries too. Technology was another obstacle to eliminating statelessness since individuals who wished to access government services were often required to have a registration number. The fight against statelessness must take two paths. First, countries must identify stateless people and allow them to enjoy their full rights. Second, they must bring an end to statelessness as a whole. The panellist from Kenya should elaborate on her country's situation and raise awareness of the group of stateless individuals who had eventually obtained rights. The IPU Committee to Promote Respect for IHL had met with the delegation of Myanmar and realized that part of the problem there had to do with challenges in legislation related to conferring nationality. However, in many countries, procedures, such as birth registration, were more problematic than the laws. The panellists should clarify what parliamentarians could do to improve procedures.

A delegate from JORDAN said that the participants had been dealing with the problem from the wrong angle. It was important to separate women from the issue of statelessness as a whole. Unfortunately, Jordan was one of the 25 countries in which women could not confer nationality to their children. However, the Jordanian Parliament had been involved in a project to examine the issue. It had also set a target to give rights to all Jordanian women married to foreigners by 2024 and, to that end, had been providing them with identity cards. The international community must act urgently to prevent the stateless children of today, particularly those fleeing conflicts, from becoming a lost generation without any form of identification documents. Indeed, the generation of stateless Syrian refugees which Jordan had been hosting would be a serious problem in the future. The Jordanian authorities had put in place various campaigns to encourage people to document births and marriages. However, the country had surpassed the limit of its capabilities. The issue went beyond the fact that mothers were not able to pass on nationality to their children in certain countries. Above all, it was vital to promote peace so that people did not flee conflict-ridden countries.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that statelessness was problematic since it deprived people of all fundamental rights. Nationality was a human right as well as a sovereign right of States. Delegates had left out a whole range of issues linked to statelessness. For example, there were cases where individuals could lose their nationality in a legal decision after having committed a crime that had threatened State security, such as terrorism. The panellists should elaborate on how to proceed in such situations.

Ms. M. HAJ HASSAN OSMAN (Sudan) said that Sudan had witnessed many problems linked to nationality after it had been divided into two States. Women had recently won the right to confer nationality to their children. Children who were born outside of marriage had benefitted greatly from that change. However, women were still unable to confer nationality to their husbands. Sudan would continue fighting statelessness.

Mr. C. NASH (Director, ENS), *Panellist*, said that it was encouraging to hear so many constructive voices. Responding to the delegation of Senegal, it was crucial to provide legal assistance to in situ and migratory stateless populations not only in Senegal but worldwide. Legal assistance could include assistance in registering births, acquiring nationality or undergoing statelessness identification procedures. Responding to the delegation of Saudi Arabia, parliamentarians still had a significant role to play in law reform. For example, the Netherlands had put forward a proposal to improve its laws on childhood statelessness which removed a requirement on legal residence. It would be useful if parliamentarians could prevent that requirement from passing. Once a provision was adopted, parliaments should play an oversight role to ensure it was implemented effectively. He commended the work of Jordan. As part of the Global Compact on Refugees and other processes, it was vital to recognize statelessness as a root cause of migration and take steps towards addressing it.

Ms. A. ZANI (Kenya), *Panellist*, said that parliamentarians should identify the causes of statelessness, map them out and, on that basis, plan an intervention either through policy or legislation. The causes of statelessness were many, ranging from a lack of awareness to gender issues to administrative obstacles. Countries should work towards introducing effective identification procedures, preventing statelessness on an individual level and preventing statelessness as a phenomenon. As such, national laws must accept the possibility of statelessness and seek to urgently address it. Her own Government had introduced the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act of 2011 which recognized stateless people. It would also be beneficial to encourage stateless people to assert themselves, for instance, through education or petitions.

Ms. N. HAIDAR (CEDAW), *Panellist*, said that the purpose was not to name and shame the 25 countries that did not allow women to confer nationality to their children. The IPU and UNHCR should work with them instead. However, it was important to name the contexts, such as conflicts, that exacerbated the situation. Although gender inequality issues did not automatically lead to statelessness, there was a clear indication that women were more likely to be stateless. There were also gaps in nationality laws related to gender.

Many countries had been addressing the problem at their own pace. For example, Jordan had awarded rights to stateless children with Jordanian mothers, even though women were not yet able to confer nationality. Taking small steps was the way forward. Given that nationality could raise other delicate issues, it was necessary to establish country specific approaches on which parliamentarians could take the lead. She encouraged parliamentarians to stand against policies that withdrew nationality on grounds of State security. One good practice was that of Morocco which did not allow citizens to lose their nationality under any circumstances.

The CHAIR said that the delegates had made very promising comments. The UNHCR regional office in Senegal would be holding a regional meeting to prepare for the High Level Event on Statelessness. The meeting would bring together countries and partners from the region to discuss good practice and make further pledges. She encouraged the delegate of Senegal to attend. It was important to address terrorism in a way that respected human rights and gave due process to statelessness. The upcoming IPU–UNHCR handbook had a chapter on the loss of nationality which showed that there were very strict legal restrictions on the matter. The Global Compact on Refugees would require parliamentarians to map out the gaps in their country and reach out bilaterally to others for good practices on how to address those gaps. It was paramount to galvanize political will, raise awareness and reform legislation. There was also a need to expand the logistical and material capabilities of States that were struggling with large numbers of birth registrations. The Global Compact would play a valuable role in that regard.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Panel discussion on *The role of Parliaments in combating terrorism and violent extremism*

**SITTING OF TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m. with Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism was central to the IPU's efforts to promote international peace and security: it was the duty of parliamentarians to stem the scourge both nationally and internationally. The IPU had been combating terrorism and violent extremism for many years and had already adopted a number of resolutions. Nevertheless, it was important to clarify the role of parliamentarians in the matter. Parliamentarians should devise policies and laws that addressed the root causes. Terrorism was a manifestation of different societal problems, including disempowerment, unemployment and religious and ethnic intolerance. By addressing those issues, parliamentarians would help to prevent terrorism before it occurred. Prevention was better than reaction. All counter-terrorism laws and policies must also respect human rights. The IPU and the United Nations system had launched a joint programme aimed at identifying actions that would help parliamentarians to tackle terrorism. The IPU had also set up the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism tasked with providing guidance on how to implement counter-terrorism actions. The Group had already made great progress in relation to the joint IPU–UN counter-terrorism project, namely by fine-tuning and approving the work plan of the programme and its budget.

*A video was shown on the role of parliamentarians in countering terrorism and violent extremism.*

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that parliamentarians must put themselves in the shoes of the victims of terrorism. He introduced Ms. Falmata Bunu and Mr. Imrana Buba, both of whom had been victims of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Ms. F. BUNU (International Alert), *panellist*, said that thousands of men, women, boys and girls had been killed or forced to leave their homes in north eastern Nigeria because of Boko Haram. Her life used to be quiet, peaceful and normal. However, one day in 2015, Boko Haram had captured her village and put her in a camp where they married her off to three different members of the group. She had lived in captivity for 15 months. After trying to escape many times, she had finally succeeded when they attempted to send her on a suicide mission. She had eventually been reunited with her family and currently lived in a camp for internally displaced people. However, life at the camp was uncomfortable. She was considered a Boko Haram wife, thus people stigmatized and shunned her. She had started attending support sessions for women and girls who had survived captivity and, with time, had overcome her fears. She currently led her own support group for women and girls in the hope that her story would inspire others. It was vital that parliamentarians did the same and helped the thousands of survivors of terrorism who were also in desperate need of food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, financial assistance and emotional support. She had been a victim, but had become a survivor.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that Ms. Bunu's story was living proof of the havoc terrorism could cause. Thousands of women, men, girls and boys were being uprooted from their societies and subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment. However, Ms. Bunu had shown that victims must not resign themselves to their ordeal. Indeed, she had been working hard to ensure that her story served as an inspiration to others. Parliamentarians should respond to her appeal for education and health care.

Mr. I. BUBA (Founder, Youth Coalition Against Terrorism), *panellist*, said that his own experience with Boko Haram had inspired him to unite young people against terrorism in Nigeria. In June 2010, during his studies at university, Boko Haram had stopped the bus he had been travelling on with a view to kidnapping those on board. Within his immediate circle, two uncles, a neighbour and a friend had also been either killed or kidnapped by the insurgency. Overall, Boko Haram had claimed at least 20,000 lives and displaced more than 2.6 million people. In 2010, he had set up the Youth Coalition Against Terrorism to put an end to the bloodshed. It was a volunteer-based organization with

a membership of over 600 young people. The Coalition offered counselling services and peace education to victims of terrorism as well as skills training to unemployed young people. Skills training was a particularly relevant area of consideration for the present panel discussion.

In Nigeria, two thirds of the population was under 30, while 60 per cent of the youth population was unemployed. Young people were facing some serious challenges, including limited job opportunities, especially in the public sector, an unfavourable business environment as a result of few incentives, and a lack of much-needed infrastructure. Such difficulties posed a real danger since youth unemployment made young people more susceptible to radicalization. Many young people were so frustrated with their inability to earn a living that they were willing to join a terrorist group. It was for that reason that, in addition to peace education, the Coalition provided skills training to young people and linked them to job vacancies. Over the previous six years, the Coalition had engaged approximately 2,000 young people through peace education and skills training. Most of those who had benefited from the training were currently running businesses. In general, young people did not want to be manipulated by extremist ideologues. They wanted to work and succeed, but did not always have the right opportunities or support. He urged parliamentarians to empower young people so that they could reach their full potential. In doing so, they would create a more peaceful world.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that it was heartening to see young people at the forefront of the global battle against terrorism. The fight however must involve the whole of society and not just segments of it. The joint IPU–UN programme sought to address precisely what Mr. Buba had expressed, namely, the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism, including frustration and the lack of opportunities for young people. He urged parliamentarians to respond to Mr. Buba's plea and provide young people with the support they needed. The IPU Secretariat would follow up on any recommendations made during the present discussion.

*Mr. M. Miedico, Chief a.i Terrorism Prevention Branch (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), took the Chair.*

Mr. T. DURAI (India) said that parliaments must take counter-terrorism seriously. It was essential to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism was a criminal activity that undermined international peace and security. It was not justified on any grounds, be they political, religious, ethical or social. Terrorism damaged the global economy and impaired sustainable development. It should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It posed a challenge for the whole of humanity and all established institutions.

India recommended taking a comprehensive approach to terrorism. In particular, there was a need to look at why people were turning to extremism and who was supporting them. Actions should focus in particular on countering recruitment and radicalization, destabilizing terrorist movements, stopping all sources of financing for terrorism, stemming flows of foreign terrorist fighters, and countering terrorist propaganda. Nations must prosecute all individuals listed globally as terrorists. It was also important to help misguided young people who were susceptible to terrorism. In general, counter-terrorism required strong collective action from the global community.

Terrorism was not only an internal problem but an international one. India had therefore been playing a leading role in combating terrorism both nationally and internationally.

Mr. N. JUDEH (Jordan) said that terrorism was terrorism regardless of the different faces it assumed. The international community should address the problem in three ways. First, military action was required to quash the immediate danger. Second, conflict resolution should be sought since conflicts were breeding grounds for terrorist ideologies. Third, countries must address economic and social deprivation which made people susceptible to manipulation from terrorists. The problem must be addressed collectively with the involvement of all parts of society, including parliaments and young people.

A delegate from TURKEY said that terrorist groups were growing rapidly thanks to their ever-expanding ability to disseminate narratives that lured in disillusioned young persons. It was a global threat that the international community must tackle through action, not rhetoric. Some of the terrorist groups operating in Turkey included the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the People's Protection Units and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). They were operating across borders, running camps and acquiring financial resources. Some operated media outlets which disseminated propaganda and glorified coarse acts. Turkey was combating terrorism on multiple fronts. It was an active member of the Global Coalition against Daesh and co-chaired the Counter Daesh/ISIL Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. The country's overall counter ISIL strategy focused on ending the group's access to the international financial system and preventing imminent terrorist attacks. Turkey had conducted hundreds of operations against ISIL, included tens of thousands of individuals on its no entry list, and

had deported or detained many foreign nationals suspected of terrorism. It was not possible to defeat terrorism in the absence of international solidarity and cooperation. Every country must fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Eradication of terrorism was a long-term goal that required flexible strategies.

A delegate from BAHRAIN said that parliaments had a vital role to play in countering terrorism and violent extremism. There was a close link between terrorism and foreign intervention. Some States were interfering in the private affairs of other States to further their own interests, including by providing certain groups with funding. In doing so, they were causing instability and fostering extremism. For instance, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards had been supporting ISIL and Hezbollah. Foreign interference had also destabilized Bahrain. Bahrain had taken a number of measures to tackle terrorism. For example, it had imposed strict jail sentences on those involved in terrorist acts, such as manufacturing explosives or fighting abroad in matters unrelated to Bahrain. Law enforcement officials also had the authority to seize vehicles and interrupt transport networks. It was crucial to address the socioeconomic needs of young people so that they were not attracted to terrorism. If countries successfully prevented extremism, they would avoid the need for counter-terrorism activities.

The CHAIR said that the joint IPU–UN programme put prevention at its core but also sought to give parliamentarians a greater voice on the matter. The next two panellists would therefore be parliamentarians. Mr. O. El Azhary was one of the most recognized religious leaders in the world as well as being a member of the Egyptian Parliament. His highly esteemed work had focused on preventing terrorism through tolerance and interreligious dialogue. Mr. A. Avsan was heavily involved in the IPU, including as a member of High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. He had also worked as a law enforcement officer and a judge before spending three terms in the Swedish Parliament. The next part of the discussion would address how parliaments could prevent terrorism through education, tolerance and dialogue and through the adoption of criminal justice approaches.

Mr. O. EL AZHARY (Egypt), *panellist*, said he admired the young people on the panel for turning their pain into success. The international community must come together to ensure that no other human being suffered similar atrocities. It was possible to take a security-centred approach to terrorism, which could include such actions as stemming the flow of financing and arms. While security-centred actions would confront the problem on the ground, they would not eradicate the dangerous beliefs upon which terrorism was based. A preventative approach was also needed to immunize minds against extremist ideologies.

Terrorist ideologies were promoted in hundreds of books and publications readily accessible on the Internet and social media pages. As such, extremists were hijacking minds and transforming them into tools of terror and violence. Many terrorist groups exploited religious and philosophical misconceptions to undermine the value of human beings. For example, they used the clash of civilizations to claim that some groups of human beings were meant to destroy each other. The international community should confront such misconceptions through educational programmes which taught people to honour each other and their basic human rights. There were many peaceful religions and philosophies which taught human beings to be fair.

The IPU should adopt a resolution aimed at constructing a culture of understanding among all peoples. In addition to eradicating poverty, fostering good health and promoting education under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, parliaments should reject all forms of terrorism. They must say no to killing in the name of any ideology, no to tyranny, no to hatred, no to terrorizing human beings and no to the destruction of nations. It was also vital to ensure that extremists did not transform religion into a source of terror when it was, in fact, a source of peace and security.

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), *panellist*, said that terrorism was a global problem for which every State was responsible. However, it was important to involve all segments of society and not just national security services in the solution. Over the years, terrorism had been increasing in intensity and volume. Understanding the underlying causes of terrorism was key to establishing effective counter-terrorism strategies. It was only through international cooperation that countries could effectively combat terrorism. All policies must respect human rights and the rule of law.

All the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were equal in the sense that no goal took precedence over another. However, some goals, such as Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, were of particular importance. After all, it was difficult to address many of the other SDGs before eradicating terrorism, establishing democracy and setting up well-functioning institutions.

It was essential to devise a plan on foreign terrorist fighters. Foreign terrorist fighters were not only a long-term global threat when in battle but also when they returned home or to third countries. Although many returnees abandoned their violent ideas and reintegrated back into their home



communities, others continued to pursue terrorism both in the short and long term. Preventative work was thus particularly vital in that regard. It was counterproductive to implement actions that affected the general public. Indeed, the public tended to lose confidence in counter-terrorism actions that adversely affected them. Countries must improve their strategy to combat online terrorist propaganda, for instance, by spreading effective counter narratives on social media. There was also an urgent need to promote intelligence sharing across countries. That was because, in many cases, the problems of one country could be partly solved in another, as was the case with foreign terrorist fighters

The IPU, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and UNODC must collaborate to build the capacities of countries with inadequate legal systems. They must make sure that countries incorporated United Nations Security Council resolutions into national legislation and established an adequate informing-sharing system. Furthermore, it was of utmost importance that countries were in a position to secure evidence of terrorist activities or war crimes. Without evidence, perpetrators could not face trial. Iraq was one example of a country whose legal system required improvement. The IPU, in cooperation with the United Nations, should also provide development assistance to those in need.

The CHAIR said that, under the joint programme, the United Nations could offer assistance to governments and parliaments on preventing extremism, including assistance related to legislation, oversight or education. The next set of speakers were therefore from the United Nations system. Ms. S. Alirzayeva worked at UNOCT, Mr. A. Avanessov was the highest authority on the prevention of violent extremism at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Mr. B. Tukhtabayev was a senior representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Geneva.

Ms. S. ALIRZAYEVA (Chief of Office of the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT), *panellist*, said that UNOCT had been established in June 2017. Terrorism and violent extremism posed an acute threat around the world. That threat had been compounded by the return and redistribution of foreign terrorist fighters after the collapse of ISIL in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Multilateral cooperation was vital to address the transnational nature of terrorist groups. Her organization had therefore made it a core priority to build effective partnerships at the global, regional and national levels. Among the measures taken in that regard included plans to establish a new unit that would coordinate with civil society. It had also developed a United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact involving more than 36 United Nations entities as well as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. The Compact would enhance collaboration within and beyond the United Nations system, for example, by encouraging stakeholders to mobilize resources collectively and implement joint projects to avoid duplication. Furthermore, the Office had signed many memorandums of understanding with various partners. To be effective, a whole-of-government approach to preventing violent extremism must be taken. Such efforts must fully include women and young people, and draw on contributions from non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and local communities. There was also a need to counter terrorist narratives.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a dynamic document that was reviewed every two years. Although Saudi Arabia was the main donor, other Member States also provided contributions. United Nations efforts to prevent violent extremism were demand-driven which meant that they required national ownership. Approximately 274 projects were currently being implemented by 17 United Nations entities in 84 countries across all priority areas of the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Parliaments played a critical role in translating international counter-terrorism commitments into national laws and overseeing implementation. The IPU had raised awareness among parliamentarians on counter-terrorism initiatives and instruments. It had also encouraged an exchange of best practices and provided technical assistance to parliaments. She welcomed the IPU initiative to organize regional meetings, in conjunction with UNDP, on the role of young parliamentarians in preventing violent extremism. She also welcomed the joint IPU–UN programme designed to strengthen the role of parliaments in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Her organization would be happy to work with the IPU and national parliaments on all areas of shared concern.

Mr. A. AVANESSOV (Special Advisor on Prevention of Violent Extremism, UNDP), *panellist*, said that UNDP enjoyed close relations with the IPU, particularly after the two organizations had signed a memorandum of understanding the previous year. Indeed, many UNDP projects required the approval of parliaments before they could go ahead. In recent years, there had been an increase in demand for assistance to countries on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Terrorism had caused a great deal of economic damage with losses amounting to USD 14 trillion or 12 per cent of global GDP. It therefore had a big impact on development. However, terrorism and

violent extremism were also a result of a lack of development. It was for that reason that the international community must come together to implement the SDGs. Goal 16 was particularly significant since there was a clear link between terrorism and bad governance. People that joined terrorists groups had usually suffered social injustice, thus were mistrustful of the State. It was important to balance preventive work on sustainable development with security-centred actions.

Thanks to the strong leadership of UNOCT, the ability of United Nations agencies to work together on counter-terrorism activities had improved dramatically in the previous two years. In addition to the Compact and the memorandums of understanding, numerous United Nations entities had conducted work on the ground. For instance, they had supported many countries in developing and implementing national action plans. Parliamentarians however were responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of those national action plans. Although it was normal that many national action plans focused on security, a more balanced approach was needed that also incorporated socioeconomic aspects. Furthermore, many national action plans failed to include the concerns of women and young people. It was particularly important to engage young persons since they often served as agents for change. Parliamentarians must localize all actions, taking into account country specificities. They should also tackle stigmatization.

Mr. B. TUKHTABAYEV (Senior Liaison Officer, UNESCO), *panellist*, said that terrorism and violent extremism were transnational challenges. They could not be defeated by one single government or organization but required concerted multilateral action at the global, national and regional levels. The mission of UNESCO was to build the defences of peace in the minds of men and women through education, culture and sciences. It was through that mission that UNESCO had been addressing terrorism and violent extremism. It was not enough to counter terrorism. Prevention efforts were also needed to address the root causes. UNESCO was undertaking several actions to that end, including by promoting quality education and developing media skills, with the aim of preventing online youth radicalization. It was similarly empowering young people to participate in society, and was harnessing the power of culture and diversity to build dialogue, respect and mutual understanding. Although education alone could not eradicate violent extremism, it could contribute significantly to its prevention. Combating terrorism and violent extremism through education was fully in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4.7.

UNESCO had introduced a flagship “Global Citizenship Education” programme to contribute to the building of peaceful and tolerant societies, which aimed to support the development of young people’s critical thinking skills and promote their participate in local and global challenges. Global citizenship education was not about citizenship in the legal sense but about new forms of cultural literacy that promoted respect for human dignity. UNESCO had also been developing tools and guidelines that would help teachers to manage cultural sensitivities in the classroom. It was involved in global advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the role of education in the prevention of violent extremism, and had made efforts to support stakeholders from the education sector in revising curricula and national education policy.

It was necessary to mobilize a broad range of allies in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Parliamentarians could play a valuable role in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding.

Ms. A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), speaking in her capacity as Chair of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, said that it would be beneficial to organize more panel discussions on countering terrorism and violent extremism at future IPU assemblies. She invited her colleague to speak.

Another delegate from the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES said that it was crucial to work together on terrorism and violent extremism. While the United Nations should work towards eradicating poverty, UNESCO should work towards promoting education. Taking that approach, the international community could overcome terrorism. In particular, UNESCO should adapt educational curricula and address the cultural impacts of radical ideologies. Young people were being radicalized through social media. Parliamentarians must therefore combat cyberterrorism, including by passing relevant legislation. The United Arab Emirates had established the Sawab Centre which sought to combat the narratives spread by terrorists. It was a model that other countries should follow. Parliamentarians must share knowledge and best practices in a systematic way. The IPU should work in parallel with the United Nations to tackle the issue, including by devising a plan to overcome poverty and taking steps to achieve those SDGs that aimed at combating terrorism.

Ms. A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), speaking in her capacity as Chair of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, said that the international community must create more spaces for victims of terrorism around the world to tell their stories. The more stories

that were told, the more momentum would be created. As representatives of the people, it was particularly important for parliamentarians to hear the voices of victims. The High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism would offer technical support to parliamentarians. It would also provide a platform for parliamentarians to discuss issues of common interest and come up with recommendations. The Group had recently launched its first action plan. She welcomed the partnership between the United Nations and the IPU and urged parliamentarians to take action. Nobody was immune to terrorism: it respected neither borders nor religion.

Mr. A. NAJAFI KHOSHRANDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he rejected the comments made by the delegate of Bahrain since they undermined peace and security. Iran had played an active role in combating terrorism. Without the support of Iran, ISIL could have conquered many parts of the Middle East.

It was important to follow legal procedures and norms on confronting terrorism and violent extremism. The international community must condemn all attempts to provide support to terrorist groups. Countries must encourage youth to participate in the political process. In doing so, they would give them hope and thus direct them away from terrorism. The IPU should establish a foundation that promoted dialogue among young people and provided them with the appropriate facilities they needed in that regard. Iran had set up the Ministry of Sport and Youth and was working on setting up a youth parliament.

Iran had recently fallen victim to two terrorist attacks in which many people had been killed or injured. He called on parliamentarians, particularly those from the European Parliament, to recognize the People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran as a terrorist group. Iran had used both diplomatic and military means to combat terrorism. For instance, it was behind the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on a World Against Violence and Violent Extremism (WAVE). It had also been coordinating with the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation and Iraq from a military perspective.

A delegate from QATAR said that social justice was key in the fight against terrorism. It was paramount to promote international cooperation at all levels, between all organizations and among all countries. Parliamentarians must start by addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as corruption, poverty and a lack of education. Education was the most powerful weapon in the fight against terrorism. Parliamentarians should also counter the financing of terrorism. All actions must respect human rights. Qatar had set up various parliamentary committees and signed many agreements and conventions with a view to combating terrorism. It remained vital to mobilize all parliamentary resources and capabilities to address the phenomenon both regionally and internationally.

Ms. I.R. MEDINA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that Venezuela had historically been a country of peace, but had recently experienced some instances of extreme violence. Several parliamentarians from the National Assembly had launched a series of attacks on the country in February 2014 and February 2017. Similarly, the President of Venezuela and several government representatives had been victims of a drone attack instigated in August 2018 by two parliamentarians with links to the United States of America. The latter attack was an attempted assassination. It was therefore clear that socioeconomic factors, such as poverty and education, were not the only causes of terrorism. In the case of Venezuela, geopolitical interests were also at play. It was paramount to include such attacks in studies related to terrorism. The international community, including governments and the media, must condemn the attacks. Guaranteeing democracy was key to preventing terrorism. Indeed, the President of Venezuela himself was deeply devoted to democracy. Instead of suspending guarantees during the violence, as the Venezuelan Constitution would have permitted, he had preferred to expand national dialogue by convening a national constituent assembly. His actions had helped to diffuse the violence. Furthermore, it was important to prevent the media from spreading fake news and to hold the United States to account. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the United States had a responsibility to maintain peace and security and adhere to international law. Instead, it was inciting violence all over the world.

Ms. W. MUHIA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that no country could isolate itself from terrorism. It was not necessary to spend time and resources researching the root causes of terrorism since it was evident that poverty was the root cause. All stakeholders must work together towards poverty eradication. Young people with access to suitable employment, medical services, shelter, education and food would not be attracted by terrorist groups. They were choosing terrorism because it promised them a better life, while governments did not.

*The sitting rose at 1.35 p.m.*

## Panel discussion on *Building bridges between the parliamentary and scientific communities*

**SITTING OF TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy), Member of Parliament, in the Chair.*

The CHAIR said that it was important to bring science and politics together at a time of continuous scientific and technological progress. While scientists could provide data on how the world worked, politicians could use that data to find urgent solutions to global problems. However, government policies should be based not only on science but also on ethical values. Indeed, science could serve both the good and the bad depending on how it was applied. Although countries could not foresee future scientific discoveries, they could identify mega trends related to science and technology that affected sustainable development in the long-term. For example, science and technology would change the competitive landscape of many companies. They could also help to tackle problems associated with climate change, aging populations and pensions. He welcomed the cooperation agreement between the IPU and CERN. The two organizations would soon launch the first session of the Science for Peace Schools that would focus on renewable energy. The aim of the schools was to enhance cross-border cooperation on local scientific projects, particularly in regions where tensions were high. It was also important to set up parliamentary networks to work together with the scientific community. As such, parliamentarians would have access to the rapidly evolving world of science, and scientists would gain insight into politics. He introduced the panel.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians, as policy makers, must stay abreast of scientific developments. However, science was developing so rapidly that it was not always easy to keep track. The IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, of which she was the President, had been addressing ways in which scientific knowledge could be used to promote peace. One way was through the Science for Peace Schools programme that the IPU would set up in conjunction with CERN. The schools aimed to encourage parliaments, particularly those located in areas of political tension, to work together on science-driven projects which could improve the lives of ordinary citizens, such as mothers.

Canada had pursued several initiatives to promote gender equality in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). For example, it had launched the *Choose Science* campaign to encourage more girls to take up STEM subjects. There was also a programme called *CanCode* which taught coding and other digital skills to children from kindergarten age to grade 12, particularly girls. The Government had launched the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan which sought to support underrepresented groups, such as women, indigenous people, people with disabilities and minorities. It had also allotted CAD 5 million annually to Status of Women of Canada which would pursue research on gender equality. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada had also laid out a number of initiatives.

A law legalizing marijuana would soon become effective in Canada. Scientists had advised against passing such a law because of the ill effects marijuana could have on health and safety. Nevertheless, the Government had promised to introduce it in its election campaign and Parliament had then voted in favour. The situation showed the tensions that could exist between the concerns of parliamentarians and the concerns of scientists.

Mr. F. QUEVEDO (Director, International Centre for Theoretical Physics–ICTP), *panellist*, said that the ICTP was founded 50 years previously by scientist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Abdus Salam. It was a UN institution operating under a tripartite agreement with UNESCO, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Italian Government. The latter provided most of the operational funding. The ICTP had a double mission: to carry out top level scientific research and to promote science worldwide. ICTP scientists carried out research on a wide range of subjects in the field of physics and mathematics. Subjects included: cosmology, high energy physics, material sciences, pure mathematics, air system physics, geophysics and quantitative live sciences. The centre engaged in both education and outreach. It had a network of scientists located all over the world who received capacity building support throughout their careers.

The ICTP was made up of scientists who engaged mostly with other scientists. Although it had links with universities, ministries of science and international organizations, its contact with parliaments was limited. In the past, the ICTP had collaborated with the Nigerian Parliament under an agreement which had resulted in many visits and talks organized between the two entities. However, the collaboration had only lasted a few years. Similarly, the ICTP had recently given a presentation at the Parliament of Guatemala regarding the situation of science in the country that was based on an analysis carried out by UNESCO. The aim was to make parliamentarians aware of the importance of science and encourage them to invest more in science and technology. Support was also provided to Guatemalan parliamentarians working on scientific issues, none of whom had received prior training. It was crucial that parliamentarians gave scientists better access to parliaments. The IPU should set up a permanent network which would give scientists a voice at every one of its meetings. Scientists must also be more proactive in communicating their research to politicians. More scientists should run for parliament.

Mr. P. LOMAS (Raspberry Pi), *panellist*, said that engineering was a way to turn scientific discoveries into something tangible and beneficial to society. Technology would bring the most value if it were deployed on the widest scale. However, technology was becoming centralized in just a few companies. It was imperative to democratize technology so that communities could harness it for local benefit. It was particularly important to empower young people in that regard.

Although the pace of technological change was increasing exponentially, the formal education systems could not keep up and there had been a decline in interest in STEM subjects. Increasingly, children were becoming consumers rather than creators of technology. The Raspberry Pi Foundation was established with the aim of reversing that trend. The Foundation had introduced various outreach schemes. Youth from across the globe could access its free, online digital resources. The Raspberry Pi computer was low cost with minimal power requirements making it easily accessible even in off grid areas. The Foundation also encouraged project building within communities. In doing so, it provided regular opportunities for young people to present their achievements, thereby helping them to improve their presentation and communication skills. Collaboration was also encouraged since many projects, both in science and technology, were multidisciplinary. Some students showed visible potential even at an early age with many choosing to formulate products that had a positive societal impact. For example, one group of children had created a low cost eye-controlled wheelchair.

The Foundation had global ambitions. It had a network of volunteers and supporters worldwide and had transcribed its resources into 26 languages with a further 24 in progress. Deployments of technology were organized with the aim of helping communities address local problems. For example, coral reef monitoring in Thailand and Indonesia was all done by local communities with the help of the Raspberry Pi Foundation. It showed that small actions could have large impacts at local scale.

Mr. G. GIRARDI (Chile) said that his Parliament had set up a permanent science committee whose members were not only parliamentarians but scientists from the best institutions. Universities could also present draft laws to the Senate. Once a year, Chile organized an event entitled the Congress of the Future (*Congreso Futuro*) to which it invited intellectuals, philosophers and scientists from all over the world. There were usually around 35,000 participants with a further 3 million people following the event in the media. The event lasted for one week during which the whole country discussed science. Young people were involved as well as people from the poorest municipalities. He invited parliamentarians at the IPU to take part. All services would be provided free of charge.

The IPU should collaborate more closely with the scientific community. Although parliamentarians had the tools to implement change, they did not have the vision. Humanity could go very far through science, including through robotics, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and information communication technology (ICT). Transhumanism was therefore very relevant. Parliamentarians must also consider the ethical dimension of science.

Ms. A. MAKONDA RIDLEY (Malawi) said that parliamentarians must find ways to bring science and politics together. Parliaments in less developed countries, such as Malawi, rarely conducted business on the basis of evidence. The situation must change if science was to become meaningful for those who needed it most. A survey in Malawi had shown that the country did not lack science itself, but the ability to translate it into technology. It was therefore impossible to popularize it. Politicians and scientists must work together to make parliaments more evidence-driven.

Mr. H.F. SCHOPPER (former Director General, CERN) said that it was crucial to bring science and politics together. Indeed, the two sides had different mentalities and often misunderstood each other. Politicians often lost faith when scientific knowledge changed. However, new scientific

discoveries did not necessarily mean that the previous assumptions were wrong. Similarly, scientists did not always understand that politicians could not agree to projects without thinking about the impact on elections. Both sides must learn from each other. For example, science could help politicians to build trust between countries. Indeed, CERN had been established after the Second World War by scientists and politicians, with the objective to carry out scientific research programmes and to restore dialogue after the war among the different European countries. It was important to work together towards common objectives.

Mr. A.P. DA SILVA (Timor-Leste) said that parliamentarians needed access to scientific knowledge and scientists needed access to politics. Only then could politicians make the right policies and allocate resources appropriately. The present forum should make strong recommendations to the IPU Secretariat on the importance of building links between parliaments and scientific communities, particularly in developing countries.

Mr. A. ALKINJ (Syrian Arab Republic) said that despite the war, Syria had made great strides in science. The IPU should organize more debates on science-related topics in the coming assemblies. The present meeting was a positive step towards building linkages between scientists and parliamentarians.

Mr. J.M. MÜLLER (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis- IIASA) said that, on the one hand, politicians were having to rely more and more on scientific experts because policy challenges were becoming increasingly complex. On the other hand, growing numbers of the population were seeing science as the problem rather than the solution. Politicians and scientists must work together on that paradox. Parliamentarians should ask questions to scientists and defend the use of evidence in public policy making. Indeed, policies based on evidence were more sustainable than those that were not. Scientists must engage more with politicians and citizens. True engagement was not only about putting out scientific evidence but showing empathy for public concerns and taking part in public debates. Debates should be about values as well as science.

Ms. R. AL-MANSOORI (Qatar) said that her country had taken a number of measures to strengthen scientific research and innovation. For example, a large percentage of GDP was assigned to science. The Government had established an institute which aimed to consider the scientific advances of neighbouring countries. It had also set up a fund which made contributions towards scientific research across the world. The country had a total of 90 patents in science and technology. Several major events had also taken place which had required the deployment of many technological solutions. That also applied to the future World Cup.

Mr. T. COURVOISIER (European Academies Science Advisory Council–EASAC) said that EASAC was a body that brought together the science academies of many European countries. It was founded in 2001 in response to the realization that political policies must be more strongly based on knowledge. It was not rare to find scientists who were willing to contribute to policy development. Parliaments must tap into that willingness. Often, many such scientists could be found in science academies. However, some academies required reform before they could provide advice.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that it was important to share scientific knowledge in parliaments and across countries. However, parliamentarians must check that the information being disseminated was genuine. The IPU should take measures that motivated parliamentarians to participate in science. One measure could be to pass a resolution on the topic. Bahrain had introduced a prize for scientific research which was open to all people across the world.

Mr. P. LOMAS (Raspberry Pi), *panellist*, said that education would lead to the democratization of science and technology. Countries must therefore invest in education. In doing so, they would create a cohort of people who could inform the debate inside their countries and beyond. Smaller countries with a limited budget were capable of innovating successfully. In fact, sometimes smaller countries could innovate more positively than bigger ones since they understood the problems better. He encouraged parliamentarians to seed small efforts in science and technology, leave them to blossom and then replicate the best ones in other parts of the country.

Mr. F. QUEVEDO (Director, ICTP), *panellist*, said that many countries, especially in the developing world, tended to focus on applied sciences to the exclusion of basic sciences. However, basic sciences were vital if countries were to create a culture of science and find long-term solutions to problems. He welcomed the science committee of Chile and encouraged other countries to set up similar ones. It was crucial to ensure that parliaments were open to scientists. Parliaments must make decisions on the basis of scientific evidence. He reiterated the need to set up a structure with the IPU that created a permanent link between scientists and parliamentarians.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada), *panellist*, said it was heartwarming to see so much interest in the topic. Responding to the delegate of Malawi, parliamentarians in Canada must check their facts or they could be liable. There was room for scientists to participate in politics. Indeed, an award-winning scientist had been elected to the Canadian Parliament who had gone on to head the science committee and carry out different studies. Scientists must take the initiative to engage with politicians. Parliamentarians would usually be willing to meet with them.

It was important to find out the facts so that politicians could pinpoint what was lacking. In Canada, immigrant women represented the majority of STEM degree holders. At the same time, women with STEM degrees had higher unemployment rates and a lower annual income than men with STEM degrees. Canada was therefore looking at improving equal opportunities. Not only was it encouraging women to study STEM but it was also improving their access to employment. Parliamentarians should look at the status of science in their own countries and move the situation forward to the benefit of ordinary citizens.

*The sitting rose at 3.55 p.m.*

## Parity debate on *Ensuring that children enjoy their rights and grow up protected from violence*

**SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.25 a.m. with Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, as the Moderator.*

*A trailer for the documentary entitled "The Price of Free" was shown.*

The MODERATOR said that the parity debate was organized by the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians with the aim of promoting dialogue between women and men on issues of common interest. The present debate would explore one of parliament's most salient responsibilities: protecting children from violence and abuse. Discussions would focus on parliamentary practices, experiences and lessons learned. They would also highlight how gender responsive policy could help tackle the problem. She introduced the panellists. The panellists should indicate whether girls and boys were subjected to the same types of violence and whether the violence affected them differently. They should show how a gender perspective could enhance results in combatting violence against children. They should also demonstrate how parliamentarians could use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that girls and boys enjoyed a childhood free from violence.

Mr. O. JAMES (Global Campaign Director, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation), *panellist*, said that he was currently working on the *100 million for a 100 million* campaign which aimed to ensure that every child was free, educated and safe. The level of violence against children worldwide was a disgrace and urgent action was needed. The documentary entitled *The Price of Free*, whose trailer had just been shown, hoped to have a big impact on preventing violence against children.

Boys and girls were exposed to different types of violence. For example, the homicide rate was higher for boys while sexual violence was higher for girls. As a result, the solutions were necessarily different. Parliamentarians could address the problem in several ways. First, they should take action in their own constituencies. It was paramount to demand action from local officials and community leaders, such as police chiefs and school principals. They should ensure that support services were available and children knew how to get help. Parliamentarians should also find out whether their area was a neighbourhood hotspot for violence. Second, it was most important to support marginalized children, particularly girls, who were the most vulnerable to violence. Tackling inequality as a whole, both nationally and globally, would be helpful in that regard. Third, parliamentarians should pass new legislation on the basis of the many resources already available on the topic, including resources on how to legislate in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fourth, it was vital that parliamentarians got involved in broader campaigns. In 2017, the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation had organized a march across India to raise awareness of violence against girls. The march had engaged top ministers working at state and national levels. A mere six months later, the ministers had helped to pass India's first anti-trafficking law. Fifth, there was also a need to participate in global review processes, including the review process for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The upcoming UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development would also look at the SDGs related to children.

Ms. A. GASS (Girls Advocacy Alliance Officer, Plan International), *panellist*, said that girls faced double discrimination because of their age as well as their gender. There were no truly safe spaces for girls. At least one in three girls experienced violence in their lifetime, much of which occurred in their own homes. One in three girls aged between fifteen and nineteen who were in formal unions had been victims of emotional, physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partners. As many as 46 countries worldwide did not have laws addressing domestic violence and only 52 had criminalized marital rape. Girls also faced violence in schools as well as on the streets. A recent study had shown that girls felt 10 times less secure than men in public spaces located in cities. That was a universal problem, it affected every country and every region.



The root causes of violence against girls were multiple and complex. Although there were significant socioeconomic drivers of violence, it was also necessary to look at social norms, attitudes and behaviours. Social norms could play a very positive role in protecting children from violence. However, they could also tolerate, normalize and even encourage the victimization of children by adults and peers. In the case of violence against girls, there were both age and gender-related norms that came into play. Girls faced specific vulnerabilities because they were children. They were also susceptible to gender discriminatory attitudes that considered them inferior to men and boys. As a result, men and boys were the most likely perpetrators of violence against women and girls. In that regard, it was important to discuss the issue of masculinity. Boys were often taught at a young age that violence was the best way to resolve conflict and prove their manhood. It was vital to teach children healthy ways of resolving conflict in early childhood.

The systems in place to address gender-based violence were often disconnected from child protection systems, which tended to be gender blind. However, girls and boys were subject to different types of violence and had different experiences of it. It was crucial to establish inclusive, gender-transformative and age-sensitive child protection systems that recognized the different needs of children. Children must also have access to justice in a way that was age appropriate.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda), *panellist*, speaking in her capacity as a member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that boys and girls were affected by violence in the same way while they were still in their pregnant mother's womb. After birth, violence affected them differently. Girls tended to suffer from gender-based violence, including rape and early marriage. While boys were also victims of rape, society rarely talked about it. Boys were particularly vulnerable to forced labour.

Children were the future. It was therefore vital to support them in their development. Governments should gather data that showed where the problems lay. They could do so by working with civil society which often had access to data that others did not. All child protection laws and solutions must be based on that data. It was also important to give a voice to children themselves both at community and national levels. Although most cultures sought to protect their children, the pressures of life meant that boys and girls were sometimes left alone without protection. Parliamentarians should encourage community actions urging citizens to consider all children as their own. Community actions should seek to prevent violence before it happened.

The MODERATOR invited delegates to comment on a number of questions. First, they should indicate the main challenges to ending violence against girls and boys. Second, they should highlight concrete steps that parliaments had taken to review relevant legislation, policies and budgets from a gender perspective and whether they had seen positive results. Third, delegates should specify the tools, skills and knowledge needed for parliamentarians to work efficiently on combating violence against children. Fourth, they should indicate how parliaments could work with partners to ensure the active involvement of men and boys in strategies to prevent and respond to violence, including gender-based violence against children. It would be particularly helpful to hear good practices in that regard.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that social norms, that lead to early marriage, were major problems to be overcome. The situation of Palestine was different to other countries. Palestinian children were living under occupation and were thus victims of many tragedies. Many had been burnt alive, imprisoned or had lost relatives. The climate of crime and violence in Palestine was having a big impact on the minds of children.

Ms. J. PRENTICE (Australia) said that countries in the Asia-Pacific region were often perceived as idyllic paradises but in fact faced many challenges with regard to women and children. For example, Papua New Guinea had the highest maternal mortality rate in the world. Ninety-four per cent of its women who presented at hospital were victims of domestic violence. Many schools did not have toilets. Australia had sent AUD 1.8 billion in aid to the Asia-Pacific region with the sole aim of empowering women and girls. One centre to which Australia had contributed was the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. The centre did a great deal of outreach work. It also trained people on how to combat violence against women using male football stars as advocates.

Mr. A. ALKINJ (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was necessary to differentiate between different types of violence. Some violence, such as terrorism, went beyond borders. Many women and girls were suffering in Syria as a result of terrorism. The Syrian Government considered children as a high priority. It had established an organization which dealt with children's issues. The organization was supervised by specialists and had links with the United Nations. Even in war, children, including girls, had access to free schooling and healthcare in Syria. The province of Tartus had also introduced

a literacy training programme which aimed to eliminate illiteracy. Despite that progress, Syria sometimes faced difficulties in protecting children's rights. The international community must assist conflict-ridden countries. Above all, it was necessary to engage in dialogue and enact new laws.

Ms. R.A. KADAGA (Uganda) said that the Ugandan Parliament had a forum on children's affairs which was very effective in lobbying for changes in legislation. There was also a family desk within the police where children's cases were handled. Parliamentarians had raised many motions on sexual violence and child sacrifice. A major challenge in Uganda was ensuring that law enforcement and judicial officers understood the plight of children and handled cases with the necessary sensitivity. In addition, children were often ostracized if they spoke out against their abusers. It was therefore necessary to educate the community about the rights of children.

A delegate from BAHRAIN said that parliamentarians across the world should focus on enacting laws that promoted child protection and encouraged the allocation of suitable budgets. Parliamentarians should monitor the implementation of that legislation. Although many countries had ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, many did not have the means to implement it. Women's issues and children's issues often went hand in hand. The IPU and its Member Parliaments should give more attention to child protection. It would be valuable to organize a special event to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. S. SIRIVEJCHAPUN (Thailand) said that Thailand had been advancing on child protection by promoting the stability of the family and preventing abuse and discrimination. Its legislative efforts had been particularly significant. Examples of legislation included a domestic violence law as well as a law which prohibited guardians from abandoning or neglecting their children. Anyone who violated the provisions would be subject to strict punishments, including fines or imprisonment. It was important to allocate a suitable budget to issues that affected children, women, people with disabilities and elderly people.

A delegate from SUDAN said that children were the future and therefore should be a priority. One of the biggest challenges to child protection was that not all laws were implemented properly. Sudan had enacted various child protection laws and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It had established a guide on children's welfare, launched a hotline for complaints and set up courts specializing in children's rights. Efforts were underway to place children without a family, such as orphans or illegal immigrants with foster families. Children in that category were entitled to free education and healthcare. Sudan had also introduced strict punishments for child abuse, including rape, for which perpetrators could receive the death penalty. Parents were obliged to send their children to school. The results of the above measures had been positive.

The MODERATOR said that the next set of questions was for Ms. Gakuba. She should identify the concrete steps that her Parliament had taken towards bringing a gender perspective to the promotion of children's rights, and state what could be done to strengthen and expand such initiatives. Ms. Gakuba should indicate whether her Parliament had created spaces for dialogue with civil society, including youth organizations or organizations defending the rights of children, especially girls. Lastly, she should highlight the partnerships that parliaments could develop to enhance the efficiency and inclusivity of the law making process.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda), *panellist*, said that the Parliament of Rwanda had been working with other institutions to craft the child protection law and family code. Under Rwandan law, every child must be raised within a family, rather than an orphanage, so that they had a more stable upbringing. There were also strict laws on child rape. Perpetrators received a life sentence for raping a child under 14, and 25 years in prison for raping a child aged between 14 and 18. Rwanda had also set up one-stop centres in every hospital which offered emotional and medical support to child victims of rape. Another role of the centres was to liaise with the police. It was important to build networks between the government, parliament and civil society. Rwanda had established a National Commission of Children which worked in partnership with children's forums. The children's forums, which were elected by children themselves, aimed to gather the views of children and raise them in parliament.

Ms. P. MAFFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that parliaments had a responsibility to promote and protect the rights of children. Iran had taken a number of legislative measures in that regard. It had signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994. It had also passed several domestic laws. For instance, there were laws that prohibited child pornography, protected children who did not have guardians, established a police force for children and teenagers, and reduced certain penalties for them, amongst others.

Ms. L. DUMONT (France) said that children must be registered to enjoy basic rights, such as the right to education and healthcare. It was estimated that there were 230 million "ghost" children under the age of 25 who were not registered. Ghost children were the chief victims of forced marriage, child labour, organ trafficking and other scourges. Two actions had to be undertaken to resolve the problem. First, there had to be a global movement within the context of the SDGs. Second, the IPU needed to establish a follow up group to work on the matter.

Ms. J. DELETOURDIE (Seychelles) said that the Seychelles had adopted the Children Act which covered all aspects of a child's welfare, including compulsory care, voluntary and foster care, adoption and children's institutions. The Government recognized that investing in early education was one of the most effective means of providing children with hope for the future. As a result, it had introduced free pre-school education for children aged three to five. The Employment Act made it illegal to employ a child under 15 and enshrined various protections for children aged between 15 and 18. The penal code offered protections against child sexual abuse, for which many perpetrators had been seriously punished. The Constitution also guaranteed that all children were equal before the law regardless of the marital status of their parents. In the Seychelles, the ministries of health and education had a responsibility to ensure the development of a child, while the department of social affairs was responsible for children's welfare. In 2014, the Department of Social Affairs, in partnership with other agencies, had launched a vigorous campaign which emphasized the community as a key stakeholder in the fight against child abuse. It was vital to engage parents and children themselves.

A delegate from the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that her country had introduced a targeted federal programme called the "Decade of Childhood". It had also set up a foundation to help children in vulnerable situations and established a hotline which offered support to women and children facing violence. It was essential that children were not afraid to speak out. The Government had adopted a strategy on domestic violence and would soon pass a law. Violence against children was a social problem linked to economic hardship and alcoholism.

Mr. A. ROBLEH ABDILEH (Djibouti) said that promoting the rights of children was vital for nations and families. The IPU should raise the profile of the debate on child protection. It should create an online platform that would allow parliamentarians to exchange views on the progress they had made towards children's rights. Such a platform would be helpful because different parliaments had made different levels of progress.

Ms. P.R. SINGH (India) said that her country had enacted many child welfare laws, including a recent law which criminalized all aggravated forms of trafficking. The law introduced stringent punishments for traffickers, established mechanisms for rescue and promoted the rehabilitation of victims. The Government was working closely with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society. It was important to continue working together on children's rights.

A delegate from SENEGAL said that her country had introduced a number of child protection laws, including laws that addressed begging and sexual abuse. However, social taboos meant that the laws were rarely applied in practice. It was important to rethink child protection systems. The IPU should introduce a benchmarking procedure that could inspire countries to take action. The measures that Rwanda had taken were relevant and timely.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians must represent all people, including children. They should carry out studies that helped them to gauge the situation of both girls and boys. There tended to be more data for girls than for boys. It was important to implement the recommendations that delegates had made, including the need for benchmarking and more cooperation between parliamentary groups.

Mr. O. JAMES (Global Campaign Director, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation), *panellist*, said that it was important to take a balanced approach to actions for both boys and girls. However, the vast majority of the problems affected girls. The challenges were everywhere, but so were the solutions. West Africa had made progress on female genital mutilation. Rwanda had been successful with regard to parliamentary representation. There had also been advancements on domestic violence, particularly that linked to alcohol. The international community must work together on the child-focused SDGs, particularly in the lead up to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Parliamentarians should also seek local solutions for children facing violence in their own constituencies. They should push for legislation and work with civil society. The documentary would be released to parliaments before it was released to the public. Delegates who wished to get involved with the film should get in touch with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.

Ms. A. GASS (Girls Advocacy Alliance Officer, Plan International), *panellist*, said that she wished to make three final recommendations. First, it was essential to involve constituencies, but that meant involving children and girls. Children had many valuable insights into issues that affected them. Second, parliamentarians should raise awareness of laws that were in place so that people were conscious of their rights. Third, formal and informal education was paramount, especially with regard to human rights and gender equality. Children and adolescents could become powerful champions of change in their communities if they were made aware of how to do so.

*The sitting rose at 10.40 a.m*

## Adoption of Resolutions, final documents and reports

### SITTING OF THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 5.15 p.m., with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico), President of the IPU, in the Chair.*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change***

(A/139/-DR)

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname) presented the outcome document for the General Debate, which took stock of very rich discussions over the past week and reflected concrete parliamentary avenues to promote peace and development through science and technology. For example, parliamentarians should promote education in science, technology, engineering and maths. They should pass the necessary legislation and exercise oversight. They should use technology to improve parliamentary processes and encourage a culture of engagement, for instance, through e-government and social media. Establishing strong connections between the parliamentary and scientific communities was also important since it would allow parliamentarians to make informed choices and policies. Introducing cross-border scientific cooperation would make it more likely for countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Parliaments should also promote non-partisan funding for scientific research.

In general, the outcome document highlighted the importance of using science to build bridges and bring communities together. Indeed, technology and scientific innovation should be drivers of peace, security, sustainability, development, social inclusion, transparency and human rights. Although science, innovation and technological change brought many opportunities, it also came with many risks. The document therefore emphasized the critical need for science to feature systematically in public debates and decisions. He urged delegates to implement the outcome document in their home parliaments.

*The outcome document was endorsed.*

The PRESIDENT said that parliamentarians must understand how to improve their societies using science and technology. It was particularly important to commit to education in science and technology. She urged delegates to discuss the outcome document in their parliaments, follow up on its recommendations and report back to the IPU.

#### Item 4 of the agenda

#### **Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

*(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)*

(A/139/4-DR)

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU had been working on a resolution entitled *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, which it would take to the United Nations. She invited Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) to present the resolution.

Mr. J.I. ECHÁNIZ (Spain), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the resolution on migration was a milestone for the IPU. It had been difficult to achieve a balanced document because countries were affected differently by migration. However, the final resolution took into account all the different perspectives. It aimed to strike a balance between responsibility and solidarity: two sides of the same coin. The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had considered 100 amendments from 17 countries and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. It had resolved all questions through a vote and adopted the final resolution through consensus. The Assembly should take note of the reservations of Kuwait, Lebanon and Poland.

The resolution strongly emphasized that people on the move were entitled to human rights irrespective of their legal status. While it acknowledged the sovereign right of States to determine their own migration policy and laws, they must also act in accordance with international human rights law. The resolution made 27 recommendations. For example, it urged parliaments and governments to expand legal pathways for migration and take measures to foster mutual respect between migrants and the host society. It called on State authorities to ensure migrants had access to education, health and other basic services. It also urged the IPU to develop a parliamentary action plan on migration by the end of 2019.

The Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration created a new pathway for greater cooperation on migration governance. Parliaments had a responsibility to participate in the follow-up and implementation of the Global Compact. In particular, they should support regional integration processes and international efforts to coordinate migration policy. Delegates must renew discussions on migration with governments, civil society and migrants themselves. They should use the resolution to guide their work.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had decided to hold a panel debate at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly that would not lead to a resolution. The debate would examine how IPU Members had followed up on three previous IPU resolutions: the 2009 resolution entitled *Freedom of expression and the right to information*, the 2013 resolution entitled *The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy* and the 2015 resolution entitled *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms*.

*The resolution was adopted by consensus.*

The PRESIDENT invited delegations which wished to do so to explain their vote.

A delegate from SUDAN said that all countries must shoulder the responsibility of migration, regardless of whether they were a country of origin, destination or transit. He urged parliamentarians to take the matter seriously.

A delegate from UKRAINE said that his delegation supported the resolution but had a reservation regarding the phrase "dual citizenship" in operative paragraph 16. Dual citizenship was prohibited in Ukraine. Similarly, although international instruments regulated statelessness and apartheid, they did not mention the issue of multiple citizenships.

A delegate from JORDAN said that some parts of the resolution, including the provisions on statelessness, were not in line with Jordan's national legislation or international obligations. JORDAN expressed reservations on all references to international agreements to which Jordan is not a signatory.

Delegates of the following Member parliaments also expressed reservations: LEBANON on operative paragraph 9; KUWAIT on operative paragraphs 9 and 16; ETHIOPIA on operative paragraph 16; POLAND on the resolution as a whole.

The PRESIDENT took note of the reservations and said that these would be reflected accordingly in the Assembly results. She noted that the resolution was adopted by consensus.

#### Item 5 of the agenda

### **Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs**

Mr. J.I. ECHÁNIZ (Spain) said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had held three activities: two panels and an expert hearing. The first panel had discussed disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The Committee had acquainted itself with the new disarmament agenda of the UN Secretary-General entitled "Securing our Common Future". Each panellist had discussed one of the three pillars of the agenda: conventional weapons, weapons of mass destruction and technological weapons. Discussions had also touched upon the Arms Trade Treaty as well as Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) through a video message from the 1540 Committee Chair. Parliamentarians had also considered a project launched by the Standing Committee which aimed to equip parliamentarians with tools to effectively contribute to disarmament. The second panel had dealt with sexual violence in peacekeeping operations and beyond. Two experts had explained that sexual violence had always been a silent weapon of war used to humiliate, destroy and overpower women, men and children. On some occasions, those who were supposed to

help had themselves become abusers. Victims were rarely heard and received little support. Perpetrators were only very exceptionally brought to trial, despite the existence of a legal framework. Participants had discussed the good practices that their countries had put in place to tackle the problem.

The experts hearing had seen two experts share their views on mercenarism and the links it had with private military and security companies as well as foreign fighters. At the heart of the problem was the narrow definition of a mercenary found in international law. Discussions had addressed gaps and actions that parliaments could take to effectively combat impunity and offer better legal assistance to victims. Two co-Rapporteurs would prepare a draft resolution on the basis of the discussions.

The Bureau had also held a meeting in which it had discussed its workplan. They had confirmed that the Committee's session at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly would be devoted to negotiating the resolution on mercenarism. All members had agreed that more field visits should be organized. The Bureau took note of an invitation from Jordan.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that, in its first meeting, the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade had held a discussion on the theme of the future draft resolution entitled *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*. Participants had expressed concern about the situation of world trade and presented several constructive proposals to improve the process. The co-Rapporteurs would incorporate the comments into the draft resolution. The Committee had also discussed a preliminary outcome document regarding the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPU would hold a parliamentary meeting in conjunction with the Polish Parliament during the conference.

In its second meeting, the Committee had held a panel discussion entitled "Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*". Participants had indicated the measures that their parliaments had taken to encourage the use of renewable sources of energy instead of fossil fuels. The Committee had held elections to the Bureau and agreed to spend the next session on finalizing the abovementioned draft resolution on free and fair trade.

Mr. L. WEHRLI (Switzerland) said that the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs had held two discussions. The first discussion had covered international taxation matters. National treasuries had lost billions of dollars in revenue because international conglomerates had been exploiting national and international taxation systems. It was important to put in place an international monitoring system that was up to date with the international economy. Delegates had expressed strong support for setting up an international taxation body, as proposed by the United Nations and the G77. The second discussion had covered the relationship between the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health. The two organizations had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding aiming to make them more closely allied. The Committee had also elected new members to the Bureau. Mindful of gender issues, he had withdrawn his candidacy for Vice-President to make way for Ms. S. Alhashim (Kuwait).

*The Assembly took note of the reports.*

#### Item 6 of the agenda

### **Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly (A/139/6-R.1)**

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights had proposed the following subject item to be finalized at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly: "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health". The co-Rapporteurs would be Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh) and Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland). The IPU President would carry out consultations with a view to appointing a third co-Rapporteur who should be a woman from Africa to ensure inclusivity and gender balance.

*The subject item was approved.*

Item 7 of the agenda**Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules**  
(CL/203/15-P.1)

*The amendments were adopted.*

**Concluding remarks by representatives of the Geopolitical Groups**

Mr. S. CHIHEB (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group had had a fruitful exchange on a number of important issues. It welcomed the topic for the General Debate on parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change. It was important to close the digital gap between developed and developing countries so as to create more prosperous, sustainable and inclusive societies. He called on countries to strengthen international cooperation and public aid in that regard. During his term as Chair of the African Group, he had tried to bring forward mutual interests in a climate of devotion, trust and solidarity. He would be replaced by Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) who was a great champion of Africa and possessed an abundance of knowledge, skills, experience and commitment. The African Group supported the establishment of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering-Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

Mr. W. SIMINA (Federated States of Micronesia), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, said that Mr. G. Chen (China) had been elected to the Executive Committee in a secret ballot held during a special meeting of the Group. The Group had also held a regular meeting in which it had considered all agenda items, including the endorsement of candidates to the Standing Committees. Some positions remained open since no member had so far shown interest in them. The Group had elected Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan) by acclamation to be the next chair.

More uniformity and clarity was needed on the statutes and rules of the IPU, including on the terms of office, and the methods and requirements of voting. More uniformity and clarity was also needed to ensure due process and fairness. Members would thus have a better understanding of expectations and gain more confidence in the organization. It would also save the IPU time when conducting proceedings. Parliamentarians should use all that they had learnt at the present Assembly to improve legislative processes and initiate new agendas at home.

Ms. Z. GRECEANÎI (Republic of Moldova), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, said that the IPU had conducted a meeting to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eurasia Group, which had been established at the 100<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Moscow in 1998. Members of the Eurasia Group were very active at the IPU. They often proposed resolutions, were members of the governing bodies and hosted events and assemblies. She urged delegates to celebrate the international day of parliamentarism on 30 June: an initiative that had been proposed by the Group and endorsed by the United Nations. Delegates should also support the establishment of a charter of international parliamentarism. This charter was currently being considered by the Executive Committee of the IPU and would be adopted on the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU.

*Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General, took the Chair.*

Mr. R. MARTÍNEZ HUELMO (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), said that it was important to bring communities closer together and help them overcome their differences. He praised the IPU President, the Secretary General and the Secretariat for their work in that regard. Although GRULAC had changed its leadership, it would continue to work towards global change. Parliamentarians should ensure that the IPU was a space to hear the voices of all people in the world, particularly the most vulnerable. They should continue building a fairer, freer world with more solidarity.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the IPU had taken several important measures and discussed a wide range of subjects at the present Assembly. He welcomed the decision of the Executive Committee to make the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism more representative. There was cause for concern that some countries, such as Venezuela, were not observing democracy, with dozens of parliamentarians having gone missing. The IPU should be a space that embraced plurality and democracy. It was therefore unacceptable that delegates had refused to discuss a particular subject item. The Twelve Plus Group were committed to strengthening the IPU and helping it achieve its goals.

*Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU, retook the Chair.*



## Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that it was a great honour to have been elected President of the IPU the previous year. During the remaining two years of her presidency, she would provide all that could be expected from the Organization: knowledge, awareness, experience and useful tools. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to change the world and make every voice heard. They could do so by holding shared values, agreeing on strategies and establishing clear goals. The IPU would support parliamentarians in fulfilling that responsibility through its commitment to democracy, human rights and freedom of expression.

Delegates had recently taken a vote that had been distressing to her and many other members of the Organization. In a world of much diversity, parliamentarians had a duty to discuss all subjects without vetoes or taboos, particularly those related to human rights. They should do so in a spirit of respect, tolerance and understanding, with the aim of finding common ground. The IPU had launched a handbook entitled *Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection*. She encouraged delegates to use the handbook to guide their work at home and at the IPU. All human beings had the same rights to freedom of expression and equality before the law. The IPU and its Members Parliaments must incorporate those principles more fully into their work.

The 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly had produced a number of important outcomes. First, the outcome document on the General Debate would help parliaments adapt to an ever-changing world. Second, the resolutions on climate change and migration were important developments and would require proper follow-up and implementation. Parliamentarians should therefore attend the parliamentary meeting at COP24 in Poland and the parliamentary conference in the lead-up to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in Morocco. Third, delegates had prepared a strong political statement on the basic values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All parliamentarians should adopt a personal mantra which highlighted that all people were born free and equal in dignity and rights. Fourth, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians had taken some important decisions and discussed follow-up at national level. She welcomed the new openness displayed by Turkey, Venezuela and the Korean Peninsula. Fifth, the IPU would hold two assemblies abroad in 2019: one in Doha and one in Belgrade. She encouraged parliaments to continue hosting IPU events. It was particularly important to organize networking events so that parliamentarians could get to know each other better. Sixth, the IPU was working on creating more inclusive and democratic processes. For example, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism would soon adopt new ways to make nominations. Seventh, the IPU was fostering closer coordination among regional and other parliamentary organizations. For example, heads of regional parliamentary organizations had recently attended a lunch in which they discussed how to exchange best practices. She urged delegates to provide information about other organizations with which the IPU could forge closer links. In general, the IPU was becoming stronger, more transparent, more democratic and more relevant.

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## Outcome document of the General Debate on *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*

*Endorsed by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The collective body of scientific knowledge of the world we live in is greater today than at any time in history. Scientific research continues to push back the boundaries of our known universe. This knowledge fuels rapid innovation and technological change, which in turn can enhance human well-being and stimulate economic growth, among a wealth of other potential benefits. Over the years, advancements in the natural and social sciences, including the development of incredibly effective drugs and medical procedures, have resulted in a better quality of life for everyone.

The associated technological developments have generated, among many other things, extraordinary improvements in connectivity and communication. Digitalization and big data offer new ways of creating innovative solutions, such as early warning systems to prevent violence, and empower young people and women to solve social issues through technology. They also present a great opportunity to make substantial progress in the areas of biology, renewable energy, financial technology, as well as towards Industry 4.0, commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution.<sup>1</sup>

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the key role that science and technological innovation play in sustainable development, emphasizing their importance not only for economic growth and prosperity but also for environmental protection, development and social inclusion. However, we recognize that scientific discovery and technological change do not automatically lead to positive developments for society. The manipulation of the human genome, autonomous killer robots, cybercrime and the implications of the use of artificial intelligence are just some of the ethical and societal challenges of our time. Shying away from these difficult questions is not an option.

In an ever-changing world, we must be at the forefront of deliberations on new issues that can have a major impact on our societies. We must approach our task with humility, recognizing our own limitations, encouraging dialogue and avoiding ideological responses. As parliamentarians, we are responsible for fostering an environment where science, technology and innovation make a positive contribution to peace, development and human well-being, while simultaneously limiting or mitigating the associated risks and protecting the planet. We do not take these responsibilities lightly. Our debate has identified several **avenues for parliamentary action** to promote peace and development through science and technological innovation:

### ***Strengthen legal frameworks favourable to technological and scientific innovation for peace and development***

As lawmakers, we have the means to create a legal framework that is favourable to innovation, as well as a regulatory environment that enables businesses to flourish while guaranteeing respect for the environment and international law, particularly international human rights law. Our role is to safeguard the interests of society and people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Promote education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and, in particular, encourage the participation of women and girls, with the aim of achieving gender equality and reducing the gender imbalance in STEM education and in scientific careers;
- Promote universal digital literacy, especially among young people, in view of the transformation of work skills required for a future labour market built on a digital and knowledge-based economy, making sure to leave no one behind;
- Adopt timely and effective national and international legislation in favour of technological innovation that promotes peace, security, sustainable development and social inclusion and that defines common ethical boundaries;

---

<sup>1</sup> Industry 4.0 refers to the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and cognitive computing.

- Ensure, by using our legislative and oversight prerogatives, that no development driven by science and technology impedes or violates human rights or results in the irrational use of natural resources; and
- Guarantee respect for the international human rights framework as the beacon that guides our decisions on how to address difficult ethical issues.

***Make parliaments drivers of technological innovation in favour of transparency and inclusion***

Science and technological innovation are radically transforming every aspect of human existence, including the way parliaments work. The use of modern technology can make parliaments more efficient and effective. We want to assume parliamentary leadership in technological innovation not only through our legislative function, but also by transforming our parliamentary processes and promoting a culture of engagement with our people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Increase the level of transparency, accountability and responsiveness to our constituencies through the use of modern information and communications technologies, such as live video streaming of parliamentary sessions and improved online information access;
- Make use of the available technological tools and instruments to improve the design and monitoring of our policies and legislations;
- Take steps to ensure that our parliaments are open and transparent institutions; that they are willing to consider innovative working methods, such as the establishment of parliamentary committees on the future; and that parliamentary research services are appropriately funded and resourced so that they can provide parliamentarians with timely, non-partisan analyses;
- Reduce the carbon footprint of parliaments and work towards the realization of e-parliaments; and
- Strengthen inter-parliamentary collaboration in the fields of science and technology and share best practices and lessons learned.

***Establish strong connections with the scientific community***

It is our duty to facilitate and promote regular and systematic interaction between parliaments and the scientific community. Access to the best available expertise is essential for us to make informed choices. The rational, scientific approach to making sense of the world needs to be encouraged and supported by everyone, including politicians and the media. Therefore, we decide to:

- Recognize that scientific research plays a fundamental role in developing knowledge and technologies that can allow parliaments to formulate evidence-based policies aimed at tackling societal challenges;
- Support mechanisms and budgetary measures that guarantee science-based policymaking to ensure the sustainable well-being of future generations;
- Reaffirm that non-partisan funding for scientific research is an investment in our future;
- Underline the importance of scientific methods for elucidating facts that can be checked, verified and accepted by society, especially at this current time when factual information is increasingly being called into question in political discourse, and when scientific consensus is no longer valued by all sectors of society; and
- Promote and value the presence in parliaments of scientists, engineers, innovators and STEM educators.

***Support international scientific cooperation in favour of peace and development***

Science and technology provide a neutral umbrella under which parliamentarians with different political opinions can come together and address global challenges related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Science can be used to build bridges and to bring countries in conflict together through scientific cooperation that benefits their respective populations. Therefore, we decide to:

- Support models of peaceful scientific cooperation, such as the ones developed by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the International Centre for Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME);
- Support the initiative by the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to establish, in cooperation with CERN, an IPU Science for Peace Schools programme aimed at bridging the worlds of science and politics and creating inter-parliamentary networks to address common challenges;

- Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge-sharing as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda;
- Call for open access to scientific publications as a way of reducing the unequal distribution of scientific knowledge and technological innovation and of increasing the ability of people to contribute more effectively to society;
- Support the technology transfer process in developing countries by conducting effective capacity-building activities in the receiving country, with a view to ensuring that technological innovation does not further increase global inequalities; and
- Include scientific knowledge in the parliamentary oversight of the 2030 Agenda implementation process.

The future is, by definition, uncertain. Scientific discovery, innovation and technological change bring great opportunities, but also risks that we must control. Parliaments have a critical role to play in that regard. We can greatly contribute to this process by raising parliamentary awareness of the importance of science, technology, innovation and STEM education for society; by making sure that science is systematically brought into public debates and decision-making; by considering the implementation of appropriate regulations to foster technological innovation; and by promoting cross-border initiatives based on scientific cooperation. In our role as representatives of the people, we pledge to engage the scientific community in an ongoing dialogue on the ways in which we can enhance peace and development, improve human well-being and safeguard the interests of all members of our society.

## Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that migration has been a feature of human civilization from time immemorial and that, when governed humanely and fairly, migration contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in both origin and destination countries and strengthens the bonds of human solidarity,

*Also recalling* all the relevant international instruments, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),

*Affirming* that people on the move, irrespective of their legal status, as all human beings, are entitled to the full enjoyment of the human rights set out in the relevant international treaties and covenants,

*Conscious* of the burden shouldered by the countries of destination that can come from large, unpredictable movements of persons, and the potential impact on countries of origin of the large-scale migration of skilled workers,

*Noting* that the international approach to migration governance is still largely ad hoc, and that no equivalent exists for migrants to the clearly-defined status and rights of refugees in international law,

*Welcoming* the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent efforts to improve international cooperation and solidarity, and to share equitably the burden and responsibility for migration governance through the preparation of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

*Recalling* the commitment of the international parliamentary community to strengthen cooperation on migration governance, with a strong focus on the human rights of migrants, as outlined in the declarations and resolutions on migration adopted by the 130<sup>th</sup>, 133<sup>rd</sup> and 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assemblies and other IPU documents,

*Recognizing* these resolutions and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) as crucial steps towards more coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights,

*Mindful* that the 2030 Agenda recognizes the need for sustaining peace and ensuring security and includes them as cross-cutting issues,

---

\* - The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservations on operative paragraph 9.  
 - The delegations of Ethiopia and Ukraine expressed reservations on operative paragraph 16.  
 - The delegation of Kuwait expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 9 and 16.  
 - The delegation of Jordan expressed reservations on all references to international agreements to which Jordan is not a signatory.  
 - The delegation of Poland expressed its reservation on the resolution as a whole.

*Underscoring* that migration should be a choice not a necessity, and that, through international legal obligations and commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, States have a shared responsibility and have undertaken to address all the root causes of migration such as violence and conflict, poverty, inequality, unemployment and economic exclusion, lack of economic opportunity, especially for women and youth, social inequalities, disregard of rule of law and transparency, violations of human rights, natural disasters and climate change,

*Affirming* the need to uphold common standards for the protection of the human rights of migrants and migration governance, and to ensure a gender- and disability-responsive and child-sensitive approach at all stages of migration,

*Recognizing* the multiple discriminations and forms of violence that migrant women face in countries of origin, transit and destination, particularly those engaged as domestic workers, and reaffirming the need to urge host countries to accept their responsibility in this area,

*Also recognizing* that women constitute the majority of victims of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation and forced labour in domestic work,

*Reaffirming* the sovereign right of States to determine, in accordance with international law, their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, and also recognizing the right of States to distinguish between a regular and irregular migration status in their legislative and policy measures on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, while taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work,

1. *Welcomes* the process leading to the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that should be adopted on 10 December 2018, and urges States and their respective parliaments to make full use of this new instrument for improving international cooperation and migration governance;
2. *Calls upon* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to ratify and implement relevant international human rights laws and key ILO conventions<sup>2</sup> as well as other relevant international and regional instruments protecting the rights of migrants, women, children and persons in vulnerable situations;
3. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that decisions of sovereign States on migration policies and related legislation, including bilateral and regional agreements, are consistent with their States' international human rights obligations and the rule of law;
4. *Urges* parliamentarians to lead efforts to develop evidence-informed narratives on migration that avoid stereotyping but, instead, enhance integration and social cohesion, and to take vigorous action to combat xenophobia, racism, intolerance and other forms of discrimination;
5. *Calls on* parliaments to promote people's access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on the opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration, thus enabling would-be migrants to make informed choices;
6. *Encourages* "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches to migration based on partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the private sector, and calls for regular consultation with migrants and diaspora groups in the policy-making process where appropriate, and also calls for gender-sensitive training on migration for all professionals and officials that are in contact with migrants;
7. *Urges* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to expand the legal pathways for migration to facilitate labour mobility and skills training, family reunification, and migration for reasons such as armed conflict, gender-based violence, natural disasters and climate change;
8. *Calls on* governments to take measures to promote mutual understanding and respect between migrants and the host society, and, recalling that integration is a two-way task that implies the migrants' respect for the national laws of their destination country, to facilitate migrants' integration in society, inter alia, by way of language courses,

---

<sup>2</sup> In particular ILO conventions 97, 143, 181 and 189.

vocational training, recognition of educational and professional credentials, information about economic opportunities, protection against discrimination and, in accordance with national legislation, pathways to citizenship for permanent residents;

9. *Recalls* that social protection and labour rights apply to all persons, including migrants, and that regular migrants should have equitable access to social security coverage and portability of contributions and entitlements in accordance with national legislation;
10. *Urges* States to adopt gender-responsive labour policies and legislation, grounded in international labour and human rights standards, with a view to ensuring that all women migrant workers, including domestic and care workers, are protected against all forms of abuse and exploitation, including the confiscation of travel documents;
11. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and discrimination against migrant women, particularly domestic workers as a vulnerable group in the host countries, and urges States to take legislative, executive and judiciary measures to combat this form of violence and discrimination;
12. *Calls on* state authorities at their respective levels of competency to ensure all persons, including migrants, have proof of legal identity and nationality and adequate documentation, and effective access to education, health care, and other basic services, regardless of their migration status;
13. *Insists on* due process and access to justice for all migrants and calls for enhanced cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in order to ensure the safe and dignified return for migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on a state's territory, to use forced return only as a last resort to seek alternatives to the detention of migrants, and to work seriously towards the elimination of detention of children on migratory grounds;
14. *Calls for* the establishment of an international standard of practice for dealing with, and protecting, migrants in vulnerable situations, including stateless persons and unaccompanied children, and insists on the concept of the "best interest of the child" in migration policy;
15. *Calls upon* States, particularly countries of origin, to address situations where a child would otherwise be stateless by strengthening measures to reduce statelessness, including ensuring that women and men can equally confer their nationality to their children;
16. *Invites* governments to support the contribution of diasporas to their country of origin by facilitating mobility and investment and by studying the adoption in national legislation of measures to enhance political participation such as the right to vote, dual citizenship and the representation of diasporas in parliament;
17. *Encourages* the development of comprehensive approaches for the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in the countries of origin, by combining reintegration support targeting individuals and the communities to which migrants return with measures to enhance the governance of migration, livelihood opportunities and the protection of human rights, in general;
18. *Calls on* States to take meaningful and coordinated action, including enacting legislation, to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and end impunity for trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, to protect migrants, particularly women and children, from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to assist migrants who have become victims of trafficking; and also encourages States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and combat such acts and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities;

19. *Urges* governments to make full use of the existing data sources on migration, such as the Global Migration Data Portal developed by the International Organization for Migration, and to strengthen country level collection and the sharing of data on migration, disaggregated by age, gender, migration status and other relevant criteria, with a view to informing debates, policy-making and legislation, while protecting personal data;
20. *Affirms* the necessity to exchange information and data on the number of migrants, their countries of origin, the circumstances and causes of their migration, their needs and the efforts needed to assist them;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to require government to report periodically on progress in the implementation of national migration policies, and to use parliamentary tools such as questions to ministers, public hearings and committee enquiries to hold government to account for the results achieved;
22. *Urges* parliaments to actively participate in and support regional integration processes and transnational efforts to coordinate migration policy, and to domesticate relevant regional instruments in national legislation;
23. *Calls on* parliaments to actively engage in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a means to optimize migration governance and address the major drivers of forced and irregular migration—particularly extreme poverty, climate change and natural disasters, and urges parliaments to promote measures aimed at raising awareness of and maximizing the development benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration;
24. *Invites* all parliaments to participate in the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018 in Marrakesh (Morocco);
25. *Also invites* parliaments to play an active role in follow-up and implementation of the Global Compact and parliamentarians to join national delegations to the International Migration Review Forum, which will meet every four years, beginning in 2022, as the main global mechanism to review the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration;
26. *Calls on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments, with the support of the International Organization for Migration, to develop a "Parliamentary plan of action on migration" by the end of 2019, that operationalizes the commitments in this resolution, the Global Compact for Migration and State obligations under international human rights law, and to report to the IPU on progress in 2021;
27. *Recommends* that parliaments avail of parliamentary exchanges and inter-parliamentary conferences, such as the IPU Assemblies, as platforms for constructive dialogue on migration policy and the protection of migrants.



Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> AssemblyDo you agree that the Assembly can change  
the work plan and agenda of the Standing Committees?

## Results

Affirmative votes..... 874                      Abstentions..... 120  
 Negative votes ..... 671

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		14		Georgia		10		Poland	15		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Germany		19		Portugal		13	
Algeria	16			Ghana			14	Qatar	11		
Andorra		10		Greece		13		Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Angola		14		Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Republic of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina			10	Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Romania		14	
Armenia	11			Haiti	<i>Absent</i>			Russian Federation	20		
Australia		14		Hungary		13		Rwanda			12
Austria		12		Iceland		10		Samoa	8		
Azerbaijan			10	India			23	San Marino		10	
Bahrain	11			Indonesia	22			Saudi Arabia	14		
Bangladesh	20			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Senegal	12		
Belarus	10			Iraq	14			Serbia	12		
Belgium		10		Ireland	10			Seychelles	10		
Bhutan			10	Israel		12		Sierra Leone	11		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy	17			Singapore	12		
Botswana		11		Japan	20			Slovenia		10	
Brazil		22		Jordan	12			Somalia	13		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Kazakhstan	13			South Africa			17
Burkina Faso	13			Kenya	15			South Sudan	<i>Absent</i>		
Burundi	12			Kuwait	11			Spain		15	
Cabo Verde		10		Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cambodia		13		Latvia		11		Sudan	15		
Cameroon		13		Lebanon	11			Suriname	10		
Canada		15		Lesotho		11		Sweden		10	
Central African Republic	8			Liechtenstein		8		Switzerland		12	
Chad	13			Lithuania		11		Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Chile	13			Malawi	10			Thailand		18	
China	23			Malaysia	14			Timor-Leste		11	
Comoros	<i>Absent</i>			Mali	10			Togo	10		
Congo	<i>Absent</i>			Malta		10		Tonga	8		
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico		20		Tunisia	13		
Croatia		10		Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Turkey	18		
Cuba	13			Monaco		10		Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Cyprus		10		Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	15		
Czech Republic		13		Morocco	13			Ukraine		17	
DPR of Korea	12			Myanmar	15			United Arab Emirates	11		
DR of the Congo	17			Namibia		11		United Kingdom		18	
Denmark		12		Netherlands		13		Uruguay		11	
Djibouti	10			New Zealand		11		Uzbekistan	15		
Ecuador	13			Nicaragua	8			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)		15	
Egypt	19			Niger		13		Viet Nam	19		
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	20			Yemen	11		
Equatorial Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Norway		12		Zambia		13	
Estonia		11		Oman	11			Zimbabwe		13	
Ethiopia	19			Pakistan		21					
Fiji	10			Palestine	11						
Finland			12	Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>						
France		18		Philippines	20						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

**Do you agree that at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights holds a panel debate that will not lead to a resolution, entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons?***

**Results**

Affirmative votes..... 499 Abstentions ..... 130  
Negative votes ..... 636

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Georgia	11			Poland		10	
Albania		Absent		Germany		Absent		Portugal	13		
Algeria		16		Ghana		Absent		Qatar		11	
Andorra		Absent		Greece	13			Republic of Korea		Absent	
Angola			14	Guatemala		Absent		Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Argentina	10			Guinea		Absent		Romania		Absent	
Armenia		Absent		Haiti		Absent		Russian Federation		20	
Australia	14			Hungary		Absent		Rwanda		Absent	
Austria	10			Iceland	10			Samoa		8	
Azerbaijan		Absent		India			23	San Marino	10		
Bahrain		11		Indonesia		22		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bangladesh		Absent		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Senegal		12	
Belarus		13		Iraq		14		Serbia	7		5
Belgium	10			Ireland		Absent		Seychelles		Absent	
Bhutan			10	Israel		Absent		Sierra Leone		11	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Italy	17			Singapore			10
Botswana	11			Japan	10			Slovenia		Absent	
Brazil	20			Jordan		12		Somalia		11	
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan		13		South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso		13		Kenya		15		South Sudan		13	
Burundi		12		Kuwait		11		Spain		Absent	
Cabo Verde	3	7		Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Sudan		15	
Cameroon		Absent		Lebanon		11		Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Lesotho			11	Sweden	10		
Central African Republic		8		Liechtenstein		Absent		Switzerland	12		
Chad		13		Lithuania		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Chile	10		3	Malawi		Absent		Thailand	18		
China		23		Malaysia		14		Timor-Leste		10	
Comoros		Absent		Mali		Absent		Togo	10		
Congo		10		Malta	10			Tonga		Absent	
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Mexico	20			Tunisia		13	
Croatia		Absent		Micronesia (Fed. States of)	3	5		Turkey		18	
Cuba	13			Monaco			10	Turkmenistan		Absent	
Cyprus	10			Mongolia		Absent		Uganda		15	
Czech Republic	13			Morocco		13		Ukraine	17		
DPR of Korea		12		Myanmar		Absent		United Arab Emirates		11	
DR of the Congo		17		Namibia	10			United Kingdom	18		
Denmark	12			Netherlands	13			Uruguay	11		
Djibouti		10		New Zealand	11			Uzbekistan		Absent	
Ecuador	13			Nicaragua			8	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	4		11
Egypt		19		Niger		Absent		Viet Nam		Absent	
El Salvador	10			Nigeria		Absent		Yemen		11	
Equatorial Guinea		11		Norway	12			Zambia		13	
Estonia		Absent		Oman		11		Zimbabwe		13	
Ethiopia		19		Pakistan		Absent					
Fiji	10			Palestine		10					
Finland		Absent		Paraguay		Absent					
France	18			Philippines		Absent					

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 15 and 17 October 2018 with its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), in the Chair.

On 15 October, the Committee examined two items through back to back panels on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation*, and on *Combatting sexual violence in UN Peacekeeping operations and beyond*.

### **Panel discussion on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation***

Before the first panel discussion on 15 October began, Committee members were invited to watch a video message from the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee on resolution 1540, His Excellency Sacha Sergio Llorenty Solíz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations.

By way of introducing the panel's topic, the moderator, Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, London, quoted former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on the key role parliamentarians and parliaments played in the disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. He also praised current United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. A. Guterres, for releasing the new disarmament agenda "Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament". This comprehensive document comprised an implementation plan that outlined a set of practical measures across the entire range of disarmament issues and sought to generate fresh perspectives and to explore areas where serious dialogue was required to bring disarmament back to the heart of the system for maintaining peace and security. The moderator then presented the Committee's project on parliamentary oversight of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation policies. The project aimed at providing a better understanding of the methods and instruments at the disposal of parliamentarians for gathering, assessing, questioning, and acting upon information on their government's policy. He introduced the three speakers.

Ambassador Janis Karklins, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP5), gave a presentation within the agenda item *Disarmament that Saves Lives* which referred to conventional weapons. With 500,000 people annually dying in armed violence, conventional weapons could be compared, in terms of their ultimate devastating effect, to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). The international community was addressing the different conventional weapons through various conventions including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT was not a disarmament treaty in the classical sense of the word but sought to promote responsible action by States in the context of the arms trade and to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms. Ambassador Karklins highlighted the role of parliaments, in particular their oversight function. As the ATT did not have a review mechanism, its interpretation and implementation was left to the discretion of the State Parties. It was therefore up to parliamentarians to hold governments to account when it came to their efforts to implement the Treaty.

Ms. Silvia Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva branch, gave a presentation on the agenda item *Disarmament to save humanity*, regarding weapons of mass destruction and other strategic weapons. She noted that part V of the Agenda for Disarmament is entirely devoted to strengthening partnerships for disarmament and emphasizes not only the importance of engaging with governments, but also with international organizations, research institutes, civil society and the private sector. Noting the deteriorating security climate, she emphasized the importance of disarmament in upholding stability and security, promoting confidence and trust, and preventing conflict, inter alia. In the agenda, the Secretary-General notes that the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons should motivate the international community to take action leading to their total elimination. An implementation plan was released in early October 2018. It details how all actors and stakeholders should carry out the actions contained in the disarmament agenda.

Ms. K. Vignard, Chief of Operations and Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), gave a presentation on disarmament for future generations which focused on emerging means and methods of warfare. She promoted an understanding of the implications of new forms of science and technology in conflict; encouraged responsible innovation and application of new technologies; and called for human control over weapons and artificial intelligence as well as the promotion of peace and stability in cyber space. The international security dimension of new weapons technologies raised new concerns with regard to legal issues, such as the definition of "armed attack" or some fundamental principles of United Nations Charter concepts, such as "self-defence", and new proliferation challenges. New technologies were accessible, had dual-use and gave the private sector a leading role. They had combinational and enabling features and produced knowledge gaps. These new weapons and means of warfare could be destabilizing since, although innovations seemed to make the projection of force or coercion less risky, they raised a set of challenging ethical issues.

Further to the presentations, 17 speakers took the floor. They presented their countries disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation status. They also reiterated that people should be at the centre of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation agendas and policies. Some speakers called for action to reduce weapons especially in countries that were increasing the manufacturing of weapons. They proposed that budgets should be diverted, for example, from weapons and the army to education or climate change. Politics would thus be more human and would highlight the moral and ethical aspect of the issue. Speakers also urged that efforts be undertaken to ensure weapons did not reach non-States actors and underscored that one solution would be to reduce arms stocks and halt the arms race.

#### **Panel discussion on *Combating sexual violence in UN peacekeeping operations and beyond***

The panel was moderated by Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden), former parliamentarian. As President of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians she pushed for the topic to be taken on board by the Committee.

Ms. C. Bardet, international lawyer specialized in war crimes, and President of the NGO, We are not Weapons of War (WWoW), welcomed the choice of Dr. Denis Mukwege as winner of the 2018 Peace Nobel prize. She explained that sexual violence used as a weapon of war had always been present in conflicts. It was silent, and its victims were invisible, rarely heard, receiving very little support - their perpetrators were only very exceptionally brought to trial. Rape as a tool of war had become endemic and almost systematic in contemporary conflicts. It was used to humiliate, destroy and exercise power over women as well as over men and children. For centuries, sexual violence in times of conflict had been tacitly accepted and considered inevitable. It was only in 1992 that the issue came before the United Nations Security Council which declared that mass, organized, and systematic detention and rape of women constituted "an international crime that was not to be ignored". Subsequently, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) recognized rape as a crime against humanity. UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 declared that the use of rape and other sexual violence in times of conflict could constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or be a constituent element of genocide.

Ms. W. Cue, Senior Coordinator for PSEA/SHA at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), spoke about the United Nations system-wide approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse committed by humanitarian actors against beneficiary populations. Such exploitation and abuse by humanitarian staff could not be tolerated and violated everything the United Nations stood for. The issue became a priority for the United Nations Secretary-General who released a strategy where victims' rights and dignity were prioritized. Reporting and investigation mechanisms were strengthened, and transparency increased. Member States, civil society and other relevant actors, including victims themselves were engaged in building a multi-stakeholder network against sexual exploitation and abuse. There was a change of mindset among Member States, the United Nations and the aid sector, at all levels, with everyone committed to fighting that scourge.

Mr. J.-P. Letelier (Senator, Chile), former President of the IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, presented a parliamentary viewpoint. He highlighted the need to understand that wartime rape was a crime against humanity that should not be subject to amnesty nor have statutes of limitations. Parliamentarians should first ensure that the definition of wartime rape was put into national laws. That would help to prosecute perpetrators of such acts, recognize State responsibilities

and end impunity. He mentioned a proposal made to that effect by the President of Uruguay where States must assume responsibility for crimes committed by those they sent abroad and, more globally, responsibility for the acts committed by all their nationals participating in operations.

Ms. P. Fraser-Damoff (MP, Canada) called for all States to adopt a zero-tolerance approach. She presented the Canadian Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations, an innovative and multilateral pilot project that would develop, apply and test a combination of approaches to help overcome barriers to increasing women's meaningful participation in peace operations. The Elsie Initiative will impact both uniformed military and police staff. It included significant research, monitoring and evaluation components to ensure it could be adjusted throughout implementation.

Further to the presentations, 11 speakers took the floor. Among them were several of the largest contributors to United Nations operations such as Bangladesh, India and South Africa. Several of the speakers referred to UN Security Council resolution 2272 aimed at preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by those under the United Nations mandate and called for its operationalization. The resolution reaffirmed zero tolerance but also mandated a new mechanism as a response to sexual exploitation and abuse: the repatriation of entire military contingents and police units that contained individuals who had allegations made against them. Several speakers referred to the fact that the vast majority of the victims did not complain and kept their pain secret. They called on NGOs to carry out awareness campaigns in the field and to give advice to rape victims.

Speakers called for a road map for parliamentary action and proposed several ideas such as: encouraging parliaments to hold regular briefings on peace operations, including cases of misconduct; and regularly assessing existing national legislation to determine its applicability to sex crimes committed by its citizens while in the service of UN peace operations. Parliaments could also amend, if necessary, the administrative frameworks governing police and military personnel to explicitly include sexual exploitation and abuse as serious forms of misconduct and ensure that such cases entailed the harshest available sanctions. Speakers highlighted the value of conducting training of peacekeeping troops prior to deployment in conflict regions, with an emphasis on response to conflict-related sexual violence. South Africa gave the example of the deployment of a mobile Military Court consisting of a judge, a lawyer, a prosecutor and a clerk to judge South African peacekeepers accused of misconduct in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and South Sudan.

### **Expert hearing on the *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights***

On 17 October, the Committee held an expert hearing on *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*, the topic of a resolution that was expected to be adopted by the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

The hearing opened with the statements of two experts:

Ms. J. Aparac, member of the UN working group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and Mr. W. Bruyère-Ostells, university lecturer in contemporary history at the Institute for Political Sciences in Aix-en-Provence, France.

The experts gave a short overview of the evolution of mercenarism and its different forms and manifestations. Mercenarism was a phenomenon as old as war itself, present throughout history. Three different types of mercenaries could be identified: the integrated, entrepreneurial and ideological. Over time, mercenarism evolved and declined only to re-emerge with the wars of decolonization and the ensuing civil wars. With the end of the Cold War, the phenomenon experienced a revival and new types of mercenary-related activities emerged in the form of private military companies which moved away from scattered groups of individual mercenaries to professionalized, structured companies, sometimes listed on the stock market. The latest manifestations of the phenomenon had taken the form of expanded services that the companies offered to humanitarian actors, maritime security, detention facilities, and so forth.

The experts also analyzed the linkages between foreign fighters and mercenaries and identified key similarities such as the trait of being an external actor intervening in a conflict, and the types of activities foreign fighters and mercenaries were involved in, such as armed conflicts, terrorism and

organized crime. While noting that a key difference between many foreign fighters and mercenaries was their ideological motivation, the experts noted that incentives of financial or material gain also existed among foreign fighters.

Both experts highlighted the fact that defining mercenaries and foreign fighters was key to the issue. There was not a single definition, neither historical nor legal, of mercenarism. International law provided for a narrow definition of a mercenary; other definitions could be found in the UN Convention against the Use of Mercenaries adopted in December 1989 (by 35 States Parties but no permanent member of the Security Council) and in national legislation. Sociological, anthropological and historical realities also needed to be taken into account. One solution could be to draft legislation that regulated the status of all foreign participants in a theatre of war in general, moving away from the distinction between mercenaries and foreign fighters, to the idea of providing assistance to a foreign State without being formally mandated by a State.

After hearing the experts' presentations, a total of 21 speakers took the floor. All speakers agreed on the need for better legislation in order to prohibit the use of mercenaries and foreign fighters and to regulate the work of private military companies. They highlighted the current gaps and the lack of oversight mechanisms at all levels to address issues arising from the presence of mercenaries and foreign fighters. Legislation should address impunity and promote respect and ethics. Some speakers were of the view that individuals from one country fighting under any other flag should be prosecuted under the jurisdiction of his/her own country wherever the action took place and called for the adoption of very strict national laws criminalizing mercenary-related activities. Speakers also called for better governance and an enhanced oversight of the security sector. Regarding the identified differences between mercenaries and foreign fighters many speakers stated that they should be treated in the same way. Finally, one speaker underscored that when drafting the resolution, the co-rapporteurs should take into account the fact that several IPU Members had not ratified all the conventions covering the issue of mercenaries.

In conclusion, the two co-rapporteurs took the floor to explain their preliminary views on the topic and thanked the experts and the various speakers for providing them with food for thought.

The report on the work of the Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 18 October by the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain).

The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 16 October 2018 with Ms. L. Rojas, senior member of the Bureau, in the Chair. Eleven out of eighteen members were present. During this meeting, the Bureau met with the co-rapporteurs who explained how they would like to work on the resolution. The Bureau also discussed its workplan. It confirmed the decision taken at the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly to devote all the time allocated for the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly to negotiating the resolution. For future activities in-between assemblies, all present members were of the view that more field visits should be organized. The Bureau took note of an invitation to visit Jordan and a formal offer was expected. Bureau members were also informed of the Geneva Peace Week taking place from 5 to 9 November 2018. The proposals were subsequently approved by the Standing Committee at the end of its last plenary sitting on 17 October.

Elections took place on 15 October 2018. The Twelve Plus Group proposed Ms. A. Shkrum (Ukraine) to fill a vacant post. The Asia-Pacific Group proposed Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) for a second mandate. Two posts remain vacant: one for the Eurasia Group, to be filled by either a woman or a man, and one for the Asia-Pacific group, to be filled by a woman.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 15 and 17 October. The first sitting was chaired by Ms. S. Dinica (Romania), member of the Bureau. The second sitting was chaired by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan).

### **Debate on *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.***

The debate was organized on the theme of the Standing Committee's forthcoming resolution which should be adopted at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The purpose of the debate was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about the role of fair and free trade investment in achieving the SDGs, especially in terms of economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

The theme and key issues for consideration and discussion were introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. J. Wilson (Australia), Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana) and Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia). They stressed the importance of recognizing that there was a clear nexus between trade and investment, and that both were crucial to the achievement of the SDGs. Trade was often neither fair nor equitable, and export-import relations were sometimes imbalanced. Parliaments should therefore work to prevent the spreading of systems that exacerbate inequalities and, instead, promote a process that could help develop fair and free trade. The co-Rapporteurs stated that it was not a question of countries being equally developed but rather of having equal opportunities and that that should, in fact, be the target to aim for. Particular attention should also be paid to fostering industrialization as, in its absence, free trade could have negative consequences for developing countries.

A total of 30 delegates took the floor to share their views, comments and good practices their countries had put in place to increase citizens' standards and advance the realization of the SDGs. Some delegates gave specific examples of measures their parliaments had developed to enhance free exchange, reduce taxes, foster economic development and support countries affected by climate change. Participants particularly stressed the importance for parliaments to make good use of their oversight function and to work to ensure justice. Stability was considered a key driver for the attainment of economic development. There was agreement that stability was a natural consequence of fair trade. Innovation, green investment and circular economy were also highlighted as important aspects that should be reflected in the future draft resolution.

Given the disparities that existed between countries, several participants underscored the importance of cooperation, solidarity and support that should be provided to developing countries. They stressed that IPU Members should reaffirm their determination to pursue equitable development, create equal business opportunities and improve citizens' standards of living. Concrete actions should be taken to ensure the maximum benefit for all. Participants agreed that, contrary to protectionism and isolationism, trade and investment were crucial engines that could accelerate SDGs realization, boost development and generate productivity gains. Participants also agreed that the SDGs represented a great opportunity to promote equitable and inclusive economic growth.

To conclude the debate, the co-Rapporteurs recalled that trade could help reduce poverty and that it was important for everybody to pursue trade with a clear focus on a shared well-being. They invited participants to send written inputs for inclusion in the draft resolution.

### **Parliamentary contribution to the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference**

The Standing Committee discussed the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to take place on 9 December in Krakow (Poland).

The session started with a briefing by the Rapporteur to the Parliamentary Meeting in Krakow, Ms. A. Paluch (Poland), who introduced the meeting's draft outcome document. As Poland was to host the next UN Climate Change Conference (COP24), she outlined the history of the climate change

agreements, starting with the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the subsequent Kyoto Protocol, and the adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement (PA). Regarding the latter, she stressed that the PA required that all countries reduce emissions which was why the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were introduced. Ms. A. Paluch further highlighted the PA's harmonized system of monitoring, reporting, and stock-taking, and underscored that the PA was based on the principle of cooperation. She reminded delegates to submit comments to the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting in writing by 16 November 2018.

Altogether four delegations took the floor in the debate: India, Japan, Kuwait, and Seychelles. They referred to the recent natural disasters and the record heat experienced in many countries last summer. The delegates urged their peers for action against global warming, highlighting the need to limit global temperature rise to 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and expressed hope that COP24 would put in place more effective regulations on climate change. Better linkages with the SDG agenda, capacity building and knowledge transfers were highlighted as some of the most pressing issues that needed to be dealt with.

After responding to delegates' questions, Ms. A. Paluch thanked all delegates for their contributions to the draft outcome document and invited others to send their amendments in writing. The revised draft outcome document would be shared with all delegates through the IPU website at the end of November 2018.

**Panel discussion on "Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*"**

The panel discussion was chaired by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan), member of parliament. It benefitted from the expert contributions of Ms. S. Lozo and Ms. M. de Blonay, both with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Mr. T. Pringle, member of parliament (Ireland), and Ms. B. Hoehn, member of parliament (Germany).

Ms. S. Lozo introduced the discussion and highlighted the benefits renewables could produce at the environmental, social and economic levels. Amongst others, she stressed the growing variety of renewable power sources as well as the growing uptake of renewables in developing countries. Renewables could be important providers in terms of employment as on average renewable energy industries could create more jobs than fossil fuel industries. Considering that energy transition could increase the gross domestic product and boost economic growth, Ms. S. Lozo highlighted the importance of ensuring that this process was just and fair. Regulations, enabling frameworks and comprehensive policies were in fact crucial in order to effectively achieve a sustainable energy transition. Ms. M. de Blonay informed participants about the work conducted by IRENA to raise further awareness and disseminate the IPU resolution.

Mr. T. Pringle presented his Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill, which had received unanimous cross-party support that summer in the Irish lower house and was currently going through the final stages in the Irish upper house. The bill was considered ground-breaking in forecasting Ireland to become the first country in the world to divest its public money out of fossil fuel companies. He stressed that it was time that parliamentarians listened and responded to their communities and represented civil society in advocating for climate action. Mr. T. Pringle urged parliamentarians across the world to replicate that process and create healthy links between civil society, institutions and other sympathetic politicians, helping the collective take on corporate power.

Ms. B. Hoehn talked about the expansion of renewables in Germany and informed on how they represented one of the most important sources of electricity in the country. In 2017 almost 50 per cent of the energy was derived from renewable sources. Germany was in fact aiming to make its energy supply greener and more climate-friendly, and to make the country less dependent on fossil fuels.

In the ensuing debate, 17 delegates took the floor. They highlighted the need for Governments and Parliaments to establish policies on renewable energies and presented the strategies implemented in their countries in order to contribute to the development of this sector, including their Official development assistance (ODA) spending. Among others, discussants stressed the need to prioritize schemes aimed at supporting households, and that energy had to be affordable. Japan highlighted that hydrogen energy would be used at the 2020 Olympic Games it would host. Other representatives underscored the importance for parliamentarians to raise public awareness on renewable energy and



establish a constructive dialogue among the different stakeholders including the private sector as the transition to renewable energy required considerable resources and finances. It was also mentioned that renewable energy transition was closely related to migration. The development of the renewable energy sector could in fact create jobs and help solve migration-related challenges. Parliamentarians acknowledged the potential of the sector and also considered the role of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

### **Elections to the Bureau and work plan for the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

The Committee elected to the Bureau Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) for the African Group and Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) for the Eurasia Group. Both candidates would complete the term of their countries on the Bureau.

The Committee also elected Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) to complete the term of President.

The Committee approved the proposal of the Bureau to dedicate the Committee's sittings at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly to drafting the resolution.

## Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

### **Panel discussion on *Would a UN intergovernmental tax body help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion?***

Presenters: Ms. S. Blankenburg, Head, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD; Ms. T.M. Ryding, Policy and Advocacy Manager for tax justice, EURODAD; Mr. D. Pacheco, member of parliament (Portugal).

Thirteen interventions were made from the floor in response to panel presentations. On the whole, participants expressed support for the creation of an intergovernmental body at the UN that would work to establish a global tax standard on corporate taxation.

The argument for such a body was introduced by the Group of 77 (G77) and China in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 in Addis Ababa. No agreement was reached on the proposal due to the opposition of developed countries, where most of the world's transnational corporations are headquartered.

One key problem with the current international tax regime was that it allowed corporate conglomerates to shift profits to subsidiaries strategically located in low-tax jurisdictions. The OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative, that sought to establish a common tax standard, was designed without the participation of developing countries and had proved to be inadequate because of its many loopholes. Developing countries were invited to join the initiative provided they agree to it as it currently stands.

Compounding the problem was the proliferation of tax havens, as well as governments' growing practice of luring corporate investors to their countries by lowering the effective tax rate. As a result, globally corporate taxes had been reduced from 50 per cent to 24 per cent in just a few decades. Currently, hundreds of billions of dollars in potential revenue were lost to these practices yearly.

An intergovernmental body on taxes would not undermine governments' sovereign tax authority, but rather help strengthen their capacity to collect taxes on behalf of their people. That was also reflected in the current movement within the European Union towards the creation of a common tax regime for transnational corporations.

The proposed UN body would have universal membership. In addition to establishing a global standard of corporate taxation, possibly through an international treaty, it might also be mandated to create a new class of global taxes to support efforts to address global problems such as climate change.

### **Panel discussion on *What scope for cooperation between parliaments and the WHO as the leading United Nations agency for global health?***

Presenters: Ms. M. Bocoz, Assistant Director-General for External Relations, WHO; Dr. H. Millat, member of parliament (Bangladesh), President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health.

Established in 1948, the WHO has 194 Member States, 7,000 staff members and offices in 150 countries. The organization's mandate is to encourage worldwide policy dialogue on health issues and to provide strategic support to countries' health systems, technical assistance to national health authorities and emergency services to countries coping with a health crisis.

The debate, which included seven interventions, highlighted the essential role of the WHO in helping countries implement SDG 3 on health, and its ambitious target to achieve universal health care by 2030. Lately, the WHO had played a leading role in the fight against non-communicable diseases (diabetes, heart disease and cancer), which are responsible for 40 million deaths each year. It was also working with countries to promote and support vaccination programmes to prevent contagious diseases.

The 2018 resolution of the UN General Assembly on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union* for the first time called for closer cooperation between the WHO and the IPU. That mention provided a welcome boost to a partnership that had been in the

making over the last few years and that was formalized recently in a memorandum of understanding. The IPU Advisory Group on Health supervised and advised much of IPU's health-related work with parliaments and was the main interface between the two organizations.

The session highlighted the important role of parliaments in legislation and budget oversight to expand the provision of health services to all people, particularly the most vulnerable and hardest to reach. Parliamentarians participated in the annual World Health Assembly, which was the main governing body of the WHO and where the IPU organized a regular side event.

Participants welcomed those developments and encouraged the WHO to work closely with the IPU, as well as directly with parliaments. Two proposals were made in that regard: that the WHO website feature more prominently its relationship with parliaments, and that parliaments constitute groups of friends of the WHO.

## Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments

### Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Burkina Faso for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	715	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1046
Negative votes .....	331	Two-thirds majority.....	697
Abstentions .....	619		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	
Afghanistan	14			Georgia	10			Poland	15			
Albania		<i>Absent</i>			Germany	19			Portugal	13		
Algeria			16	Ghana	14			Qatar		11		
Andorra	10			Greece	13			Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>		
Angola			14	Guatemala		<i>Absent</i>		Republic of Moldova		<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina	10			Guinea		<i>Absent</i>		Romania	14			
Armenia	11			Haiti		<i>Absent</i>		Russian Federation			20	
Australia	8	6		Hungary	13			Rwanda	12			
Austria			12	Iceland			10	Samoa		8		
Azerbaijan			10	India	12		11	San Marino			10	
Bahrain		11		Indonesia			22	Saudi Arabia		14		
Bangladesh			20	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Senegal	12			
Belarus			10	Iraq			14	Serbia	4		8	
Belgium	10			Ireland			10	Seychelles			10	
Bhutan	6		4	Israel			12	Sierra Leone			11	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Italy	17			Singapore			12	
Botswana			11	Japan	20			Slovenia	10			
Brazil			22	Jordan		12		Somalia			13	
Bulgaria		<i>Absent</i>			Kazakhstan	13						
Burkina Faso	13			Kenya			15	South Africa		17		
Burundi	12			Kuwait		11		South Sudan		<i>Absent</i>		
Cabo Verde	10			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Spain	10	5		
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>		
Cameroon	13			Lebanon		11		Sudan		15		
Canada	5		10	Lesotho	11			Suriname	10			
Central African Republic	8			Liechtenstein			8	Sweden			10	
Chad	13			Lithuania			11	Switzerland	9	3		
Chile			13	Lithuania			11	Syrian Arab Rep.		13		
China	23			Malawi			10	Thailand			18	
Comoros		<i>Absent</i>			Malaysia			14	Timor-Leste	11		
Congo		<i>Absent</i>			Mali	10			Togo	10		
Côte d'Ivoire		<i>Absent</i>			Malta	10			Tonga		8	
Croatia			10	Mexico	10		10	Tunisia		13		
Cuba	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Turkey			18	
Cyprus			10	Monaco		10		Turkmenistan		<i>Absent</i>		
Czech Republic		13		Mongolia		<i>Absent</i>		Uganda	15			
DPR of Korea		12		Morocco			13	Ukraine			17	
DR of the Congo	17			Myanmar			15	United Arab Emirates		11		
Denmark		12		Namibia		11		United Kingdom	18			
Djibouti			10	Netherlands		13		Uruguay			11	
Ecuador	13			New Zealand		11		Uzbekistan			15	
Egypt	19			Nicaragua	8			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10		5	
El Salvador		<i>Absent</i>			Niger	13						
Equatorial Guinea		<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	20						
Estonia	11			Norway		12		Viet Nam	19			
Ethiopia	19			Oman		11		Yemen		11		
Fiji			10	Pakistan	6		15	Zambia			13	
Finland			12	Palestine		11		Zimbabwe			13	
France	18			Paraguay		<i>Absent</i>						
				Philippines	20							

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Cutting off aid to UNRWA — A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law:  
Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this  
decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole**

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Jordan and  
Kuwait for the inclusion of an emergency item**

**R e s u l t s**

Affirmative votes..... 1,036      Total of affirmative and negative votes .. 1,294  
Negative votes ..... 258      Two-thirds majority..... 863  
Abstentions ..... 371

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Georgia			10	Poland	15		
Albania		<i>Absent</i>			Germany		19	Portugal			13
Algeria	16			Ghana			14	Qatar	11		
Andorra	10			Greece	13			Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>	
Angola	14			Guatemala		<i>Absent</i>		Republic of Moldova		<i>Absent</i>	
Argentina	10			Guinea		<i>Absent</i>		Romania		14	
Armenia	5		6	Haiti		<i>Absent</i>		Russian Federation	20		
Australia		11	3	Hungary		13		Rwanda			12
Austria			12	Iceland		10		Samoa	8		
Azerbaijan	10			India	23			San Marino	5		5
Bahrain	11			Indonesia	22			Saudi Arabia	14		
Bangladesh	20			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Senegal	12		
Belarus			10	Iraq	14			Serbia	10		2
Belgium		10		Ireland			10	Seychelles	10		
Bhutan	7		3	Israel		12		Sierra Leone			11
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy			17	Singapore			12
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Slovenia			10
Brazil	22			Jordan	12			Somalia	13		
Bulgaria		<i>Absent</i>			Kazakhstan	13		South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya			15	South Sudan		<i>Absent</i>	
Burundi	12			Kuwait	11			Spain		15	
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>	
Cambodia			13	Latvia		11		Sudan	15		
Cameroon		13		Lebanon	11			Suriname	10		
Canada		15		Lesotho			11	Sweden			10
Central African Republic	8			Liechtenstein			8	Switzerland	12		
Chad			13	Lithuania			11	Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Chile	13			Malawi			10	Thailand	8		10
China	23			Malaysia	14			Timor-Leste	5	6	
Comoros		<i>Absent</i>			Mali			Togo	10		
Congo		<i>Absent</i>			Malta	10		Tonga	8		
Côte d'Ivoire		<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	15	5	Tunisia	13		
Croatia			10	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Turkey	18		
Cuba	13			Monaco		10		Turkmenistan		<i>Absent</i>	
Cyprus	5		5	Mongolia		<i>Absent</i>		Uganda	15		
Czech Republic		13		Morocco	13			Ukraine	10		7
DPR of Korea	12			Myanmar			15	United Arab Emirates	11		
DR of the Congo	17			Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Denmark		12		Netherlands		13		Uruguay	11		
Djibouti	10			New Zealand		11		Uzbekistan	15		
Ecuador	13			Nicaragua	8			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	6	9	
Egypt	19			Niger			13				
El Salvador		<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	10	10				
Equatorial Guinea		<i>Absent</i>			Norway		12				
Estonia		11		Oman	11			Viet Nam	19		
Ethiopia	19			Pakistan	21			Yemen	11		
Fiji			10	Palestine	11			Zambia	13		
Finland			12	Paraguay		<i>Absent</i>		Zimbabwe	13		
France	18			Philippines	20						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Climate change – Let us not cross the line****Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of  
Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of)  
for the inclusion of an emergency item****Results**

Affirmative votes.....	1,106	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,417
Negative votes .....	311	Two-thirds majority.....	945
Abstentions .....	248		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Georgia	10			Poland			15
Albania		<i>Absent</i>			Germany	19			Portugal	13	
Algeria			16	Ghana	14			Qatar		11	
Andorra	10			Greece	13			Republic of Korea		<i>Absent</i>	
Angola			14	Guatemala		<i>Absent</i>		Republic of Moldova		<i>Absent</i>	
Argentina	10			Guinea		<i>Absent</i>		Romania	14		
Armenia	11			Haiti		<i>Absent</i>		Russian Federation	20		
Australia	14			Hungary	13			Rwanda	12		
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Samoa	8		
Azerbaijan			10	India	12		11	San Marino	10		
Bahrain		11		Indonesia	22			Saudi Arabia		14	
Bangladesh	20			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Senegal	12		
Belarus	10			Iraq		14		Serbia	12		
Belgium	10			Ireland	10			Seychelles	10		
Bhutan	7		3	Israel	12			Sierra Leone	11		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy			17	Singapore	12		
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Slovenia	10		
Brazil			22	Jordan		12		Somalia			13
Bulgaria		<i>Absent</i>			Kazakhstan	13			South Africa	17	
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya	15			South Sudan		<i>Absent</i>	
Burundi	12			Kuwait		11		Spain	15		
Cabo Verde	10			Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Sri Lanka		<i>Absent</i>	
Cambodia	13			Latvia	11			Sudan		15	
Cameroon	13			Lebanon		11		Suriname	10		
Canada	10		5	Lesotho	11			Sweden	10		
Central African Republic	8			Liechtenstein	8			Switzerland		12	
Chad	13			Lithuania	11			Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Chile			13	Malawi	10			Thailand	18		
China	23			Malaysia	14			Timor-Leste	11		
Comoros		<i>Absent</i>			Mali			10	Togo	10	
Congo		<i>Absent</i>			Malta	10			Tonga	8	
Côte d'Ivoire		<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	20			Tunisia		13
Croatia	10			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Turkey		18	
Cuba	13			Monaco	10			Turkmenistan		<i>Absent</i>	
Cyprus	10			Mongolia		<i>Absent</i>		Uganda	15		
Czech Republic		13		Morocco		13		Ukraine	17		
DPR of Korea		12		Myanmar	15			United Arab Emirates		11	
DR of the Congo			17	Namibia		11		United Kingdom	18		
Denmark	12			Netherlands		13		Uruguay	11		
Djibouti			10	New Zealand	11			Uzbekistan	15		
Ecuador	13			Nicaragua	8			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10		5
Egypt		19		Niger		13		Viet Nam	19		
El Salvador		<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	20			Yemen		11
Equatorial Guinea		<i>Absent</i>			Norway	12			Zambia		13
Estonia	11			Oman		11			Zimbabwe		13
Ethiopia	19			Pakistan	11		10				
Fiji	10			Palestine		11					
Finland	12			Paraguay		<i>Absent</i>					
France			18	Philippines	20						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

## Climate change – Let us not cross the line

### *Resolution adopted unanimously by the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly (Geneva, 17 October 2018)*

The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016,

*Acknowledging* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development draws a clear link between climate change and other critical areas of today's society, such as food security, the ocean, and other water resources,

*Recalling* that, as part of the Paris Agreement, the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,

*Noting* that the IPCC recently released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,

*Also noting* the following projections of major concern in the IPCC report:

- (a) Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between the present day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).
- (b) By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (medium confidence). A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas (medium confidence).
- (c) On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
- (d) Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to the Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).
- (e) Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C,

*Acknowledging* that the Report establishes that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible despite being at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C,

*Recognizing* that the small island developing States (SIDS) acknowledged that "climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of Pacific people"; and further recognized the importance placed on an "expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritizing environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support",

*Acknowledging* that many countries near sea level are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, notably droughts, floods and storms, due to high rates of poverty, financial and technological constraints as well as a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, despite many of these countries not being significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

*Recognizing* the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change, and committed to sustained, high-level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP24),

*Cognizant* of the profound impact of climate change on the ocean and the fact that the global community cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without considering the other, and while recognizing that ocean acidification has a specific target under Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, and that it must not lose sight of the fundamental climate change-related issues such as ocean warming, deoxygenation, coral bleaching and sea level rise which present a new set of challenges for the ocean,

*Recalling* the relevant IPU resolutions on climate change and the Parliamentary action plan on climate change, endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198<sup>th</sup> session in Zambia in 2016, which identifies key areas of action for legislators and makes recommendations about their delivery,

*Also recalling* the SIDS parliamentary outcome document of their meeting held on 14 October 2017 in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, which was subsequently made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn (COP23),

*Therefore calls on* the IPU Members to:

- (a) Recognize and decisively act on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C;
- (b) Support and lead the development of the Rule Book and Guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, including resource mobilization and simplifying procedures for accessing climate change funding, in order to build on the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP24;
- (c) Take a leadership role in combating climate change and strengthening their partnership with all countries so as to meet their ambitions as set out in their nationally determined contributions;
- (d) Encourage their governments to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy targets; and
- (e) Strengthen oversight of national and international commitments, including government implementation of national legislation and enhance transparency, accountability and reporting of climate change.



## Declaration on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*Endorsed by the the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a historic instrument drafted in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War by representatives from around the world with different legal and cultural backgrounds.

The fundamental rights in the Declaration have served, first and foremost, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human beings and to contribute to the peace, security and prosperity of all nations.

As we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, we also remember and honour Nelson Mandela, who would have turned 100 years old this year. He personified the ideals of the Declaration and, in his own words, strove to uphold "the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities".

Over the course of his lifetime, the rights enshrined in the Declaration were universally recognized, with States now bound in law to ensure their citizens benefit from these rights and can access appropriate remedies and redress when the rights are violated.

Yet these rights are still far from being a reality for many. Against the backdrop of growing authoritarianism, internal conflict, war, poverty and large-scale migration, we, as parliamentarians, feel compelled to reaffirm our commitment to the Declaration and its underlying principles in the following way:

- As legislators, we commit to guaranteeing that the domestic legal framework complies with international and national human rights obligations and creates an enabling environment for inclusive participatory politics, a vibrant civil society and the rule of law.
- As people's representatives, we will do everything in our power to ensure that parliamentary discourse, proceedings, and outreach are rooted in, and promote, equality, liberty and justice.
- We will do more to raise greater awareness of the Declaration among our constituents and help them to access their rights thereunder.
- As role models, we commit ourselves to inspire and energize our societies, particularly by championing the rights of those who are marginalized and persecuted, such as women, children, minorities, and others who are disenfranchised.
- We commit to the Declaration by acting in solidarity with parliamentary colleagues worldwide whose fundamental rights are being violated and by raising their cases at the appropriate forums and with the relevant interlocutors, as well as by supporting the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

We will do everything in our power to support human rights defenders, the often "invisible Mandelas" who risk their freedom and lives to uphold the rights of others and who merit the recognition and support of parliaments, especially in light of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

## Concluding remarks by the IPU President on the IPU values and principles

*Endorsed by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

Colleagues, the IPU motto is *For Democracy. For Everyone.*

Our vision statement says *We work for a world where every voice counts.*

At this Assembly, we took a vote that caused many members of our Organization, and me, distress.

The IPU Assemblies are a place where parliamentarians learn about and discuss all subjects, without vetoes and taboos on issues, particularly those related to human rights. We have a responsibility as parliamentarians to tackle all subjects that those we represent need us to cover.

This week we launched the new IPU handbook for parliamentarians on freedom of expression. I encourage each of you to use this document to inform and guide our future work, at home and here in our assemblies.

As we are reminded on this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all human beings have the same rights, including the right to freedom of expression, and to equality before the law.

These are fundamental principles that the IPU and its Members must find a way to incorporate more fully in all our work, in committees and in plenary.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

Ms./Mme Gabriela Cuevas Barron

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Présidente de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire*

**I. MEMBERS - MEMBRES****AFGHANISTAN**

RAUOF, Ahmad Jawid (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Elders Chairperson of the International Relations Committee
KOOFI, Fawzi (Ms.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the House of the People Chair of the Women Affairs and Civil Society Committee
AHMADI, Lailuma (Ms.)	Member of the House of Elders Education and Higher Education Committee
NASRAT, Khudai Nazar (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of the People
NASARY, Abdul Muqtader (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of Elders
RAHIMI, Wazir Mohammad (Mr.)	Director of Relations with the IPU, House of Elders
MUSLIMYAR, Shamsurrahman (Mr.)	Senior Advisor to the Speaker, House of Elders

**ALBANIA - ALBANIE**

BELLO, Vilma (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament ( <i>PS</i> )
KOSOVA, Halim (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Work and Social Issues ( <i>PD</i> )
RAMA, Luan (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on European Integration ( <i>LSI</i> )
ULQINI, Musa (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on European Integration ( <i>PS</i> )
GJONCAJ, Genci (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Parliament of Albania, Parliament
OSTROSI-VELIAJ, Miranda (Ms.) Adviser	Parliament
PASHKJA, Irma (Ms.)	General Director of the Foreign Relations Service, Parliament

(PS: Socialist Party of Albania / Parti socialiste albanais)

(PD: Democratic Party of Albania / Parti démocratique albanais)

(LSI: Socialist Movement for European Integration / Mouvement socialiste pour l'intégration européenne)

**ALGERIA - ALGERIE**

BENSALAH, Abdelkader (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président du Conseil de la Nation
BENBADIS, Fawzia (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif, Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
BOUCHELAGHEM, Mohamed (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
MANI, Mohamed (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
CHIHEB, Seddik (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

ZITOUNI, Messaoud (M.)	Membre du Conseil de la Nation
SLIMANI, Bachir (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale
DRISSI DADA, Mohamed (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Nation
ACHOUÏ, Youcef (M.)	Directeur du Protocole du Président du Conseil de la Nation
BENZIADA, Mounia (Mme) Secrétaire du Groupe	Cadre administratif, Conseil de la Nation
REBAHI, Salim (M.)	Directeur de la Communication, Conseil de la Nation
SI BACHIR, Noureddine (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Chargé de l'Union interparlementaire, Assemblée populaire nationale
ALIOUANE, Hafid (M.) Presse	

**ANDORRA - ANDORRE**

BONELL, Mònica (Mme) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Présidente du Conseil général ( <i>DA</i> )
GILLI, Rosa (Mme)	Membre du Conseil général Présidente de la Commission législative de l'aménagement du territoire Membre de la Commission de l'économie Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé et de l'environnement ( <i>PS</i> )
MARTISELLA, Maria (Mme)	Membre du Conseil général ( <i>DA</i> ) Commission des affaires intérieures Commission des affaires étrangères Commission de l'économie
ARASA, Eva (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Protocole, Conseil général

(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)

(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti Social-démocrate)

**ANGOLA**

OLIVEIRA VALENTE, Idalina (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>MPLA</i> )
DANDA, Raul (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>UNITA</i> )
GASPAR, João (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>MPLA</i> )
PELINGANGA, Isabel (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>MPLA</i> )
TITO, Lindo Bernardo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>Casa-CE</i> )
AMADO, Idalia (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
CUNUIJI, Estaquio (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
SITA, Sílvia (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly

GUIMARÃES, Alberto (Mr.)

Diplomat

(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)

(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)

(Casa-CE: Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition / Convergence ample de sauvetage de l'Angola-Coalition électorale)

**ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE**

PINEDO, Federico (Mr.)

President of the Group, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation

President *pro tempore* of the SenateDeputy chair of the Standing Committee on Monitoring of Public-Private Partnership Contracts  
Committee on Justice and Penal Affairs (*PRO*)

CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Ms.)

Member of the Senate  
Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship  
General Legislation Committee (*MPN*)

ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr.)

President of the Committee on UN Affairs

Member of the Senate

Committee on National Economy and Investment  
Mixed Standing Committee on Budgetary Control (*PJ*)

ROZAS, Angel (Mr.)

Member of the Senate  
Constitutional Affairs Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee (*BUCR*)

URTUBEY, Rodolfo (Mr.)

Member of the Senate  
Chair of the Agreements Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee (*PJ*)

IGLESIAS, Fernando Adolfo (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Education Committee  
Committee on External Relations and Justice (*PRO*)

PERRONE, Damian Roberto (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

BESTANI, Simon (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group

Director General, Parliamentary Diplomacy, Senate

CINCUNEGUI, Juan De Dios (Mr.)

Adviser to the Group

Director General, International Relations to the Speaker's Office, Chamber of Deputies

HAZAN, Laura (Mr.)

Director General of Protocol, Senate

SCHUSTER, Paula (Mr.)

Director General, Institutional Communication, Senate

TUNESSI, Juan Pablo (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Parliamentary Secretary, Senate

(PRO: Republican Proposal / Proposition républicaine)

(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)

(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)

(BUCR: Bloque Unión Cívica Radical)

**ARMENIA - ARMENIE**

BABLOYAN, Ara (Mr.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (*HHK*)

MELKUMYAN, Mikayel (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (*PAP*)

SARDARYAN, Shushan (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (*HHK*)

ISAYAN, Shake (Ms.)

Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Member of the National Assembly (*PAP*)

SAGHATELYAN, Ara (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Chief of Staff, National Assembly
HOVHANNISYAN, Artak (Mr.)	Head of the Protocol Department, National Assembly
BABAYAN, Arsen (Mr.)	Deputy Chief of Staff, National Assembly
MNATSAKANYAN, Hripsime (Ms.) Acting Secretary to the delegation	Chief Specialist of Foreign Relations Department, National Assembly
KOTANJYAN, Arsen (Mr.) Diplomat	
TOVMASYAN, Murad (Mr.) Press	

(HHK: Republican Party of Armenia / Parti républicain arménien)  
(PAP: Prosperous Armenia Party / Parti arménien de la prospérité)  
(CC: Civil Contract / Contrat civil)

**AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE**

MACDONALD, Ian (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate ( <i>LPA</i> )
POLLEY, Helen (Ms.)	Member of the Senate ( <i>ALP</i> )
PRENTICE, Jane (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives ( <i>LPA</i> )
WILSON, Josh (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of Representatives ( <i>ALP</i> )
MATULICK, Toni (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Committee Secretary, Senate
WILDE, Elizabeth (Ms.) Diplomat	
PLAYFORD, Kevin (Mr.) Diplomat	
GITTOS, Lisa (Ms.) Diplomat	

(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)  
(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien)

**AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE**

LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Council) Chair of the Standing Subcommittee on European Union Affairs ( <i>ÖVP</i> )
GRAF, Martin (Mr.)	Member of the National Council ( <i>FPÖ</i> )
BAYR, Petra (Ms.) Vice-President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health	Member of the National Council Chair of the Subcommittee on Development Cooperation ( <i>SPÖ</i> )
VELBERG, Sophie (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	EU and International Service, National Council

(ÖVP: People's Party (ÖVP) / Parti populaire)  
(SPÖ: Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) / Parti social démocrate)  
(FPÖ: Freedom Party (FPÖ) / Parti de la liberté)

**AZERBAIJAN - AZERBAIDJAN**

ALASGAROV, Valeh (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Chairman of the Natural Committee on Resources, Energy and Environmental Issues ( <i>Ind</i> )
BAYRAMOV, Kamran (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Regional Affairs Committee ( <i>YA</i> )
MAMEDOVA, Zahra (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Head Adviser, National Assembly
SADIQOV, Vaqif (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
HASANOV, Emil (Mr.) Diplomat	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant) (YA: New Azerbaijan Party / Nouveau parti de l'Azerbaïdjan)	

**BAHRAIN - BAHREIN**

ALMULLA, Ahmed (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr.)	First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
NASAIF, Jameela (Ms.)	Second Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
TAQAWI, Sawsan (Ms.)	Member of the Shura Council Chair of the Youth and Sports Committee
ALQATTAF, Ameera (Ms.)	Head of Parliamentary Relations Development Department, Council of Representatives
MAJED, Sayed Husain (Mr.)	Senior Specialist of Communication, Shura Council
ALENEZI, Hanadi (Ms.)	Legislative and Oversight Tools Specialist, Council of Representatives

**BANGLADESH**

CHAUDHURY, Shirin Sharmin (Ms.) President of the IPU Bangladesh Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee Chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure Chairman of the Committee on Petitions ( <i>AL</i> )
RAHIM, Iqbalur (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Liberation War Affairs ( <i>AL</i> )
QUDDUS, Md. Abdul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Public Undertakings Committee on Government Assurances Standing Committee on Ministry of Education ( <i>AL</i> )
ISLAM, A B Tajul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Liberation War Affairs Committee on Estimates ( <i>AL</i> )



BEGOM, Momotaz (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs (AL)
MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr.) President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare (AL)
ARZU, Kh. Aziaul Huq (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (AL)
RAFIQ, Asheq Ullah (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (AL)
CHOWDHURY, Mohammad Abdul Munim (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions (JP)
PATWARY, Shameem Haider (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Expatriates, Welfare and Overseas Employment (JP)
HOWLADER, Md. Abdur Rob (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Senior Secretary, Parliament
BILLAH, M A Kamal (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary and Private Secretary to the Speaker, Parliament
ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Parliament
HAQUE, Md. Enamul (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Parliament
MANZOOR, S M (Mr.)	Director, Parliament
MAHMOOD, Md. Tarique (Mr.)	Director (Public Relations), Parliament
ZAW, Swe Min (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Parliament
BARMAN, Morarjee Deshai (Mr.)	Private Secretary to the Whip, Parliament

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)

(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

**BELARUS**

RAKHMANOV, Sergei (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Council of the Republic Chair of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security
NAUMCHIK, Alla (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Vice-Chair of the Committee of Ecology
PISAREVICH, Vadim (Mr.) Deputy Permanent Representative	
NIKALAYENIA, Dmitry (Mr.) Diplomat	

**BELGIUM - BELGIQUE**

DESTEXHE, Alain (M.) Vice-Président du Groupe, Groupe consultatif sur la santé, Chef de la délégation	Membre du Sénat ( <i>MR</i> ) Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes
GROUWELS, Brigitte (Mme) Comité des questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre du Sénat ( <i>CD&amp;V</i> ) Commission des affaires institutionnelles Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires
GRYFFROY, Andries (M.)	Membre du Sénat ( <i>N-VA</i> ) Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes
VAN DER HULST, Marc (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
VAN DER BIESEN, Gert (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Sénat
DE ROUCK, Marc (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Directeur, Sénat
VERCAMMEN, Peter (M.) Conseiller de la délégation	Premier Conseiller, Sénat

(MR: Movement for Reform / Mouvement réformateur)  
(CD&V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands)  
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)

**BHUTAN - BHOUTAN**

WANGCHUK, Jigme (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Council
DORJI, Sangay (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
DORJEE, Kesang (Ms.)	Member of the National Council
GYELTSHEN, Karma (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
SUNWAR, Dhan Kumar (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
TSHERING, Ugyen (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
TSHERING, Karma (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
TSHERING, Chenko (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Council
WANGMO, Dechen (Mr.)	Chief, Bilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)  
BOLIVIE (ETAT PLURINATIONAL DE)**

GUZMÁN GÓMEZ, Beatriz (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>MAS-IPSN</i> )
ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>MAS-IPSP</i> )

ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Committee on UN Affairs

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*UD*)

(MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)  
(UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique)

### BOTSWANA

MOLATLHEGI, Kagiso P. (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Committee on Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and  
Climate Change  
Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight  
(*BDP*)

BOKO, Duma G. (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Member of the National Assembly  
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Home and  
Labour Affairs  
Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight  
Committee of Selection (*UDC*)

GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Portfolio Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic  
Development  
Finance and Estimates Committee  
Public Accounts Committee (*UDC*)

MAELE, Prince M. (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and Climate  
Change  
Finance, Trade and Economic Development  
Health and HIV/AIDS (*BDP*)

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and  
Human Rights

Member of the National Assembly  
Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women  
(*BDP*)

DITHAPO, Barbara N. (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP

Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

KEEKAE, Lesedi (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Assistant Clerk - Parliamentary Committees, National  
Assembly

(*BDP*: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)  
(*UDC*: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

### BRAZIL - BRESIL

NOGUEIRA LIMA FILHO, Ciro (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Federal Senate  
Committee on Economic Issues  
Committee on Education, Culture and Sports (*PP*)

LINS, Atila (Mr.)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
Sub-Committee on Finance

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
International Relations Committee (*PP*)

CAJADO, Claudio (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PP*)

BORGES, Cabuçu (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PMDB*)

MARTINS, Jaime (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PROS*)

MOTTA, Hugo (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies (*PMDB*)

TADEU MUDALEN, Jorge (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>DEM</i> )
PORTELLA, Iracema (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>PP</i> )
DA FONTE, Eduardo (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>PP</i> )
SABOIA VIEIRA, Fernando (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
MENA BARRETO, Mauro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director General, Chamber of Deputies
BRANDÃO, Angela (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Communication, Federal Senate
DE FREITAS, Juliana Carla (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Legal Advice, Chamber of Deputies
ARAUJO, Silvia (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Federal Senate
AGUIAR, Danilo Augusto (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	General Counsel, Federal Senate
LOPES, Fabio (Mr.)	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies
LUZ, Daniele (Ms.) Diplomat	

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)

(PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party / Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)

(PROS: Republican Party of the Social Order / Parti républicain de l'ordre social)

(DEM: Democrats / Démocrates)

#### **BULGARIA - BULGARIE**

GLAVCHEV, Dimitar (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Policy Committee Committee on Budget and Finance ( <i>GERB</i> )
DZHAFER, Nigyar (Ms.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Healthcare Committee ( <i>DPS</i> )
KARASLAVOVA, Stefana (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly
ALEXandroVA, Stefka (Ms.) Administrative Secretary of the Group and to the delegation	State Expert, International Relations, Protocol and Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU Directorate, National Assembly

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie)

(DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés)

#### **BURKINA FASO**

SAKANDE, Bala Alassane (M.) Président du Groupe	Président de l'Assemblée nationale
BAKYONO, Bienvenue (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPP</i> )
ABGA, Armand (Mr.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UPC</i> )
DIALLO, Ahmed Aziz (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PDS/METBA</i> )
OUATTARA, Lassina (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPP</i> )
OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>CDP</i> )

TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPP</i> )
NOMBRE, Alphonse (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>CDP</i> )
MOGMENGA, Oumarou (M.)	Directeur général des Médias, Assemblée nationale
BAZIEMO, Emile (M.)	Conseiller spécial, Assemblée nationale
OUBDA, Karim (M.)	Conseiller technique, Assemblée nationale
PARE, Noufou (M.)	Directeur du protocole, Assemblée nationale
ZONGNABA, Antoine (M.)	Conseiller spécial, Assemblée nationale
TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (M.)	Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée nationale
ZOROME, Rakièta (Mme) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale
BAGUIAN, Michail (M.)	Conseiller technique du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
VÉBAMBA, Sylvain (M.) Presse	
BAMOGO, Benjamin (M.) Presse	

(MPP: People's Movement for Progress / Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès)

(UPC: Union for Progress and Change / Union pour le progrès et le changement)

(PDS/METBA: Party for Democracy and Socialism-Builders' Party / Parti pour la démocratie et le Socialisme-Parti des Bâtisseurs)

(CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress / Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès)

#### BURUNDI

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Deputy Speaker of the Senate
BIGIRIMANA, Goreth (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
MUTEZINKA, Euphrasie (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
TUYAGA, Anicet (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr.)	Chief Protocol, National Assembly
NDUWAYEZU, Marie Carlos (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
NDAYISENGA, Richard (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
TABU, Renovat (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

**CABO VERDE**

MONTEIRO, Miguel (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPD</i> )
GOMES DA VEIGA, José Maria (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PAICV</i> ) Commission spécialisée des finances et du budget
ALFAMA PEREIRA, Celita Annie (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPD</i> ) Commission des relations internationales
GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Technicien parlementaire, Assemblée nationale

(MPD: Movement for democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)  
(PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde)

**CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE**

KHUON, Sudary (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
YANG, Sem (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
BAN, Sreymom (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
CHHEANG, Vun (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
SOK, Sokan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
KOB, Mariyas (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
KHUON, Vilavann (Ms.)	Adviser to the Second Vice-President, National Assembly
KER, Munthirak (Mr.)	Assistant to the Fifth Commission, National Assembly
HEANG, Thul (Mr.)	Director of International Relations Department, National Assembly
KIM YEAT, Dararith (Mr.)	Director of PIC, Senate
MEL, Phanseyha (Mr.)	Chief of Multilateral Office (Senate), Senate
SENG, Thy (Mr.)	Deputy Chief of Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly
SOK, Pisey (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Chief of Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly
OUM, Sarith (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Adviser, Senate

**CAMEROON - CAMEROUN**

TJOUES, Geneviève (Mme) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Présidente du Sénat (RDPC)
KALEBONG, Nkeze Emilia (Mme)	Vice-Présidente du Sénat
FON CHAFAH, Isaac (M.)	Membre du Sénat
KALKABA, Souadatou Djallo (Mme)	Membre du Sénat
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent De Paul (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>RDPC</i> )
KOULTCHOUMI AHIDJO, Oumoul (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UNDP</i> )

ZANG OYONO, Calvin (M.)	Membre du Sénat ( <i>RDPC</i> )
INDJECK, Daniel (M.) Conseiller	Représentant de la présidence de la République, Assemblée nationale
MBOCK, Désiré Geoffroy (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
MEVA'A M'EBOUTOU, Michel (Mr.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Sénat
MOUGNOL MEKENG, Mireille (Mme) Secrétaire du Groupe	Directeur de l'Administration générale, Assemblée nationale
NJOMATCHOUA, Justin (M.)	Directeur de Cabinet du Président du Sénat
ETOGA, Ursule (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Secrétaire administrative du Sénat
NDO ABOLO, Daniel Kévin (M.)	Cadre au Sénat

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)  
(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union nationale pour la Démocratie et le Progrès)

**CANADA**

MCGUINTY, David (Mr.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Commons ( <i>LPC</i> )
ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms.) Vice-President of the Group, Committee on Middle East Questions, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Rights Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry ( <i>CPC</i> )
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration ( <i>LPC</i> )
FRASER-DAMOFF, Pam (Ms.)	Member of the House of Commons Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security ( <i>LPC</i> )
RANKIN, Murray (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights ( <i>NDP</i> )
REMPEL, Michelle (Ms.)	Member of the House of Commons Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration ( <i>CPC</i> )

SCHMALE, Jamie (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources ( <i>CPC</i> )
SPENGE MANN, Sven (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security Standing Committee on National Defence ( <i>LPC</i> )
AZOULAY, Karine (Ms.) Advisor of the Group	Library of Parliament Advisor, House of Commons
MCTAGGART, Scott (Mr.) Advisor of the Group	Library of Parliament Advisor, House of Commons
RICHARDSON, Jessica (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Senate Clerk, Senate
ETHIER, Céline (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Senate Clerk, Senate
ROBERT, Charles (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Commons

(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada / Parti libéral du Canada)  
(CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)  
(NDP: New Democratic Party / Nouveau parti démocratique)

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE**

M'BAIKOUA, Timoléon (Mr./M.) Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>I</i> )
KOMBO-YAYA, Dieudonné (Mr./M.) Conseiller ( <i>I</i> : Independent / Indépendant)	Conseiller diplomatique du Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Assemblée nationale

**CHAD - TCHAD**

KADAM, Moussa (M.) Chef de la délégation	Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPS</i> )
AYMADJI, Opportune (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPS</i> ) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité
BALLAH, Keda (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPS</i> ) Rapporteur général de la Commission spéciale Objectifs du développement durable ( <i>ODD</i> )
GALI, Ngothé Gatta (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UFD/PR</i> ) Président de la Commission de l'économie et du plan
NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PAP-JS</i> )
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>RDP</i> )
HAMIDI, Béchir Issa (M.) Secrétaire administratif	Assistant, Assemblée nationale

(*MPS*: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut)  
(*UFD/PR*: Union of Democratic Forces/Republican Parti / Union des Forces démocratiques/Parti républicain)  
(*PAP-JS*: African Party for Peace and Justice / Parti africain pour la paix et la justice)  
(*RDP*: Rally for Democracy and Progress / Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)

**CHILE - CHILI**

FLORES, Iván (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development President of the Citizens' Security Committee ( <i>PDC</i> )
--	---



GIRARDI, Guido (Mr.)	Member of the Senate President of the Health Committee President of the Committee on Challenges of the Future, Science, Technology and Innovation ( <i>PPD</i> )
KAST, Pablo (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Extreme Zones and Chilean Antarctic Committee Sciences and Technology Committee ( <i>PEP</i> )
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr.)	Member of the Senate President of the Finance Commission President of the Special Mixed Budget Committee ( <i>PS</i> )
MIX, Claudia (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Health Committee Women and Gender Equity Committee ( <i>P-PEV</i> )
OLIVERA, Erika (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Health Committee Housing and Urban Development Committee ( <i>RN</i> )
VELASQUEZ, Esteban (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Mining and Energy Committee Internal Regime and Administration Committee ( <i>FRV-Ind</i> )
LABBE, Mario (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate
LANDEROS, Miguel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Ms.) Adviser	Director of International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
OSES, Juan (Mr.) Adviser	Sub Director of the Directorate of International Relations of the Senate
FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr.) Diplomatic Adviser	
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien) (PPD: Party for Democracy / Parti pour la démocratie) (PEP: Political Evolution Party / Parti de l'évolution politique) (PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste) (P-PEV: Power, Green Ecologist / Pouvoir, Parti écologiste vert) (RN: National Renewal / Rénovation nationale) (FRV-Ind: Social Green Regionalist Federation - Independent / Fédération régionaliste sociale et verts - Indépendant)	

**CHINA - CHINE**

BAIMA, Chilin (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National People's Congress
XIN, Chunying (Ms.)	Member of the National People's Congress
JIA, Tingan (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress
CHEN, Guomin (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress
CHEN, Fuli (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress
CAI, Ling (Ms.)	Member of the National People's Congress
YOU, Wenze (Mr.)	Director-General of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National People's Congress

WANG, Wen (Mr.)	Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress
LI, Jijuan (Ms.)	Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress
WANG, Aihua (Ms.)	Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress
LI, Wei (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	National People's Congress
LU, Yuanjing (Ms.)	Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress
SHEN, Zheyi (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress
SHANG, Wei (Mr.) Interpreter	Third Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress
SU, Ziting (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	National People's Congress
ZHANG, Zhujun (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Attaché of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress
ZHU, Zhiqiang (Mr.) Interpreter	Attaché of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress
WEI, Liping (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	National People's Congress
ZHENG, Yi (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	National People's Congress
JIANG, Wei (Ms.) Interpreter	Staff Member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress
YU, Jianhua (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
ZHANG, Yangwu (Mr.) Diplomat	
WEI, Xing (Mr.) Diplomat	
GAO, Jie (Ms.) Diplomat	
CHEN, Yaou (Ms.) Diplomat	

**COMOROS – COMORES**

ABDOU, Ouseni (M.) Leader of the Delegation Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union
CHARIF, Maoulana (M.)	Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union Commission des finances
OUMOURI, Hadjira (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union Présidente de la Commission de la production
MOHAMED, Amirdine (M.)	Chargé de la coopération internationale, Assemblée de l'Union des Comores

(UDC: Union pour le développement des Comores)  
(CRC: Convention républicaine des Comores)  
(RDC: Rassemblement démocratique des Comores)

**CONGO**

EPOLA, Julien (M.) Membre du Sénat  
Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

**COTE D'IVOIRE**

YACE DE MEL, Laurette Andrée (Mme) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Chef de la délégation

KOUAKOU, Kouassi Jean-Marie (M.) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

OUATTARA, Siaka (M.) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

LATTE, Ahouanzi N'drin Lazare (M.) Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale  
Membre de l'ASGP

N'GUESSAN, Kouakou Désiré (M.) Administrateur  
Conseiller de la délégation

**CROATIA - CROATIE**

DUJIC, Sasa (Mr.) Member of the Croatian Parliament  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
Committee on Economy, Labour, Retirement System and  
Social Partnership Committee, Committee on Maritime  
Affairs, Transportation and Infrastructure  
Interparliamentary Co-operation Committee

MAKSIMČUK, Ljubica (Ms.) Member of the Croatian Parliament  
Committee on the Family, Youth and Sports  
Committee on Croats outside the Republic of Croatia  
Committee on Maritime Affairs, Transportation and  
Infrastructure (*HDZ*)

CELIC, Ivan (Mr.) Member of the Croatian Parliament  
Deputy Chair of the Health and Social Policy Committee,  
European Affairs Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee,  
Interparliamentary Co-operation Committee, Committee  
of Inquiry into the Responsibility for the Results of the  
Management and Dispos (*HDZ*)

VUKAS, Stjepan (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

**CUBA**

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Ms.) Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the  
Leader of the delegation People's Power (*CPC*)

FERRER GÓMEZ, María Yolanda (Ms.) Member of the National Assembly of the People's  
Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau Power (*CPC*)  
of Women Parliamentarians Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

CASTRO ALEGRÍA, Andrés (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly of the People's  
Power (*CPC*)  
Vice Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

NUÑEZ BETANCOURT, Alberto (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly of the People's  
Power (*CPC*)  
Vice Chair of the Industry Committee

MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesús Rafael (Mr.) Officer, National Assembly of the People's Power  
Secretary of the Group

VICENTE VAILLANT, Jorge (Mr.) Staff

MARTÍNEZ CASTANEDO, Pedro Manuel (Mr.)	Staff
FEBRE CHÁVEZ, Carlos Rafael (Mr.)	Staff
LAZO ROSS, Marta Marilyn (Ms.)	Staff
ALFONSO MARÍN, Reinaldo (Mr.)	Staff
PEDROSO CUESTA, Pedro Luis (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
HERNÁNDEZ LUNA, Luis Miguel (Mr.) Diplomat	
GONZÁLEZ GUTIÉRREZ, Alicia (Ms.) Diplomat	
BERTI OLIVA, Pablo (Mr.) Diplomat	
ALVAREZ PÉREZ, Claudia (Ms.) Diplomat	
REVILLA ALCÁZAR, Alina (Ms.) Diplomat	

(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)

#### **CYPRUS - CHYPRE**

NEOFYTOS, Averof (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs ( <i>DISY</i> )
KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Refugees-Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons ( <i>AKEL</i> )
MOUSHOUTTAS, Marinos (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy chairman of the House Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism ( <i>DP</i> )
THEOLOGOU, Anna (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House Standing Committee on Development Plans and Public Expenditure Control ( <i>Ind</i> )
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	International Relations Officer A', House of Representatives
PERSIANI, Elena (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	International Relations Officer, House of Representatives

(*AKEL*: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)

(*DP*: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)

(*DISY*: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)

(*Ind*: Independent / Indépendant)

#### **CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

POLANSKY, Ondrej (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Economic Affairs ( <i>Piráti</i> )
DOUBRAVA, Jaroslav (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Vice-chair of the Committee on European Affairs ( <i>S</i> )
MALÝ, Jaroslav (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Health and Social Policy ( <i>Ind</i> )
PROSMANOVÁ, Jana (Ms.) Adviser to the Group	Chamber of Deputies

KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs.)  
Secretary of the Group

(Piráti: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)  
(S: Severočeší)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(SPD: Freedom and Direct Democracy / Liberté et démocratie directe)

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE**

RI, Jong Hyok (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly

HYON, Jong Ung (Mr.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly

JONG, Chun Gun (Mr.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly

RI, Chol Su (Mr.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly

PAK, Myong Guk (Mr.)  
Secretary to the delegation

Officer, Foreign Affairs Ministry

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

MINAKU NDJALANDJOKO, Aubin (M.)  
Chef de la délégation

Président de l'Assemblée nationale (*PPRD*)  
Commission politique, administrative et juridique

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (M.)

Vice-Président du Sénat (*IM*)  
Membre de la Commission de la défense et de la sécurité

ILUNGA GUTUMBUGA, Damien (M.)

Membre du Sénat (*I*)  
Commission économique et financière

KATUMWA MUKALAY, Vicky (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*UDC*)  
Commission économique, financière et de contrôle budgétaire

KENDA, Jolie (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*MSR*)  
Commission de l'environnement, des ressources naturelles et du tourisme

MAYAMBA MASSAKA, Serge (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*UDPS*)  
Commission politique, administrative et juridique

MPANDA KABANGU, Jose (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*UCP*)  
Rapporteur de la Commission politique, administrative et juridique

NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (M.)  
Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

KIKUDI KONGOLO, Gilbert (M.)  
Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général, Sénat

KANIKA. SUMBAYI, Philibert (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe

Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études,  
Assemblée nationale

KALALA MAYI MALE, Jean Marie (M.)  
Membre de l'ASGP

Directeur, Assemblée nationale

KABANGU DIBA SESE, François (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe

Conseiller coordonnateur de Bureau d'études, Sénat

KATAKO DIMOKE, Josué (M.)

Chef de Cabinet du Premier Vice-Président, Sénat

MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe

Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale

LIHAU EBUA, Jean Pierre (M.)  
Conseiller du Groupe

Directeur de Cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale

TSHIBASU TSHIMPAMBA, Crispin (M.)  
Presse

(PPRD: People's Reconstruction and Development Party / Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et le Développement)

(IM: Independent Majority / Indépendant Majorité)

(I: Independent / Indépendant)

(UDC: Union of Congolese Democrats / Union des démocrates du Congo)

(MSR: Social Movement for Renewal / Mouvement social pour le Renouveau)

(UDPS: Union for Democracy and Social Progress / Union pour la Démocratie et le Progrès social)

(UCP: Congolese Union for Progress / Union des Congolais pour le Progrès)

#### DENMARK - DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee  
Nordic Council (*SDP*)

JENSEN, Michael Aastrup (Mr.)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Chairman of the Danish Delegation to the Parliamentary  
Assembly of the Council of Europe  
Member of the Foreign Policy Committee (*PL*)

SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr.)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
European Affairs Committee  
Cultural Affairs Committee (*RGA*)

LARSON, Claudius (Mr.)  
Assistant Secretary

Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament

RIIS, Peter (Mr.)  
Secretary

International Counsellor, Danish Parliament

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

(RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)

#### DJIBOUTI

ALI HOUMED, Mohamed (M.)  
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Président de l'Assemblée nationale

BOULHAN HOUSSEIN, Nima (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MOHAMED DAOUD, Ali (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

OMAR MOHAMED, Hassan (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ROBLEH ABDILEH, Ahmed (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MOHAMED AHMED, Idriss (M.)

Directeur du Cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Ms.)  
Committee on Democracy and Human Rights,  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Standing Committee on Human Rights  
Standing Committee on Justice  
Standing Committee on Tourism (*PRD*)

SUAREZ DIAZ, Victor Valdemar (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Chair of the Standing Committee on External Relations  
(*PLD*)

(PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)

(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party / Parti de la libération dominicaine)

**ECUADOR - EQUATEUR**

CABEZAS GUERRERO, Elizabeth (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (AN)
BURBANO, Fernando (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Sustainable Development, Finances and Commerce (JP)
ARREGUI, Marcia (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Assembly Commission of Food, Sovereignty and Development (AN)
CARRIÓN, Maria Jose (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the National Assembly (AN)
SINMALEZA, Angel (Mr.) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the National Assembly Democracy and Human Rights Committee (SUMA)
SOLIS, Doris (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Assembly (AN)
IZQUIERDO, Santiago (Mr.)	President Advisor, National Assembly
ROCHA, Maria Belén (Ms.)	Senior Secretary, National Assembly
SALAZAR, Santiago (Mr.)	President Advisor, National Assembly
VILLARROEL, Michelle Paola (Ms.)	President Advisor, National Assembly
ARMAS GRIJALVA, Darwin (Mr.) Press	

(AN: Alianza Pais)  
(JP: Juntos Podemos)  
(SUMA: Society United for More Action / Société unie pour plus d'action)

**EGYPT - EGYPTE**

ABDEL AAL, Ali (Mr.) Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
AZER ABDELMALEK IBRAHIM, Margret (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives
DARWISH, Karim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
EL AZHARY, Osam (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
METWALLY, Enas I. Abdelhalim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ELWANI, Rania (Ms.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives
EL SHAZLY, Moataz (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
KHALIFA, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
METWALLY, Abdelhalim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
SAAD ELDIN, Ahmed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of Representatives
FAWZY, Mahmoud (Mr.)	Adviser to the Speaker, House of Representatives
NAGI, Alla (Mr.)	Director, Speaker's Office, House of Representatives
ASHOUR, Islam (Mr.) Adviser	

**EL SALVADOR**

DIAZ, Nidia (Ms.) Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Leader of the Delegation

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE**

MOHABA MESSU, Gaudencio (Mr.) Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (*PDGE*)  
Leader of the Delegation

NTUGU NSA, Atanasio Ela (Mr.) Member of the Senate (*PDGE*)

OBONO EDJANG, Silvia Paloma (Ms.) Member of the Senate (*PDGE*)

NDONG MANGUE, Felicitas Samuel (Ms.) Member of the Chamber of Deputies

OBIANG MAYE, Victorino Nka (Mr.) Secretary General, Senate  
Member of the ASGP

EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr.) Secretary, Chamber of Deputies  
Member of the ASGP

NVE MBA, Jose Maria (Mr.)  
Press

ABUY, Ondia (Mr.)  
Aide de camp to the Speaker

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée équatoriale)

**ESTONIA - ESTONIE**

KÜTT, Helmen (Ms.) Member of the Estonian Parliament  
Leader of the Delegation Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee (*SDP*)

KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr.) Member of the Estonian Parliament  
Deputy chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee  
(*ERP*)

KOKK, Aivar (Mr.) Member of the Estonian Parliament  
Chairman of the Rural Affairs Committee (*Isamaa*)

JAHILO, Peep (Mr.) Secretary General, Estonian Parliament  
Member of the ASGP

TAMP, Marju (Ms.) Adviser, Estonian Parliament  
Secretary of the Group

PUNG, Andre (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

LUMISTE, Taavo (Mr.)  
Diplomat

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(Isamaa: Isamaa Party / Parti Isamaa)

(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

**ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE**

ALLI IBRAHIM, Keria (Ms.) Speaker of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

AYENEW, Worku (Mr.) Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)

GONDA, Hailu (Mr.) Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)

MELES, Freweini (Ms.) Member of the House of the Federation (*EPRDF*)



DESTA, Tadesse (Mr.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives Environmental Protection Committee ( <i>EPRDF</i> )
DESTA, Emeya (Ms.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Youth and Children's Affairs
HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives ( <i>EPRDF</i> )
ZEGEYE, Asmelash (Mr.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives ( <i>EPRDF</i> )
CHEWAKA, Estifanos (Mr.)	Chief of Protocol, House of Peoples' Representatives
SHOA, Kebede (Mr.)	Secretary, House of the Federation
YETNEBERK, Misrake (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	House of Peoples' Representatives
ALEMAYEHU, Mekdelawi Taye (Mr.) Adviser	
XDERA, Halimichael Gezahagn (Mr.) Adviser	

(*EPRDF*: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

#### **FIJI - FIDJI**

LUVENI, Jiko Fatafehi (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament ( <i>FF</i> ) Chairwoman of the Business Committee
VUNIWAQA, Mereseini Wakolo Rakuita (Ms.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>FF</i> )
EMBERSON, Jeanette Tanari (Ms.) Secretary and Advisor	Deputy Secretary General to Parliament, Parliament

(*FF*: Fiji First / Les Fidji d'abord)

#### **FINLAND - FINLANDE**

FILATOV, Tarja (Ms.) Leader of the delegation	Member of Parliament ( <i>SDP</i> )
JASKARI, Harri (Mr.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>KOK</i> )
PUSKA, Pekka (Mr.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>CP</i> )
RÄSÄNEN, Päivi (Ms.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>PDC</i> )
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Assistant for the International Affairs, Parliament
TUOVINEN, Timo (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Assistant Secretary General of Parliament, Parliament
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Secretary for the International Affairs, Parliament
HAKALA, Terhi (Ms.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(*SDP*: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(*KOK*: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)

(*CP*: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)

(*PDC*: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

#### **FRANCE**

ERRANTE, Sophie (Mme) Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>REM</i> ) Commission des finances
--	---

BONHOMME, François (M.)	Membre du Sénat ( <i>R</i> ) Commission des lois
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (M.) Membre du Comité exécutif, Président du Sous-Comité des finances	Membre du Sénat ( <i>R</i> ) Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
DUMONT, Laurence (Mme) Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PS</i> ) Commission des affaires étrangères
FÉRET, Corinne (Mme)	Membre du Sénat ( <i>PS</i> ) Commission des affaires sociales
HAUT, Claude (M.)	Membre du Sénat ( <i>REM</i> ) Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées
JULIEN-LAFERRIERE, Hubert (M.) Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>REM</i> ) Commission des affaires étrangères
LARIVE, Michel (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>FI</i> ) Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'éducation
LECOQ, Jean-Paul (M.) Conseiller	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires étrangères ( <i>COM</i> )
MARIE, Didier (M.) Conseiller	Membre du Sénat ( <i>PS</i> ) Commission des lois
PALLEZ, Christophe (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de la Questure de l'Assemblée nationale
SCHROEDT-GIRARD, Jean-Louis (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de la présidence du Sénat
EIFERMANN, Didier (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
PREUVOT, Perrine (M.) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale
VANCE, Loïc (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
VELASCO, Karine (Mme) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Conseillère, Assemblée nationale
(REM: The Republic on the Move / La République en Marche)	
(R: The Republicans / Les Républicains)	
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste)	
(FI: La France insoumise)	
(COM): French Communist Party / Parti communiste français	

**GEORGIA - GEORGIE**

VOLSKI, George (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament ( <i>GD-DG</i> )
KATSARAVA, Sophie (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee Committee on European Integration ( <i>GD-DG</i> )
KHATIDZE, George (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Foreign Relations Committee Legal Issues Committee ( <i>GD-DG</i> )
MIKANADZE, Givi (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Parliament, Parliament

BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr.)  
Secretary of Delegation

Chief Specialist, Department for International Relations,  
Parliament

(GD-DG: Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia / Rêve géorgien - Géorgie démocratique)

#### GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE

WADEPHUL, Johann David (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the German Bundestag  
Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group  
for Foreign Affairs, Defence Policy and Council of  
Europe  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Defence Committee  
Committee on the Affairs of the European Union  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
(CDU/CSU)

DE RIDDER, Daniela (Ms.)

Member of the German Bundestag  
Deputy chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Deputy chair of the Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis  
Prevention and Networked Security  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (SPD)

SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag

TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms.)

Secretary to the delegation, German Bundestag

BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms.)

Assistant to the delegation, German Bundestag

(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)  
(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

#### GHANA

OQUAYE, Michael Aaron (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of Parliament  
Chairman of the Standing Order Committee and  
Committee on Selection (NPP)

IBRAHIM, Ahmed (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Special Budget and Business Committee (NDC)

IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade

Member of Parliament  
House Committee, Special Budget Committee, Business  
Committee (NDC)

NKANSAH-BOADU, Mavis (Ms.)

Member of Parliament  
Foreign Affairs Committee, Public Accounts Committee  
(NPP)

NYINDAM, Matthew (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Environment, Science and Technology Committee  
(NPP)

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Chairman of the House Committee, Special Budget  
Committee, Business Committee (NPP)

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Clerk to Parliament

GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Deputy Clerk to Parliament (Committees, Parliamentary  
Relations and Public Affairs)

TAWIAH, Matthew Abrefa (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Principal Assistant Clerk and Head, Speaker's  
Secretariat, Parliament

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

#### GREECE - GRECE

TRIANTAFYLLOU, Maria (Ms.)  
Leader of the delegation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament  
Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign  
Affairs  
Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs  
Committee on European Affairs (*SYRIZA*)

KARAGIANNIS, Ioannis (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament  
Standing Committee on Production and Trade  
Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad  
(*SYRIZA*)

KEFALOGIANNI, Olga (Ms.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament  
Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs  
Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and  
Transparency (*ND*)

KARAOGLOU, Theodoros (Mr.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament  
Standing Committee on Social Affairs  
Standing Committee on Economic Affairs (*ND*)

TSOUNI, Foteini (Ms.)

Secretary, Hellenic Parliament

NYCHAS, Ioannis (Mr.)  
Secretary

Officer, Hellenic Parliament

KYRIAKOPOULOS, Georgios (Mr.)  
Diplomat

MANOUSAKIS, Michail (Mr.)  
Diplomat

MICHELOGIANNAKIS, Ioannis (Mr.)  
Diplomat

(*SYRIZA*: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale)

(*ND*: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie)

#### GUATEMALA

LUCERO, Jaime Octavio (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Congress of the Republic  
National Defense Committee (*UCN*)

LAINFIESTA RIMOLA, Julio Francisco (Mr.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic  
Vice President of the International Relations Committee  
(*UCN*)

MARTINEZ, Karla Andrea (Ms.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic  
Health Committee (*AC*)

(*UCN*: Unión del Cambio Nacional)

(*AC*: Alianza Ciudadana)

#### GUINEA - GUINEE

FOFANA, Luceny (M.)  
Chef de la délégation

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (*RPG*)

DIALLO, Fatoumata Binta (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Présidente, Forum des Femmes parlementaires (*UFDG*)

KEITA, Abdoulaye Bernard (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)
MANSARE, Anne Marie (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)
SAGNO, Jean Edouard (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Directeur de Cabinet, Assemblée nationale

(RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel)  
(UFDG: Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea / Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée)

#### GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINEE-BISSAU

CIPRIANO, Cassamá (M.) Président du Groupe	Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC) Président du Conseil exécutif
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC) Commission de la femme
FONSECA, Jose Carlos Rodrigues (M.)	Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale populaire
SANHÁ, Ansumane (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe	Directeur du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire

(PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et de Cabo Verde)

#### HAITI

SILDOR, Pierre François (M.) Chef de la delegation	Vice-Président du Sénat
LARÈCHE, Ronald (M.)	Sénateur
GILLOT, Jean Rony (Mr./M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général du Sénat
MICHAUD, Jovanne Gaëlle (Ms./Mme) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire au Sénat

#### HUNGARY - HONGRIE

BALLA, Mihály (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Vice-chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (FIDESz)
BARTOS, Mónika (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs (FIDESz)
GURMAI, Zita (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs (MSZP)
KOCSIS-CAKE, Olivio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice chairman of the Committee on Immunity (P)
STEINMETZ, Ádám (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Agriculture (Jobbik)
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Development (LMP)
VADAI, Ágnes (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice chairman of the Committee on Defence and Law Enforcement (DK)

SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Advisor to the delegation, National Assembly

(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)

(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois)

(P: Párbeszéd)

(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)

(LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)

(DK: Democratic Coalition / Coalition démocratique)

#### ICELAND - ISLANDE

SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR, Áslaug Arna (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of Parliament  
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (*IP*)

GUNNALAUGSSON, Sigmundur Davíð (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Member Economic Affairs and Trade Committee (*CP*)

ÁGÚSTSSON, Ágúst Ólafur (Mr.)  
Deputy Leader of the delegation

Member of Parliament  
Second deputy chairman of the budget committee of the Budget Committee (*SDA*)

BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Parliament

BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms.)  
Secretary to the Group

Adviser, Parliament

(IP: Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance)

(CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)

(SDA: The Social Democratic Alliance / Alliance sociale démocratique)

#### INDIA - INDE

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Ms.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the House of the People

SINGH, Harivansh Narayan, (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the Council of States

DURAI, Thambi (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker, House of the People

JAIWAL, Sanjay (Mr.)

Member of the House of the People (*BJP*)

DESAI, Anil (Mr.)

Member of the Council of States (*SS*)

President of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SINGH, Nagendra (Mr.)

Member of the House of the People (*BJP*)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

KAMBHAMPATI, Hari Babu (Mr.)

Member of the House of the People (*BJP*)

Committee on Peace and International Security

MEENA, Harish Chandra (Mr.)

Member of the House of the People (*BJP*)

GAVIT, Heena Vijaykumar (Ms.)

Member of the House of the People

SINGH, Pratyusha Rajeshwari (Ms.)

Member of the House of the People (*BJD*)

SHRIVASTAVA, Snehlata (Ms.)

Secretary General, House of the People

Member of the ASGP

VERMA, Desh Deepak (Mr.)

Secretary General, Council of States

Member of the ASGP

TATED, Sunil (Mr.)

Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, House of the People

KOUL, P.C. (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr.)	Additional Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
DATT, Rama (Mr.)	Additional Private Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People
KUMAR, Praveen (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Council of States
CHAKRABORTY, Basudeb (Mr.)	Under Secretary, Council of States
KUMAR, Gautam (Mr.)	Under Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Council of States
RAMANAND (Mr.)	Senior Private Secretary to the Deputy Chairman, Council of States
ROY, Rashmi (Ms.)	Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
SINGH, Yogendra (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
SINGH, Ajaye (Mr.)	Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People
BIST, Umesh (Mr.)	Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
SALEEM, MD (Mr.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People
JOSHI, Aashish (Mr.) Press	EIC cum CE

(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)  
(SS: Shiv Sena)  
(JD: Janata Dal (United))  
(BJD: Biju Janata Dal)

**INDONESIA - INDONESIE**

HERMANTO, Agus (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives ( <i>DP</i> )
ZON, Fadli (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chair of the GOPAC ( <i>Gerindra</i> )
ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation ( <i>DP</i> )
MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation ( <i>PKS</i> )
NURSANTY, Evita (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation ( <i>PDI-P</i> )
PUTRI, Irine Yusiana Roba (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation ( <i>PDI-P</i> )
FIKARNO, Dave Akbarshah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for interparliamentary cooperation ( <i>Golkar</i> )
DJOJHADIKUSUMO, Aryo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for interparliamentary cooperation ( <i>Gerindra</i> )

SUHARLI, Melani Leimena (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation ( <i>DP</i> )
JUWAINI, Jazuli (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation ( <i>PKS</i> )
FARIAL, Achmad (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation ( <i>PPP</i> )
ISKANDAR, Indra (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the House, House of Representatives
HARRIS, Damayanti (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
DIANTI, Elvira (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Parliamentary Staff, House of Representatives
KUSWARA, Nunu Nugraha (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
ASTUTI, Endang Dwi (Ms.) Secretary to delegation	Parliamentary Staff, House of Representatives
PATRIA, Chairil (Mr.)	Head of division, House of Representatives
MARIANA, Anissa (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
MAKRUF, Amar (Mr.)	Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms.) GOPAC Executive Director	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
TRI ANDIKA, Muhammad (Mr.) Adviser	
ANNISA RAMADGANI, Masythoh (Mr.) Adviser	

(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)  
(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)  
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)  
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)  
(Golkar: Party of Functional Groups / Parti des groupes fonctionnels)  
(PPP: United Development Party / Parti du développement uni)

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**  
**IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')**

HOSSEINI, Fatemeh (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
EKHTIARY KASNAVIEH, Esfandyar (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
DORAZEHI, Mohammad Baset (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
JALALI, Kazem (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
MAFFI, Parvaneh (Ms.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
ZOLGHADR, Mostafa (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
YOUSEFNEJAD, Ali Asghar (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
NAJAFI KHOSHRANDI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
NOURIGHEZELJEH, Gholamreza (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Islamic Parliament of Iran
DASTGHEIB, Ahmadreza (Mr.)	Senior Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran
HOSSEINI, Amirhossein (Mr.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran



BEMANESH, Reza (Mr.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran
AGHAMOHAMMADI, Zahra (Ms.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran
GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Islamic Parliament of Iran
TARKASHVAND, Zahra (Ms.) Administrative Secretary of the Group	Senior Expert, Islamic Parliament of Iran
RANJBAR, Pantea (Ms.) Adviser	

**IRAQ**

AL-CHAABAWI, Hasan (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>Sauron</i> )
ABDULKHALEQ, Vian (Ms.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>KDP</i> )
ALKHIRBIT, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>NAA</i> )
ALSALIHI, Arshed (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>NB</i> )
MOUSA, Adnan (Mr.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>Sadeqoun</i> )
TALABANI, Ala (Ms.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq ( <i>NAA</i> )
AL-ZANGANA, Salahaldeen (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of Representatives of Iraq
AL-OGAILI, Salam (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director General of the Public Relations Department, Council of Representatives of Iraq
MOHAMED, Fawzi (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	International Relations Officer, Council of Representatives of Iraq
SALEH, Mouayed (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
AL-FADHLLI, Raaed (Mr.) Diplomat	
ABBAS, Abbas (Mr.) Diplomat	
ALTAMIMI, Ahmed (Mr.) Press	
ABU-LIRA, Mustafa (Mr.) Press	

(Sauron: Block of Sauron / Bloc Sauron)  
(NAA: National Axis Alliance / Entente nationale iraquienne)  
(KDP: Kurdistan Democratic Party / Parti démocratique du Kurdistan)  
(Sadeqoun: Block of Sadeqoun / Bloc Sadeqoun)  
(NB: National Block / Bloc national)

**IRELAND – Irlande**

O'DONOVAN, Denis (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate ( <i>FF</i> )
BOYHAN, Victor (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Oireachtas Audit Committee. B.I.P.A. ( <i>Ind</i> )
LAHART, John (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Budgetary Oversight Committee ( <i>FF</i> )
BROPHY, Colm (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Budgetary Oversight Committee ( <i>FG</i> )

PRINGLE, Thomas (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Finance, Committee on Future of Healthcare, Climate Action Committee, Committee on Agriculture Food & Marine. ( <i>Ind</i> )
GUNN, Elaine (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Assistant Secretary, House of Representatives
HAMILTON, John (Mr.) Secretary	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives
HART, Aisling (Ms.)	Private Secretary, Senate
(FF: Fianna Fáil (Ind: Independent / Indépendant) (FG: Fine Gael)	

**ISRAEL**

SHAI, Nachman (Mr.) President of the Group, Ex-officio Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Chair of the Subcommittee for National Planning Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality ( <i>Z</i> )
HASKEL, Sharren (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Subcommittee for Advancing Technologies for Renewable Energy ( <i>L</i> )
MARGALIT, Liat (Ms.) Adviser to the Delegation	International Affairs Division of the Knesset, Parliament
MICHAEL, Uri (Mr.) Adviser	International Affairs Division of the Knesset, Parliament
(Z: Zionist Union / Union sioniste) (L: Likud) (YA: Yesh Atid)	

**ITALY - ITALIE**

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr.) President of the Group, Honorary IPU President, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>A</i> )
CIRIELLI, Edmondo (Mr.)	Questor of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>Fdl</i> )
GRANDE, Marta (Ms.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the Chamber of Deputies President of the Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>M5s</i> )
VERDUCCI, Francesco (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the Senate Education Committee ( <i>PD</i> )
RUFA, Gianfranco (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Education Committee ( <i>LS-Premier</i> )
RUSSO, Loredana (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Education Committee ( <i>M5s</i> )
SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group	Adviser
THAUERO, Stefano (Mr.) Adviser	International Affairs Office, Senate
RADONI, Susanna (Ms.) Executive Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies

FABI, Catia (Ms.)  
Adviser, Member of the ASGP

Speaker's Office, Chamber of Deputies

LASORSA, Antonella (Ms.)  
Interpreter

Chamber of Deputies

OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr.)  
Interpreter

Senate

CORNADO, Gian Lorenzo (Mr.)  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative

BELLELLI, Massimo (Mr.)  
Ambassador / Deputy Permanent Representative

BALDASSARRE, Massimo (Mr.)  
Diplomat

(A: Autonomie (Svp-Patt, Uv))  
(Fdl: Fratelli d'Italia)  
(M5s: Movimento 5 Stelle)  
(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)  
(LS-Premier: Lega-Salvini Premier)

#### JAPAN - JAPON

SUZUKI, Shunichi (Mr.)  
Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the  
Delegation

Member of the House of Representatives (*LDP*)  
Standing Committee on Budget

MATSUSHITA, Shimpei (Mr.)

Member of the House of Councillors (*LDP*)  
Committee on General Affairs  
Committee on Audit  
Director of Special Committee on Official Development  
Assistance and Related Matters

TANAKA, Kazunori (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*LDP*)  
Director of Standing Committee on Budget

UBUKATA, Yukio (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*CDPJ*)  
Director of Standing Committee on Environment  
Commission on the Constitution

TSUMURA, Keisuke (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*DPP*)  
Standing Committee on Land, Infrastructure, Transport  
and Tourism  
Special Committee on Promotion of Science and  
Technology and Innovation  
Deliberative Council on Political Ethics

TOKUNAGA, Eri (Ms.)

Member of the House of Councillors (*DPP*)  
Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Chairperson of the Special Committee on  
Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake  
Commission on the Constitution

TAIE, Yuichiro (Mr.)

Adviser, House of Representatives

NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms.)

Adviser, House of Representatives

SAKASHITA, Shohei (Mr.)

Adviser, House of Representatives

NISHIHARA, Narumi (Ms.)

Adviser, House of Representatives

TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr.)

Adviser, House of Councillors

KAWASAKI, Masahiro (Mr.)

Adviser, House of Councillors

ITO, Akari (Ms.)

Adviser, House of Councillors

HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
SHINOZAKI Keiko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
SAWADA, Naoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
MURAKAMI, Setsuko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
OKAMOTO, Ryoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
KIKUCHI, Kyoko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
LUMPKIN, Tomoko Sawada (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
NIWA Kyoko, (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors
KIKUCHI (AMANN), Kumiko (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Councillors

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(CDPJ: Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan / Parti démocrate constitutionnel du Japon)

(DPP: Democratic Party For the People / Parti démocratique pour le peuple)

#### **JORDAN - JORDANIE**

JUDEH, Nasser (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate
ABU NIMAH, Hasan (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
DUDIN, Sakher (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
AL AJARMEH, Hasan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
AL SOUD, Yahia (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ALBAKKAR, Khaled (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of Representatives
BANI MUSTAFA, Wafa (Ms.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of Representatives
AL MASHAKBEEH, Adnan (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director of International Relations, Senate
QAIS, Aldhmour (Mr.) Secretary	International Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
ODWAN, Osama (Mr.) Secretary	Office Director of the leader of the Group, Senate

#### **KAZAKHSTAN**

YERMAN, Mukhtar (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security ( <i>Nur Otan</i> )
SULTANOV, Yerik (Mr.) Participating in the meeting of Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the Senate Committee on Economic Policy, Innovation Development and Entrepreneurship ( <i>Nur Otan</i> )

YERSHOV, Sergey (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Socio-Cultural Development and Science ( <i>Nur Otan</i> )
YESPAYEVA, Daniya (Ms.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Finance and Budget ( <i>Ak Zhol</i> )

(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" / Parti populaire et démocratique " Nur Otan ")  
(Ak Zhol: Democratic Party of Kazakhstan "Ak Zhol" / Parti démocratique 'Ak Zhol')

**KENYA**

LUSAKA, Kenneth (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate ( <i>PJ</i> )
KIHIKA, Susan (Ms.) First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate ( <i>PJ</i> )
LOSURAON POGHISIO, Samuel (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
ZANI, Agnes (Ms.)	Member of the Senate ( <i>ODM</i> )
BOWEN, David (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
EMANIKOR, Joyce (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
KANYI, Charles (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
MNENE, Lydia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
WANGWE, Emmanuel (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk, Senate
KARWITHA, Caroline (Ms.)	Senior Clerk Assistant, Senate
KIOKO, Serah (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Senior Deputy Clerk, National Assembly
ANGWENYI, David (Mr.)	Clerk Assistant, Senate
ABDI, Billow (Mr.)	Public Communications Officer, Senate
MWENDWA, Sheriffsam (Mr.)	Deputy Director, Litigation and Compliance
NDEGWA, Judy (Ms.)	Legal Counsel, Senate
SANDE, Margaret (Ms.)	Principal Research Officer, Senate
RUGE, Stephen (Mr.)	Director, Speaker's Office, Senate
WANJIKU, Mainah (Mr.)	First Clerk Assistant, National Assembly
WANDABUSI, Sudi (Mr.) Adviser to the delegation	Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the Senate
MUTULU, Francis (Mr.)	Media Relations Officer

(PJ: Jubilee Party / Parti Jubilee)

(ODM: Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange)

**KUWAIT - KOWEIT**

ALGHANIM, Marzouq (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
---	----------------------------------

ALDEQBASI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Public Utilities
ABDULLAH, Khalil (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALHASHIM, Safaa (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on United Nations Affairs	Member of the National Assembly
ALNUSF, Rakan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALSUBAIE, Alhumaidi (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Legislation and Legal Affairs
ALROWAIE, Oudah (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALTABTABAE, Omar (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
ALELAJ, Sara (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr.)	Head of the Media Section, National Assembly
ALFAILAKAWI, Mohammed (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALHADIA, Mohammed (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
ALIBRAHIM, Taiba (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr.)	Head of the IPU Affairs Section, National Assembly
ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr.)	Political Researcher, Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department, National Assembly
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr.)	Head Section of Protocol, National Assembly
ALAJMI, Muhammad (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Head of the International Affairs Section, Speaker's Office, National Assembly
ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department, National Assembly
ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr.)	Head Section - VIP Protocol Section, National Assembly
ALSUBAIE, Sara (Ms.)	Political Researcher - Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department, National Assembly
ALYASEEN, Mohammed (Mr.) Adviser	Speaker's Office, National Assembly
ALMOTAWWA, Amal (Ms.)	Director of the Media Department, National Assembly
ALSAEID, Mohammad (Mr.)	Director of the Secretary General's Office, National Assembly

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - *REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO***

SAYALAT, Sengnouane (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
BOUPHA, Phonphet (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice chairperson of the Culture and Social Committee
NUANTHASING, Khenthong (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly

SOUTHAMMAVONG, Siriphone (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Deputy Chief of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division,  
National Assembly

SEBOUNHEUANG, Nanthala (Mr.)  
Secretary to Vice Speaker

Deputy Chief of Division, National Assembly

#### **LATVIA – LETTONIE**

SICS, Martins (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Social and Employment Matters Committee  
Public Expenditure and Audit Committee (*LRA*)

SUDRABA, Inguna (Ms.)

Member of Parliament  
Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee  
Public Expenditure and Audit Committee

PAURA, Sandra (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau,  
Parliament

(LRA: Latvian Regional Alliance Parliamentary Group / Alliance des régions lettones)

#### **LEBANON - LIBAN**

BERRY, Nabih (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (*DLB*)

JABER, Yassine (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
President of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants  
Committee (*DLB*)

MOUSSA, Michel (Mr.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human  
Rights

Member of the National Assembly  
President of the Human Rights Committee (*DLB*)

PAKRADOUNIAN, Hagop (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants  
Committee (*FPM*)

TABSH, Rola (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee  
Women and Child Committee (*FM*)

DAHER, Adnan (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General of the National Assembly

BERRY, Mahmoud (Mr.)

Advisor to the President, National Assembly

CHARARA, Bilal (Mr.)

Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, National Assembly

FAWAZ, Fouad (Mr.)

Advisor to the President, National Assembly

HAMAD, Ali (Mr.)

General Director of Presidential Affairs Directorate,  
National Assembly

BALLOUT, Mouhamad (Mr.)  
Press

Head of Press Section, National Assembly

RIZK, Mayssam (Mr.)  
Press

NOUR EDDINE, Ali (Mr.)  
Press

MOUHAMAD, Issam (Mr.)  
Press

IBRAHIM, Hassan (Mr.)  
Press

HAYSSAM, Nabil (Mr.)  
Press

AKIL, Radwan (Mr.)  
Press

(DLB: Development and Liberation Bloc / Bloc de développement et libération)  
(FPM: Free Patriotic Movement / Mouvement patriotique libre)  
(FM: Future Movement / Courant du futur)

#### LESOTHO

MOKITIMI, Mamonaheng Refiloe (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate Chairperson of the Business Committee Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee
LEHLOENYA, Teboho Paul (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
HLAGO, Mapulumo Claudia (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly
MAHASE, Likopo Remington (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
SEKATLE, Semano Henry (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
MAEMA, Lebohang Fine (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
MOLETE, Selete (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to the Senate, Senate
LELIMO, Mosito Carolus John Paul (Mr.)	Assistant Deputy Clerk, National Assembly

#### LIECHTENSTEIN

WOHLWEND, Mario (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Member of the Diet ( <i>VU</i> )
HASLER, Johannes (Mr.)	Member of the Diet ( <i>FBP</i> )
WACHTER, Gabriele (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Secretary, Diet

(*VU*: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)  
(*FBP*: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)

#### LITHUANIA - LITUANIE

BUROKIENE, Guoda (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities Chairman of the Migration Commission ( <i>LVZS</i> )
JARUTIS, Jonas (Mr.)	Member of Parliament National Security and Defence, European affairs ( <i>LVZS</i> )

(*LVZS*: Lithuanian Peasant and Green Union / Union populaire des paysans de Lituanie)

#### MALAWI

MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly ( <i>MCP</i> )
MAKONDA RIDLEY, Agness (Ms.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Education ( <i>PP</i> )
MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Member Legal Affairs Committee ( <i>MCP</i> )
MPAWENI, Yaumi (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Government Assurance Committee ( <i>UDF</i> )
NAVICHA, Mary (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Social and Community Affairs Committee ( <i>DPP</i> )



KALEMBA, Fiona (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP

Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr.)  
Secretary to the delegation

Assistant Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)  
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)  
(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)  
(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

#### MALAYSIA - MALAISIE

MONUTTY, Mohd Nor (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (*PKR*)

S. THAMBIRAJAH, Chandra Mohan (Mr.)

Member of the Senate (*DAP*)

LAU, Alice Kiong Yieng (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*DAP*)

NIK AHMAD, Nik Nazmi (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*PKR*)

SHAARY, Ahmad Marzuk (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*PAS*)

SHUKRI, Nancy (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*PBB*)

IBHARIM, Nurul Fadhilah (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Assistant Secretary International Relations and Protocol  
Division, House of Representatives

(UMNO: United Malays National Organisation / Organisation malaisienne nationale unie)  
(PKR: People's Justice Party / Parti de la justice nationale)  
(DAP: Democratic Action Party / Parti d'action démocratique)  
(PAS: Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party / Parti islamique pan-malaisien)  
(PBB: Barisan Nasional)

#### MALI

TIMBINE, Moussa (M.)  
Président délégué du Groupe,  
Chef de la délégation

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (*RPM*)  
Commission des lois

CISSE, Amadou (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*URD*)  
Président de la Commission de contrôle

DRAME, Coulibaly Maimouna (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*RPM*)  
Commission du travail et de l'emploi

(RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali)  
(URD: Republic and Democracy Union / Union pour la République et la démocratie)

#### MALTA - MALTE

CUTAJAR, Rosianne (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the House of Representatives

GALEA, Mario (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives (*PN*)

VELLA, Andre (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Research Analyst

(PN: Partit Nazzjonalista)

#### MEXICO - MEXIQUE

JARA CRUZ, Salomón (Mr.)  
Leader of the delegation

Member of the Senate  
Legislative Studies Committee (*Morena*)

GALAZ CALETTI, Eva Eugenia (Ms.)

Member of the Senate  
Federalism and Municipal Development Committee  
(*Morena*)

REYNOSO SÁNCHEZ, Alejandra Noemí (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>PAN</i> )
MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, Verónica (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Economy Committee ( <i>PRI</i> )
GARCÍA SEPÚLVEDA, Samuel Alejandro (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chair of the Federalism and Municipal Development Committee ( <i>CM</i> )
BAÑUELOS DE LA TORRE, Geovanna del Carmen (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Chair of the Committee on Mining and Regional Development ( <i>PT</i> )
ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica (Ms.) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, International Organizations Committee ( <i>PAN</i> )
LÓPEZ CASTRO, Cynthia Iliana (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies ( <i>PRI</i> )

(Morena: National Regeneration Movement / Mouvement de la régénération nationale)  
(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)  
(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)  
(CM: Citizens' Movement / Mouvement citoyen)  
(PT: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

#### MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)

SIMINA, Wesley W. (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Congress Education Committee Judiciary Governmental Operations Committee Transportation and Communications Committee
FIGIR, Isaac V. (Mr.)	Member of the Congress Chair of the Ways & Means Committee External Affairs Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee Resources and Development Committee
CHORR, Andy P. (Mr.) Advisor, Member of the ASGP	Assistant PIO, Congress
DANG, Tung Lam (Mr.) Advisor	Legislative Counsel, Congress

#### MONACO

NOTARI, Fabrice (M.) Chef de la délégation	Membre du Conseil national ( <i>PM</i> ) Président de la Commission de l'environnement et de la qualité de vie
BERTANI, Corinne (Mme)	Membre du Conseil national ( <i>PM</i> )
FRESKO-ROLFO, Béatrice (Mme)	Membre du Conseil national ( <i>HM</i> )
PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Chargée des affaires internationales, Conseil national

(PM: Primo! Monaco as Priority / Primo ! Priorité Monaco)  
(HM: Monaco Horizon / Horizon Monaco)

#### MONGOLIA - MONGOLIE

ENKH-AMGALAN, Luvsantseren (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural ( <i>MPP</i> )
--	--

BATSUKH, Saranchimeg (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human rights	Member of the State Great Hural Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education, Culture and Science Standing Committee on Environment, Food and Agriculture ( <i>MPP</i> )
LUVSANVANDAN, Bold (Mr.)	Member of the State Great Hural Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Standing Committee on Legal Affairs ( <i>DP</i> )
JUDAG, Bayarmaa (Ms.) Secretary	Advisor of the Foreign relations department, State Great Hural
URTNASAN, Enkhtuvshin (Mr.) Secretary	Advisor to the MP, State Great Hural
LUNDEG, Purevsuren (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(MPP: Mongolian People's Party / Parti populaire mongol) (DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate) (MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire du Peuple mongol)	

**MOROCCO – MAROC**

OMARI, Abdelaaziz (M.) Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants ( <i>PJD</i> )
TOUMI, Ahmed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
LAZREK, Noureddine (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants ( <i>UC</i> )
EL HILAA, Rahhou (M.)	Membre de la Chambre des Représentants ( <i>PAM</i> )
EL KHADI, Najib (M.) Vice-Président de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
SATRAOUY, Said (M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Chef de la Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des Représentants
BEHAJ, Hamid (M.)	Conseiller au Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
MOHCINE, Mounjid (M.)	Conseiller, Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des Représentants
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement) (UC: Constitutional Union / Union constitutionnelle) (PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti authenticité et modernité)	

**MYANMAR**

WIN, Dr Than (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Nationalities President of the Joint Committee on IPU President of the International Relations and Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Relations Committee ( <i>NLD</i> )
WU, Je Yaw (Mr.)	Member of the House of Nationalities Joint Committee on IPU International Relations Committee ( <i>NUP</i> )
OO, Bo Bo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Joint Committee on IPU International Relations Committee ( <i>NLD</i> )
SAN, Mynt Mynt (Mr.) Adviser	

AUNG MYO MYINT (Mr.)  
Deputy Permanent Representative/ Ambassador

MYAT, Yin Po (Ms.)  
Diplomat

(NLD: National League For Democracy / Ligue nationale pour la démocratie)

(NUP: National Unity Party / Parti national de l'unité)

### NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter (Mr.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly  
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Standing  
Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements  
Chairperson, SADC Parliamentary Forum  
Chairperson of the Privileges and Immunities Committee

MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Ms.)  
President of the Group

Chairperson of the National Council  
Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders  
Committee  
Chairperson of the Privileges and Immunities Committee  
Standing Committee on Human Resources and  
Community Development  
(SWAPO)

DIENDA, Elma (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (PDM)  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
Standing Committee on Gender, Equality and  
Family Affairs

SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chairperson of the Economics and Public Administration  
Committee (SWAPO)  
Standing Committee on Human Resources and  
Community Development  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts

NANGOLO, Johannes (Mr.)

Member of the National Council  
Standing Committee on Security, Constitutional and  
Legal Affairs (SWAPO)

PHILLIPUS WIDO, Katamelo (Mr.)

Member of the National Council  
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Urban &  
Rural Development (SWAPO)

KANDETU, Lydia (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP

Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

INDOMBO, Lydia H (Ms.)  
Secretary of the IPU National Group,  
Member of the ASGP

Director, General Services, National Council

NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam N (Ms.)

Personal Assistant to the Chairperson, National Council

SHALI, Auguste Ms.)  
Co-Secretary of the Group

Parliamentary Clerk, National Council

DE WEE, Elizabeth (Ms.)  
Co-Secretary of the Group

Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly

SANZILA, George (Mr.)

Chief Researcher, National Assembly

TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms.)  
Personal Assistant to the Speaker

Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the National  
Assembly

(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

(PDM: Popular Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique populaire)

**NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS**

AT SMA, Joop (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate ( <i>CDA</i> )
GERKENS, Arda (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Senate ( <i>PS</i> )
MULDER, Agnes (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of Representatives ( <i>CDA</i> )
DE ROON, Raymond (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives ( <i>PVV</i> )
BAKKER-DE JONG, Femmy (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	House of Representatives
WESTERHOFF, Arjen (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	House of Representatives

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(PVV: Party for Freedom / Parti de la liberté)

**NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE**

TOLLEY, Anne (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Business Committee Deputy Chairperson of the Officers of Parliament Committee ( <i>NP</i> )
CARTER, David (Mr.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the House of Representatives Finance and Expenditure Committee ( <i>NP</i> )
MARCROFT, Jenny (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Environment Committee Maori Affairs Committee ( <i>NZF</i> )
O'CONNOR, Greg (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Justice Committee Social Services and Community Committee ( <i>L</i> )
VAN DE MOLEN, Tim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Transport and Infrastructure Committee ( <i>NP</i> )
HOLMES, Winton (Mr.)	Inter-Parliamentary Officer, Office of the Clerk, New Zealand Parliament

(NP: National Party / Parti national)

(NZF: New Zealand First Party / La Nouvelle-Zélande d'abord)

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

**NICARAGUA**

ALONSO GÓMEZ, Arling Patricia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

**NIGER**

IRO, Sani (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PNDS</i> ) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif, Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PNDS</i> ) Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement
HASSANE, Soumana (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MDN-Lumana</i> ) Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement

MAHAMADOU A., Alkassoum (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MPR Jamhouria</i> ) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité
MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MNSD</i> ) Commission des affaires étrangères et de la coopération
SALEY, Mahamane (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>PNDS</i> ) Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles
NOUHOU, Daoudou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>AMEN-AMIN</i> ) Commission des finances et du budget
SEINI, Adiza (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>MDN</i> ) Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
GANDA, Hassane (M.) Conseiller technique du Groupe	Conseiller technique de commission, Assemblée nationale
MOSSI, Moussa (M.) Conseiller du Groupe	Directeur de cabinet adjoint du Président, Assemblée nationale

(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme)  
(MDN: Niger Democratic Movement for an African Federation / Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine)  
(MNSD: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement National pour la Société de Développement)  
(MPR Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République)  
(AMEN-AMIN: Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger / Alliance des mouvements pour l'émergence du Niger)

**NIGERIA**

SARAKI, Abubakar Bukola (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Senate ( <i>APC</i> )
SULAIMON LASUN, Yussuff (Mr.) Deputy Leader of the Group	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
GAYA, Kabiru Ibrahim (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Works Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
RAFIU ADEBAYO, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Finance Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
ADAEZE, Oduah Stella (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa ( <i>PDP</i> )
BAYERO, Usman Nafada (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
DASUKI, Abdussamad (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Navy Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairman of the Public Petitions Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Young Parliamentarians Committee ( <i>APC</i> )
IKON, Samuel Okon (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee, Young Parliamentarians Committee ( <i>PDP</i> )
GOODHEAD, Boma (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Young Parliamentarians Committee ( <i>PDP</i> )
FASEYI, Samuel Duro (Mr.) Adviser	Member of Parliament, Senate

AYEWOH, Nelson Ibhaguezege (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Senate, Senate
SANI OMOLORI, M. A. (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Clerk of Parliament, Senate
NAVATI, Iliya (Ms.)	Director Public Affairs, Senate
RABI ADA, Audu (Ms.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary Directorate of Inter-Parliamentary Relations & Protocol, Senate
SHEHU, Umar (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Director IPU Desk, Senate
YAHAYA HAMIDU, Danzaria (Mr.)	Director Public Affairs, Senate

(APC: All Progressive Congress / Congrès progressiste)  
(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

**NORWAY - NORVEGE**

LEIRSTEIN, Ulf Isak (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Subcommittee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs (PP)
AUKRUST, Åsmund (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (L)
LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (L)
FRASER, Thomas (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Senior Adviser, Parliament
GABRIELSEN, Trond (Mr.)	Head of Section, Parliament
STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser, Parliament
HEIMERBACK, Trine (Ms.)	Diplomat

(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)  
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

**OMAN**

AL-MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Consultative Council
AL HARASSI, Wafa (Ms.)	Member of the State Council
AL MANTHARI, Rayya (Ms.)	Member of the State Council
AL AMRI, Abdullah (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the Consultative Council
AL BALUSHI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL SAADI, Said (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL MAHROUQI, Shaikh (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of Shura Council, Consultative Council
AL SAIDI, Khalid (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, State Council
AL AWFI, Sabah (Ms.) Secretary	Director of International Relations at the State Council, State Council

AL HOSNI, Ahmed (Mr.)  
Secretary

Coordinator of the Shura Council Chairman,  
Consultative Council

AL UWAIISI, Aiman (Mr.)

Secretary, Consultative Council

AL RAHBI, Abdullah (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

AL LAWATI, Kifah (Ms.)  
Diplomat

#### PAKISTAN

NAEK, Farooq Hamid (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Senate  
Chairperson Committee of the Committee on Finance,  
Revenue and Economic Affairs  
Chairperson Committee of the Law Reforms Committee  
Privatization Committee (*PPPP*)

DURRANI, Agha Shahzaib (Mr.)

Member of the Senate  
Chairperson of the Planning Development and Reforms  
Committee  
Communications Committee  
Water Resources Committee (*PML-N*)

AFRIDI, Shamim (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

ALI, Mujahid (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PTI*)

AHMAD, Shahid (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PTI*)

ARBAB, Sher Ali (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PTI*)

KHAN, Khurram Dastgir (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PML-N*)

KHAN, Haider Ali (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PTI*)

HUSSAIN, Tahir (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly

MALIK, Amjed Pervez (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary, Senate

(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais)

(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz))

(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf)

#### PALESTINE

ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr.)  
Committee on Middle East Questions

Member of the Palestinian National Council  
Political Affairs Committee (*F*)

ALWAZIR, Intisar (Ms.)

Member of the Palestinian National Council  
Committee on Social Affairs (*F*)

QASIM, Bilal (Mr.)

Member of the Palestinian National Council  
Social Affairs Committee (*PLF*)

KHADER, Qais (Mr.)

Member of the Palestinian National Council  
Political Committee (*DFLP*)

SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr.)

Member of the Palestinian National Council  
Committee on Budget and Finance (*Ind*)

KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Palestinian National Council



SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations,  
Palestinian National Council

(F: Fatah)

(ALF: Arab Liberation Front / Front de libération arabe) (Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)

(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique pour la libération de la Palestine)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

#### PARAGUAY

OVELAR, Silvio (Mr.)  
Leader of the delegation

President of the Senate and of the Congress

LLANO RAMOS, Blas Antonio (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

#### PHILIPPINES

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, Gloria (Ms.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the House of Representatives

RECTO, Ralph (Mr.)

Senate President *pro tempore*

DRILON, Franklin (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

LACSON, Panfilo (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

COLLANTES, Ma. Theresa (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

GASATAYA, Greg (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

MARCOLETA, Rodante (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

SALO, Ron (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

SANDOVAL II, Federico (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives

NOGRALES, Karlo Alexei (Mr.)  
Adviser

Member of the House of Representatives

VILLARICA, Myra Marie (Ms.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary of the Senate

MALING, Dante Roberto (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General of the House of Representatives

AYSON, Esperanza (Ms.)  
Acting Secretary of the Group

Deputy Director General, Office of International  
Relations and Protocol, Senate

BANTUG, Renato Jr. (Mr.)

Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Drilon, Senate

SALAZAR, Cesar (Mr.)

Legislative Head, Office of Senator Lacson,  
Senate

DE CHAVEZ, Cesar (Mr.)  
Delegation Secretary

Director, Protocol Service, Office of International  
Relations and Protocol, Senate

SABARRE, Raymundo (Mr.)

Director, International Relations and Protocol  
Service, Senate

MERCADO, Marlon Pablo (Mr.)

Director V, Office of Senator Lacson, Senate

DOROTAN TIUSECO, Maria Luwalhati (Ms.)

Director IV, Office of Senator Franklin Drilon, Senate

ALANO, Corazon (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation

Director V, Office of the Secretary General of the House  
of Representatives

FIGUEROA, Maria Arlene (Ms.)  
Assistant Delegation Secretary

Director II, Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Special  
Affairs Bureau, House of Representatives

GARCIA, Evan (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

TEEHANKEE, Manuel Antonio (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

**POLAND - POLOGNE**

SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Senate
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr.)	Member of the Senate ( <i>PO</i> )
BUBULA, Barbara (Ms.)	Member of the Sejm ( <i>PiS</i> )
DLUGI, Grzegorz (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the Sejm ( <i>K15</i> )
PALUCH, Anna (Ms.)	Member of the Sejm ( <i>PiS</i> )
STĘPIEŃ, Elżbieta (Ms.)	Member of the Sejm ( <i>N</i> )
SOBOLEWSKI, Przemyslaw (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director of the Research Bureau of the Chancellery
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	
CYGNAROWSKI, Mateusz (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Interpreter, Sejm
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms.)	Director of the Analysis and Documentation Office of Senate
WOJCIK, Agata (Ms.)	Adviser, Senate
ZABRZESKI, Krzysztof (Mr.)	Interpreter, Sejm

(*PO*: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)  
(*PiS*: Law and Justice / Droit et justice)  
(*K15*: Kukiz'15)  
*N*: Nowoczesna (Modern))

**PORTUGAL**

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>SDP</i> )
LACÃO, Jorge (Mr.) Vice-President of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>PS</i> )
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>SDP</i> )
ALBERNAZ, Rosa (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>PS</i> )
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>PS</i> )
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>SDP</i> )
MORAIS, Teresa (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic ( <i>SDP</i> )
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation and Twelve Plus Secretariat	International Relations, Cooperation, Public Relations and Protocol, Assembly of the Republic
SANTOS, Susana (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation and Twelve Plus Secretariat	International Relations, Cooperation, Public Relations and Protocol, Assembly of the Republic
FERREIRA, Rita (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation and the Twelve Plus Group	Directorate International Relations, Cooperation, Public Relations and Protocol, Assembly of the Republic

(*SDP*: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)  
(*PS*: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

**QATAR**

AL MAHMOUD, Ahmed (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Shura Council
AL-KHATER, Yousif (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee
AL-HAIDAR, Nasser (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-AHBABI, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-MUFTAH, Hend (Ms.)	Member of the Shura Council Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee Cultural and Information Affairs Committee
AL-MANSOORI, Reem (Ms.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad (Mr.)	Secretary General, Shura Council
AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer (Mr.)	Head of the Public Relations and Information Section, Shura Council
AL-MAJID, Abdelreda (Mr.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Shura Council
SHAHBECK, Mohd (Mr.)	Legal Advisor
RASHEED, Rasheed Eisa (Mr.)	Contact and Follow-up Officer, Advisory Council
ALHAJRI, Ali (Mr.)	Administrative Expert
AL-KHATER, Nasser (Mr.)	Legal Advisor, Advisory Council
BOUCHKOUJ, Nouredine (Mr.)	Legal Expert
AL-MANSOORI, Meteb (Mr.)	Public Relations Officer, Shura Council
AL-HAMADI, Hamad (Mr.)	Public Relations Officer, Shura Council
AL-MASLAMANI, Rashid (Mr.)	International Affairs Researcher, Advisory Council

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA - *REPUBLIQUE DE COREE***

MOON, Hee Sang (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
CHIN, Young (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee (DPK)
SUL, Hoon (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (DPK)
LEE, Soo Hyuck (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (DPK)
CHONG, Jong Sup (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Defense Committee (LKP)
CHO, Eung Cheon (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Legislation and Judiciary Committee (DPK)
KIM, Kyung Jin (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Science, ICT, Broadcasting, and Communications Committee (PDP)
YOO, Ihn-tae (Mr.) Head of the Delegation to the ASGP, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly Secretariat
HAHN, Choong Hee (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Ambassadorial Advisor to the Speaker for Foreign Affairs, National Assembly

PARK, Jae You (Mr.)	Director General of the International Affairs and Protocol Bureau, National Assembly
CHOI, Kwang Pil (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly
KWON, Soon Min (Mr.)	Deputy Spokesperson of the National Assembly
MOON, Sung Hwan (Mr.)	Director of the Protocol Division, National Assembly
CHEONG, Chi Eun (Ms.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Division, National Assembly
SONG, Kyeong Min (Ms.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly
KIM, Yong Sung (Mr.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly
CHO, Sung Hoon (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Division, National Assembly
SHIN, Jung Seob (Mr.) Secretary to the ASGP Delegation to the ASGP	Deputy Director of the European and African Affairs Division, National Assembly
SHIN, Seung Woo (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Protocol Division, National Assembly
CHOI, Seung Joo (Ms.) Interpreter	Protocol Officer, National Assembly
IM, So Young (Ms.) Interpreter	Protocol Officer, National Assembly
KIM, Su Yeon (Ms.) Interpreter	Protocol Officer, National Assembly
LIM, Ju Hyung (Mr.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
CHOI, A Young (Ms.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
JANG, Seung Hun (Mr.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
CHOE, Chan Kyoung (Mr.)	Program Officer, National Assembly
LIM, Kyu Eun (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Program Officer, National Assembly
PARK, Sang Min (Mr.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly
HA, Heon Gi (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation to the ASGP, Member of the ASGP	Secretary to the Director General, National Assembly

(DPK: Democratic Party of Korea / Parti démocratique coréen)

(LKP: Liberty Korea Party / Parti de la liberté)

(PDP: Party for Democracy and Peace / Parti pour la démocratie et la paix)

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - REPUBLICHE DE MOLDOVA**

GRECEANÎI, Zinaida (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Member Committee on Economy, Budget and Finances (PSRM)
IVANOV, Violeta (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Chair of the Foreign Affairs and European Integration Committee
ALBU, Adrian (Mr.)	Adviser, Parliament

(PSRM: Party of Socialists / Parti des socialistes)

**ROMANIA - ROUMANIE**

OPREA, Mario-Ovidiu (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Committee for Constitutionality Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sports Committee for the Standing Orders ( <i>NLP</i> )
DINICA, Silvia-Monica (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee for Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the Senate Committee for Economic Affairs, Industries and Services Committee for Communications and Information Technology ( <i>USR</i> )
SBIRNEA, Liliana (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sports Committee for Petitions, Inquiry of Abuses and Fight against Corruption ( <i>SDP</i> )
BOZIANU, Nicoleta-Catalina (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Public Administration and Territorial Planning ( <i>PMP</i> )
PETRIC, Octavian (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Industries and Services ( <i>SDP</i> )
VOICU, Mihai Alexandru (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Foreign Policy Committee for Romanian Communities Living Abroad ( <i>NLP</i> )
CHENCIAN, Izabela (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate
BAGNEANU, Ioana (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Parliamentary Adviser, Chamber of Deputies
(NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti national libéral) (USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie) (SDP: Social Democrat Party / Parti social-démocrate) (PMP: People's Movement Party / Parti Mouvement populaire)	

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

UMAKHANOV, Iliyas (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation
TOLSTOI, Petr (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma ( <i>UR</i> )
AFANASIEVA, Elena (Ms.)	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Federation Council Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building
BABAKOV, Aleksandr (Mr.)	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the Council of the Federation Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee

GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee
GAVRILOV, Sergei (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the State Duma Chairman of the Committee on Development of Civil Society, Affairs of Public and Religious Associations (CP)
SLUTSKIY, Leonid (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs (LDP)
YEMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on State Constructing and Legislature (JR)
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the State Duma Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Affairs of Family, Women and Children (UR)
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of the Federation
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	Deputy Head of the Division of International Organizations, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation
BYKOV, Aleksey (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Aide to the Deputy Speaker, Council of the Federation
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms.) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP	Council of the Federation
KOZHEVNIKOV, Kirill (Mr.) Personal Assistant	Council of the Federation
SHMACHKOVA, Olga (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation, Council of the Federation
YAKOVLEVA, Marina (Ms.) Secretary of Group	Senior Counsellor of International Cooperation Department, State Duma
GAMBASHIDZE, Iliya (Mr.) Secretary of Group	Assistant to Deputy Chairman of the State Duma P. Tolstoy, State Duma
KRYACHKOV, Dmitry (Mr.) Interpreter	State Duma
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr.) Secretary of Group	Senior Consultant of International Cooperation Department, State Duma
TRIBUNSKAYA, Valentina (Ms.) Interpreter	State Duma
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr.) Interpreter	Council of the Federation
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr.) Interpreter	Council of the Federation

(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)

(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(JR: Just Russia / Russie juste)

**RWANDA**

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'arc (Ms.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate
SEBUHORO, Celestin (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Development and Finance
CYITATIRE, Sosthene (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to the Senate, Senate

**SAMOA**

TALAIMANU KETI, Nafaitoa (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
--------------------------------	--

**SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN**

MULARONI, Mariella (Ms.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Great and General Council ( <i>PDCS</i> )
FORCELLINI, Davide (Mr.)	Member of the Great and General Council ( <i>RETE</i> )
LAZZARINI, Marina (Ms.)	Member of the Great and General Council ( <i>SSD</i> )
LONFERNINI, Teodoro (Mr.)	Member of the Great and General Council ( <i>PDCS</i> )
VALENTINI, Mara (Ms.)	Member of the Great and General Council ( <i>RF</i> )

(PDCS: Christian Democratic Party of San Marino / Parti chrétien-démocrate saint-marinais)

(RETE: RETE Movement / Mouvement RETE)

(SSD: Socialist Democratic Left / Gauche socialiste démocratique)

(RF: Future Republic / Future République)

**SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE**

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Consultative Council
ALSAMAAN, Yahya (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council
ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALBADI, Fahad (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALHAIZAAN, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALMUTAIRI, Mohamad (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Consultative Council
ALSALMAN, Ahmed (Mr.)	Protocol, Consultative Council
ALQULBLAN, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Researcher, Consultative Council
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr.) Secretary	
ALSEHAIM, Yazeed (Mr.) Secretary	
ALSHEDDI, Faisal (Mr.) Secretary	
ALMANSOUR, Khalid (Mr.)	Adviser, Consultative Council
ALZHRANI, Abdulaziz (Mr.)	Secretary, Consultative Council
BINSHALHOUB, Turki (Mr.) Secretary	Consultative Council
ALHARBI, Youssef (Mr.)	Adviser, Consultative Council
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	

HOBROM, Akram (Mr.)  
Adviser

**SENEGAL**

GADIAGA, Amady (M.) Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SARR, Woraye (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ADJI DIARRA, Mergane (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
DIAYE, Mariama (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SOW, Yoro (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
CISSÉ, Baye Niass (Mr./M.) Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

**SERBIA - SERBIE**

GOJKOVIC, Maja (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (SNS)
GRUJIC, Mladen (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly European Integration Committee ( <i>Ind</i> )
BOGOSAVLJEVIC BOŠKOVIC, Snezana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Culture and Information Committee Environmental Protection Committee ( <i>SPS</i> )
JERKOV, Aleksandra (Ms.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Education, Science, Technological Development and the Information Society ( <i>DP</i> )
MIJATOVIC, Milorad (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending ( <i>SDPS</i> )
PETROVIC, Mira (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>PUPS</i> )
MIJATOVIC, Jelena (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on the Rights of the Child Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy ( <i>SNS</i> )
RASKOVIC IVIC, Sanda (Ms.) Rapporteur of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on the Rights of the Child ( <i>PP</i> )
DJURASINOVIC RADOJEVIC, Dragana (Ms.)	Advisor to the Speaker, National Assembly
FILIPOVIC, Vladimir (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
KRALJEVIC, Djordje (Mr.) Secretary	Advisor to the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
POKRAJAC, Dragana (Ms.) Interpreter	National Assembly
ZBILJIC, Vladimir (Mr.)	Security Officer, National Assembly



ZLATANOVIC, Dejan (Mr.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

DURDEVIC, Milos (Mr.)  
Diplomat

(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe)  
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)  
(SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe)  
(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)  
(SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe)  
(PUPS: Party of United Pensioners of Serbia / Parti des retraités unis de Serbie)  
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

#### SEYCHELLES

PREA, Nicholas (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly  
Chairperson of the Reform and Modernisation (*LDS*)

DELETOURDIE, Jany (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Women Parliamentarians  
Anti-Victimisation Committee (*LDS*)

WILLIAM, Waven (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
International Affairs Committee (*PP*)

ISAAC, Tania (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP

Deputy Clerk, National Assembly

LEGAIE, Ted (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group

Secretary/Adviser, National Assembly

(*LDS*: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise)  
(*PP*: People's Party / Parti populaire)

#### SIERRA LEONE

THOMAS, Segepoh Solomon (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of Parliament (*SLPP*)

LEBBIE, Nenneh (Ms.)  
Chairperson IPU Committee

Member of Parliament  
Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries (*SLPP*)

TIMBO, Osman Abdal (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*APC*)

MAGBITY, Nancy (Ms.)

Principal Assistant to the Clerk of Parliament

(*SLPP*: Sierra Leone Peoples Party / Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone)  
(*APC*: All Peoples Congress Party / Congrès du peuple réuni)

#### SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR

LEE, Yi Shyan (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of Parliament (*PAP*)

CHENG, Li Hui (Ms.)

Member of Parliament (*PAP*)

PILLAI, Murali (Mr.)

Member of Parliament (*PAP*)

KOH, Dawn (Ms.)  
Secretary

Staff, Parliament

TIANG, Claribel (Ms.)  
Secretary

Staff, Parliament

(*PAP*: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)

**SLOVENIA - SLOVENIE**

RAJIĆ, Branislav (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth Committee on Foreign Policy Committee on Culture ( <i>PMC</i> )
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Head of Section for International Relations, Protocol and Translation, National Assembly

(PMC: Party of Modern Centre / Parti du centre moderne)

**SOMALIA - SOMALIE**

JAMA, Ali Ahmed (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of the People Infrastructure Committee
FARAH, Abdo Mah (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Post and Telecommunications Committee
MOHAMED, Mohamed Ahmed (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Committee on Foreign Policy Affairs and International Cooperation
MOHAMUUD, Said Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Defence Committee
JAMA, Ali (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Upper House

**SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD**

MBETE, Baleka (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly ( <i>ANC</i> )
BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms.)	Member of the House Chairperson of International Relations, National Assembly ( <i>ANC</i> )
TAU, Raseriti (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Council of Provinces ( <i>ANC</i> )
MOHAI, Seiso (Mr.)	Member of the National Council of Provinces Chief Whip
MABE, Peace (Ms.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>ANC</i> )
MNGUNI, Pumzile (Mr.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>ANC</i> )
WATERS, Michael (Mr.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>DA</i> )
MENTE, Ntombovuyo (Ms.)	Member of Parliament ( <i>EFF</i> )
TYAWA, Penelope (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Acting Secretary to Parliament
SITHOLE, Dumisani (Mr.)	Division Manager, International Relations and Protocol, National Assembly
JENKINS, Frank (Mr.)	Legal Adviser
KUBHEKA, Muziwakhe (Mr.)	Special Advisor to the Speaker, National Assembly
FINCA, Matshepiso (Ms.)	Protocol and Ceremonial Services
MONTSHO, Shirley (Ms.) Press	

WOLELA, Manekisi (Mr.) Press	
DLABAZANA, M.B. (Mr.)	Political Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson
MONNAKGOTLA, Roseline Mpho (Ms.) Content Support to the delegation	Researcher
LEIBRANDT-LOXTON, Natalie (Ms.) Content Support to the delegation	Researcher
QINA, Akhona (Ms.)	International Relations Co-ordinator
NGOMA, Zodwa (Ms.)	Personal Support to the Speaker of the National Assembly
MALEKANE, Eunice (Ms.)	Personal Support to the Speaker of the National Assembly
MALEKA, Moshomane Ike (Mr.) Medical Support	
MOTENE, Zacharia Kagiso (Mr.) Medical Support	
MAGAGA, Dorah Dikeledi (Ms.) Medical Support	
NDLAZI, Sello Michael (Mr.) Security	
LAKA, Kedibone Stephen (Mr.) Security	

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)  
(EFF: Economic Freedom Fighters / Combattants pour la liberté économique)  
(IFP: Inkatha Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté Inkatha)  
(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

#### **SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD**

MAKANA, Anthony Lino (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly ( <i>SPLM</i> )
MAJEE, Nyanchiek Nhial (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee of Public Accounts ( <i>SPLM</i> )
FAUSTINO, George Kosta (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee of Economy, Development and Finance ( <i>SPLM</i> )
RUAI, Monica Ayen Magut (Ms.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Members Affairs Committee ( <i>SPLM</i> )
UBONG, Mark Nyipuoch (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>SPLM</i> )
RUNDIAL, Manasseh Magok (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee of Energy and Mining ( <i>SPLM</i> )
WANJI, Eche Likai (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee of Regional Integration ( <i>SPLM</i> )
AKEN, Ludovico Lual (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk, National Legislative Assembly

DENG, Ayaga Garang (Mr.)

Director of International Collaboration, National  
Legislative Assembly

(SPLM: Sudan People Liberation Movement / Mouvement populaire de libération du Soudan)

**SPAIN - ESPAGNE**

ECHANIZ, José Ignacio (Mr.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies (*PP*)President of the Spanish IPU Group, President of  
the Committee on Peace and International Security,  
Rapporteur of the Committee on Democracy and  
Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation

ARAGÓN, Carmen (Ms.)

Member of the Senate (*PP*)

NASARRE, Begoña (Ms.)

Member of the Senate (*PSOE*)

LUCIO, Pilar (Ms.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies (*PP*)

BOYRA, Helena (Ms.)

Adviser, Congress of Deputies

Secretary of the Group

GUTIERREZ, Carlos (Mr.)

Secretary General of Congress of Deputies, Congress  
of Deputies

Member of the ASGP

DORADO, Fernando (Mr.)

Deputy Secretary General, Senate

Member of the ASGP

GÓMEZ-BERNARDO, Teresa (Ms.)

Congress of Deputies

Secretary of the Group and to the delegation

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

**SRI LANKA**

KUMARASIRI, Ananda (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament  
Chairman, Legislative Standing Committee  
Committee on Standing Orders  
Committee on Parliamentary Business (*UNP*)

Leader of the Delegation

DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Chairman of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on  
Transport and Civil Aviation  
Committee on High Posts  
Committee on Parliamentary Business (*UPFA*)  
Steering Committee on Constitutional Drafting

ALUWIHARA, Ranjith (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Ministerial Consultative Committee on Agriculture  
Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and  
North & East Reconstruction  
Committee on Public Petitions (*UNP*)

THURAIRETNASINGHAM, Kathirgama Thamby (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender  
Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human  
Resources Development  
Committee on Public Petitions (*ITAK*)

RANATUNGA, Prasanna (Mr.)

Member of Parliament  
Steering Committee on Constitutional Drafting  
Ministerial Consultative Committee on Megapolis and  
Western Development  
Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations  
(*UPFA*)

DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr.)  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Parliament

(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié)

(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté)

(ITAK: Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi)

#### **SUDAN - SOUDAN**

AHMED OMER, Ibrahim (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (*NCP*)

ABDELRAHMAN MOHAMED HAROUN, Mahjoup (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*NCP*)

ABDALL HUSSAIN, Malik (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*NCP*)

AHMED HASSAM GABER, Zienab (Ms.)  
Bureau of the Committee on Peace and  
International Security

Member of the National Assembly  
Legal Committee (*NCP*)

HAJ HASSAN OSMAN, Mathapa (Ms.)  
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL

Member of the National Assembly  
Legal Committee (*DUP*)

OSMAN GESOUR, Marum (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Legal Committee (*NCP*)

IBRAHIM ALAGIB, Altoum (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PWFA*)

ALBADRI ABDELRAHMAN, Elhassan (Mr.)

Member of the Council of States

ABDALL KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly

YAGUOB, Mohamed (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Council of States

ABDELHAFEZ, Abdelmoun (Mr.)

Protocol Director, National Assembly

AHMED ALBADWI, Mohamed (Mr.)

Secretary, Speaker's Office, National Assembly

FADUL ABDELGADIR, Thana (Ms.)  
Secretary of the Group

Executive Director, National Assembly

HASSAN MOHAMED, Alderdri (Mr.)

Assistant Director, Speaker's Office, National Assembly

GAMAL, Mohamed (Mr.)  
Diplomat

AID, Mahmoud (Mr.)  
Press

(*NCP*: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)

(*DUP*: Democratic Unionist Party - the original / Parti démocratique unioniste)

(*PWFA*: People's Working Forces Alliance / Alliance populaire des travailleurs)

(*DPES*: Democratic Party of Eastern Sudan / Parti démocratique du Soudan oriental)

#### **SURINAME**

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Chairman of the Committee of the Ministry on Natural  
Resources (*NDP*)

KARTA-BINK, Ingrid (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee of the Ministry of Natural Resources  
Committee of the Ministry of Public Works (*PL*)

RAMSAHAI, Rajiv (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee of the Ministry of Public Works  
Committee of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs  
Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture (*NDP*)

OEDIT, Dino (Mr.)  
Member of the ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)  
(PL: Pertjala Luhur)

#### SWEDEN - SUEDE

LINDBERG, Teres (Ms.)  
Head of Delegation, Leader of the Delegation

Member of Parliament  
Member Committee on Transport and Communications  
(SDP)

LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms.)  
Secretary to the delegation

International Adviser, Parliament

SONDÉN, Björn (Mr.)  
Deputy Secretary to the delegation

International Adviser, Parliament

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

#### SWITZERLAND - SUISSE

CARONI, Andrea (M.)  
Président du Groupe, Comité des droits  
de l'homme des parlementaires

Membre, Conseil des Etats (FDP/PLR)

LOHR, Christian (M.)  
Président adjoint du Groupe

Membre, Conseil national (CVP/PDC)

AMAUDRUZ, Céline (Mme)

Membre, Conseil national (SVP/UDC)  
Vice-Présidente de la Délégation pour les relations avec  
le Parlement français

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mme)  
Membre du Comité exécutif, Vice-Présidente du  
Groupe consultatif de haut niveau sur la lutte contre  
le terrorisme et l'extrémisme violent, Bureau des  
Femmes parlementaires, Comité directeur des  
Douze Plus

Membre, Conseil national (PS)  
Présidente de la Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée  
parlementaire de l'OSCE

LOMBARDI, Filippo (M.)

Président de la Commission de politique extérieure  
Membre, Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)

MÜRI, Felix (M.)  
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Membre, Conseil national (SVP/UDC)  
Vice-Président de la Commission de l'environnement, de  
l'aménagement du territoire et de l'énergie

WEHRLI, Laurent (M.)  
Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires  
des Nations Unies, Comité directeur des Douze Plus

Membre, Conseil national (FDP/PLR)

SCHWAB, Philippe (M.)  
Président de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale

EQUEY, Jérémie (M.)  
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

Relations internationales

GNÄGI, Anna Lea (Mme)  
Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe et de la délégation

Relations internationales

INCICI, Aline (Mme)  
Conseillère

Relations internationales

(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre)

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE**

ANZOUR, Najdat (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the People's Assembly ( <i>Ind</i> )
SANKAR, Salam (Ms.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chair of the Committee of Social Affairs ( <i>BAP</i> )
ARABI KATBI, Muhamad Ezat (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Education and Scientific Research Committee ( <i>BAP</i> )
AL KHATEEB, Sameer (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Education and Scientific Research Committee ( <i>BAP</i> )
ALMLOHI, Inas (Ms.)	Member of the People's Assembly Constitutional and Legislative Committee ( <i>SSNP</i> )
REISIAN, Jirair (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Human Rights and General Freedoms Committee ( <i>Ind</i> )
ALKINJ, Ahed (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Education and Scientific Research Committee ( <i>BAP</i> )
AL DARWISH, Walid (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Youth and Sport Committee ( <i>Ind</i> )
BAKR, Alan (Mr.)	Member of the People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>BAP</i> )
JNAIDAN, Fares (Mr.) Adviser	Member of Parliament, People's Assembly
NASSER, Mouad (Mr.) Adviser	Member of Parliament, People's Assembly
DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director of Public Relations, People's Assembly
ALAJDAD, Lama (Ms.)	Administrator, People's Assembly
HAMDAN, Ghazi (Mr.)	Administrator, People's Assembly
WASSOUF, Julie (Mr.)	Public Relations, People's Assembly

(*Ind*: Independent / Indépendant)  
(*BAP*: Baath Arab Party / Parti Baath arabe)  
(*SSNP*: Syrian Social Nationalist Party / Parti social nationaliste syrien)

**THAILAND - THAILANDE**

WICHITCHOLCHAI, Pornpetch (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	President of the National Legislative Assembly
SAMPATISIRI, Bilaibhan (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Secretary of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SOCATIYANURAK, Vorapol (Mr.) Bureau of the IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Monetary Affairs and Finance

ARAMWATTANANONT, Poj (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Labour
MEEPIEN, Teeradej (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chief advisor and member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
KRAIRIKSH, Sakthip (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
ARNUPAB, Jaraysak (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Transportation
CHALAMKET, Thongchai (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation
PHASUK, Nut (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Senate acting as Secretary General of the National Legislative Assembly, Senate
ROOPKHAJORN, Natchtanun (Ms.)	Secretary to the Leader of the Delegation
PIENVEJ, Sorasak (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives, House of Representatives
PHETCHAREON, Pornpith (Ms.) Secretary/Adviser, Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives, House of Representatives
BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of the Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives
THONGSAMRIT, Pилanthona (Ms.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level), House of Representatives
SIRIBOON, Sanan (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), Senate
KANKAEW, Supisra (Ms.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), House of Representatives
MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), House of Representatives
UDOMSIN, Koson (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), House of Representatives
LEELANOND, Kanteera (Ms.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level), House of Representatives
MINGMITR, Pakpoom (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Director of Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives
ISSARIYAPRUET, Pattrapong (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), House of Representatives
PRATHOOMCHAT, Kawisara (Ms.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Data Entry Officer (Operational Level), House of Representatives
WANNAMETHEE, Sek (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

**TIMOR-LESTE**

AMARAL, Arão Noe De Jesus Da Costa (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Parliament ( <i>NCTR</i> )
--	--



MARTINS, Veneranda Lemos (Ms.) President of the Group	Member of the National Parliament Health, Education, Social Welfare and Gender Equality ( <i>CNRT</i> )
DA COSTA, Aderito Hugo (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament President of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security ( <i>CNRT</i> )
DA SILVA, Abel Pires (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament President of the Committee on Infrastructure, Trade and Industry
RANGEL DA CRUZ DOS REIS, Maria Angelica (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee ( <i>FRETILIN</i> )
CARVALHO, Elvina Sousa (Ms.)	Member of the National Parliament Parliamentary Gender Committee ( <i>PD</i> )
ADOLFO MORAIS, Silvino (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament Member Public Finance Committee ( <i>FRETILIN</i> )
AMARAL, Joao Rui (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, National Parliament
MARTINS C. T. DE LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr.)	Adviser to the President, National Parliament
DA COSTA, Abelito (Mr.)	Chief of Cabinet
TILMAN, Sancha Margarida (Ms.)	Head of International Relations and Cooperation
EXPOSTO SOARES, Ligia De Deus (Ms.)	Protocol Officer, National Parliament
DA SILVA PEREIRA, Izilda (Ms.)	Technical Adviser
TILMAN, Eva Engracia (Ms.) Physician	
KEHIK, Anselmo (Mr.) Security Officer	

(*CNRT*: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor-Leste)

(*PD*: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)

(*FRETILIN*: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)

#### TOGO

DRAMANI, Dama (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UNIR</i> )
DAGBAN, Ayawavi (Mme) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UNIR</i> )
APEVON, Kokou Dodji (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>FDR</i> ) Commission des lois constitutionnelles
PENN, Laré Batouth (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>UNIR</i> )
LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ( <i>ANC</i> ) Président de la Commission de l'environnement durable et du changement climatique
WAGUENA, Fademba (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
GOMINA, Yassimiou (M.)	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
SEWAVI, Fiomegnon Kokuvi (M.)	Membre du personnel
JOHNSON, Yackoley Kokou (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	

(*UNIR*: Union for the Republic / Union pour la République)

(*FDR*: Democratic Forces for the Republic / Forces démocratiques pour la République)

(*ANC*: National Alliance for Change / Alliance nationale pour le changement)

**TONGA**

SOVALENI, Siaoosi (Mr.)  
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Standing Committee on Privilege  
Standing Committee on Public Accounts  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Environment  
Standing Committee on Foreign affairs & Defence

**TUNISIA - TUNISIE**

ENNACEUR, Mohamed (M.)  
Chef de la délégation

Président de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple  
(NT)

BEN SOUF, Mohamed (M.)  
Bureau de la Commission permanente des  
Affaires des Nations Unies

Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple  
(NT)

KSAMTINI, Soulef (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple  
(E)  
Membre Commission permanente de la législation  
générale

ZAOUALI, Souad (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple  
(BP)  
Commission permanente de l'agriculture, de la sécurité  
alimentaire, du commerce et des services annexes

MNIF, Nader (M.)

Directeur général du protocole

(NT: Nidaa Tounes)

(E: Ennahdha)

(BP: Patriotic Bloc / Bloc Patriotique)

**TURKEY - TURQUIE**

YILDIRIM, Binali (Mr.)

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
(PJD)

KAVAKCI KAN, Ravza (Ms.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
(PJD)

EMIR, Murat (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Justice Committee (CHP)

YILDIZ, Zeynep (Ms.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
National Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Committee  
(PJD)

OZSOY, Hisyar (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Foreign Affairs Committee (HDP)

ARSLAN, Ednan (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Justice Committee (CHP)

SATIROGLU, Nevzat (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Vice-Chair of the Public Economic Enterprises  
Committee (PJD)

ANDICAN, Abdul Ahat (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (IYI)

KARAKAYA, Mevlut (Mr.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey  
Spokesman of the Public Economic Enterprises  
Committee (MHP)

DUZGUN, Arife Polat (Mr.)  
Adviser

Member of Parliament, Grand National Assembly of  
Turkey

KOKSAL, Burcu (Ms.) Adviser	Member of Parliament, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
CIGLIK, Muharrem (Mr.)	Director of Protocol of the Speaker, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
TUNEY, Cemalettin (Mr.)	Director of Foreign Affairs and Protocol, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
OZTURK, Necati (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
GUNER, Mumtaz (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
AKSELI, Saren (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
AYVAZ, Abdullah Nuri (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
BORA, Ahmet (Mr.)	Chief Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
AYDIN, Murat (Mr.)	Chief Advisor, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ALTINEL, Hamide (Ms.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ARSLAN, Onder Haydar (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ASLAN, Mücahit (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
ONAL, Vedat (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KAYACI, Mevlut (Mr.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
GULER, Erdal (Mr.)	Protocol Officer of the Speaker, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
URAS, Kerim (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)	
(CHP: Republican People's Party / Parti populaire républicain)	
(HDP: People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)	
(IY: İyi Party / Parti İyi)	
(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party / Parti d'action nationaliste)	

**TURKMENISTAN**

MAMMEDOVA, Gulshat (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Assembly
KOMEKOV, Nury (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary relations (DPT)
HALJANOV, Atageldi (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
KULOV, Ahmetyar (Mr.) Diplomat	
CHOTBAYEV, Dovlet (Mr.) Diplomat	
(DPT: Democratic Party of Turkmenistan / Parti démocratique du Turkménistan)	

**UGANDA – OUGANDA**

KADAGA, Rebecca Alitwala (Ms.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of Parliament ( <i>NRM</i> )
ANYAKUN, Esther (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>NRM</i> )
AKAMBA, Paul (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Legal Committee ( <i>Ind</i> )
KABAGENYI, Rose (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Agriculture Committee ( <i>NRM</i> )
SSEBAGGALA, Abdulatif (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee ( <i>Ind</i> )
MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Physical Infrastructure Committee ( <i>FDC</i> )
OSORU, Maureen (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee, Forum of Young Parliamentarians ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Member of Parliament Gender Committee ( <i>NRM</i> )
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to Parliament, Parliament
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk, Parliamentary Affairs, Parliament
KAGANZI, Martha (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament
BUSIKU, Peter (Mr.)	Principal Private Secretary to the Speaker, Parliament
KARAMAGI, Edison (Mr.) Advisor	Senior Economist, Parliament
NASSALI, Mariam (Ms.)	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament
MUHINDO, Yusuf (Mr.) Advisor	Assistant Editor of the Hansard, Parliament
WATERA, Josephine (Ms.) Advisor	Assistant Director, Parliament
KANGO, Jonathan (Mr.)	IT Officer, Parliament
MUHINDO NZUGHUNDI, Martin (Mr.)	Adviser to the Speaker

(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale)  
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)  
(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)

**UKRAINE**

TARASYUK, Borys (Mr.) Rapporteur of the Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs ( <i>BP</i> )
IONOVA, Mariia (Ms.) Deputy Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on European Integration ( <i>PPB</i> )
IEMETS, Leonid (Mr.)	Member of Parliament First deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Policy and Justice ( <i>PF</i> )
BIELKOVA, Olga (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Fuel and Energy Complex, Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety ( <i>PPB</i> )

POPOV, Igor (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Corruption Prevention and Counteraction ( <i>OLRP</i> )
PTASHNYK, Viktoria (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Economic Policy ( <i>PPSU</i> )
SOTNYK, Olena (Ms.) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights; Forum of Women Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Committee on European Integration ( <i>PPSU</i> )
SHKRUM, Aliona (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government ( <i>BP</i> )
BODNAR, Petro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	First Deputy Secretary General, Parliament
MOSOLOV, Yurii (Mr.)	Deputy Head of Secretariat of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Parliament
PACHESYUK, Yuliya (Ms.) Secretary to the First Deputy Secretary General	Deputy Head of Division, Interparliamentary Relations Department, Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada
PROTASENKO, Liudmyla (Ms.)	Chief Consultant, Parliament
(BP: Batkivschyna Party / Parti Batkivshyna) (PPB: Petro Poroshenko Bloc / Bloc Petro Poroshenko) (PF: People's Front / Front populaire) (OLRP: Oleh Liashko Radical Party / Parti radical Oleh Liashko) (PPSU: Samopomich" Union / Union "Samopomich")	

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS**

AL QUBAISI, Amal (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Federal National Council
ALDHABBAHI, Faisal (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Federal National Council
ALMUTAWA, Saeed (Mr.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL HAI, Jamal (Mr.)	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-JASSIM, Alyaa (Ms.)	Member of the Federal National Council
ALBASTI, Afraa (Mr.) Second Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the Federal National Council
JASEM AHMAD, Ali (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Federal National Council
ALMEHRZI, Mohammed (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Federal National Council
AL-DHAHRI, Ahmed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Federal National Council
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr.)	Head of Protocol Section, Federal National Council
AL NAJJAR, Abdulrahman (Mr.) Advisor	Head of Media, Federal National Council
AL SHEHHI, Sultan (Mr.) Secretary, Adviser	Employee, Federal National Council
AL MARRI, Bader (Mr.) Secretary, Adviser	Protocol, Federal National Council
AL HEFEITI, Alanoud (Ms.) Advisor	Trainee, Federal National Council

ABOUD, Sami (Mr.) Secretary, Adviser	Media, Federal National Council
AL BLOUSHI, Hamda (Ms.) Secretary, Advisor	Head of Section, Federal National Council
AL DHAHERI, Alanoud (Ms.) Advisor	Trainee, Federal National Council
AL SHIHHE, Roudha (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Federal National Council
AL KENDI, Aliya (Ms.) Advisor	Secretary, Speaker's Office, Federal National Council
EL-NAEIMY, Yasser (Mr.)	Media Speaker Office, Federal National Council
MOHAMMED, Hamdy (Mr.) Secretary, Adviser	Media, Federal National Council
USMAN, Panakkat (Mr.) Secretary, Adviser	Photographer, Federal National Council
ALHADDABI, Amal (Mr.)	Advisor, Federal National Council
AL- SHEHHI, Salama (Ms.)	Protocol, Federal National Council
AL-AQILI, Ahmad (Mr.) Advisor	Chief Parliamentary Communication Coordinator, Federal National Council
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr.)	Head of Communication, Federal National Council
ALRAIS, Ibrahim (Mr.) Press	
AL ABDOOLI, Mohammed (Mr.) Press	

**UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI**

EVANS, Nigel (Mr.) President of the Group, Bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Commons International Trade (C)
WHITTINGDALE, John (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (C)
HOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)	Member of the House of Lords (C)
DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords ( <i>Lib Dems</i> )
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (C)
CHAPMAN, Douglas (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons ( <i>SNP</i> )
CHRIS, Matheson (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (L)
GROGAN, John (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (L)
NIMMO, Rick (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	BGIPU Director, House of Commons
LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Ms.) Advisor	International Project Manager, House of Commons
DAVIES, Emily (Ms.) Advisor	International Project Manager, House of Commons
HUTTON, Mark (Mr.)	House of Commons, ASGP
BURTON, Simon (Mr.)	House of Lords, ASGP

COMMANDER, Emily (Ms.)

Joint Secretary, ASGP

MOELLER, Daniel (Mr.)

Assistant to the ASGP Secretariat

BRAITHWAITE, Julian (Mr.)

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur)

(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)

(SNP: Scottish National Party / Parti national écossais)

(L: Labour / Parti travailliste)

**URUGUAY**

PASSADA, Ivonne (Ms.)

Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Senate

President of the Education and Culture Committee

Public Health Committee

Labor Issues Committee (*FA*)

MARTÍNEZ HUELMO, Ruben (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

International Affairs Committee

National Defense Committee

Public Funds Committee (*FA*)

HEBER, Luis Alberto (Mr.)

Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance  
and Trade

Member of the Senate

Constitution and Legislation Committee

Public Funds Committee

Administrative Issues Committee (*NP*)

CAMY, Carlos Daniel (Mr.)

Member of the Senate

Vice-President of the Labor Issues Committee

Vice-President of the Public Funds Committee

Vice-President of the Transport and Public Works

Committee (*NP*)

MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr.)

Committee on Peace and International Security

Member of the House of Representatives

President of the Internal Affairs Committee

Special, Security and Co-existence Committee

Special, Innovation, Science and Technology Committee

(*FA*)

MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, Senate

PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr.)

Secretary of the Group and of GRULAC

Head of International Relations, General Assembly

GALVALISI, Carina (Ms.)

Secretariat of the Group and of GRULAC

Head of Department, House of Representatives

GONZÁLEZ, Cristina (Ms.)

Diplomat

(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)

(NP: National Party / Parti national)

**UZBEKISTAN - OUZBEKISTAN**

ABDUSATTAROV, Tulkin Sayfullaevich (Mr.)

Leader of the delegation

Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber  
on Legislation, Judicial and Legal Issues

DJURAEV, Qodir Asadovich (Mr.)

Member of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber on  
International Affairs and  
Inter-parliamentary Relations

BARATOVA, Sayyora Rakhmatovna (Ms.)

Member of the Committee of the Senate on the Issues of  
Defense and Security

**VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)  
VENEZUELA (REPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU)**

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Ms.) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly President of the Committee of Internal Affairs ( <i>NT</i> )
MARÍN LAYA, Juan José (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>PSUV</i> )
GUANIPA, Tomás (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Defence Committee ( <i>PPJ</i> )
CORREA, José Gregorio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Parlasur ( <i>PPJ</i> )
RONDEROS, Oscar (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>PAD</i> )
VERGARA, Sergio (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>VP</i> )
TEIXEIRA, Manuel (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>MP</i> )
MEDINA, Ilenia Rosa (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly ( <i>PSUV</i> )
ARISTEGUIETA, María Alejandra (Ms.) Advisor to the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
CERVINI, Reinaldo (Mr.) Advisor to the leader of the delegation	Advisor, National Assembly
(NT: Partido Un Nuevo Tiempo) (PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela) (PPJ: Partido Primero Justicia) (PAD: Partido Acción Democrática) (VP: Voluntad Popular) (MP: Movimiento Progresista)	

**VIET NAM**

UONG, Chu Luu (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
NGUYEN, Giau Van (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
VU, Hai Ha (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
DUONG, Quoc Anh (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Economic Committee
HOANG, Thanh Tung (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Law Committee Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
LE, Thu Ha (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee
NGUYEN, Tuong Van (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group	Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
DO, Hoang Viet (Mr.)	Deputy Director General of the Protocol Department, National Assembly
LE, Thanh Hoan (Mr.)	Deputy Director General, National Assembly



TRAN, Kim Chi (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group	Head of Division of Multilateral Relations, Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
NGUYEN, Thi Quynh (Mrs.)	Principal Official of Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
LUU, Anh Tuan (Mr.) Interpreter	National Assembly
HO, Quang Dai (Mr.)	High Command of Guard, National Assembly

**YEMEN**

ALSHADADI, Mohamed (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council
ALAHMR, Hamd (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALSAAR, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
TAHA, Zaid (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALZEKRI, Zakarya (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
ALHAMED, Ali (Mr.) Adviser	Consultative Council
ALWADEAI, Yahya (Mr.) Adviser	Consultative Council

**ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE**

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
KALOBO, Pavyuma (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Youth and Sport ( <i>Ind</i> )
KATUTA, Given (Ms.) Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Assembly Transport, Works and Supply Committee Cabinet Affairs Committee ( <i>FDD</i> )
KUNDOTI, David (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Media, Information, and Communication Technologies ( <i>UPND</i> )
ROGERS, Mwewa (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Cabinet Affairs Committee Chairman of the Committee on Media, Information, Communication, Technologies ( <i>PF</i> )
MWANZA-JERE, Pilila (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Local Government Accounts Committee Committee on Legal Affairs, Human Rights, National Guidance, Gender Matters and Governance ( <i>Ind</i> )
MBEWE, Cecilian Nsenduluka (Ms.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Clerk of the National Assembly, National Assembly
MONGA, Pauline (Ms.)	Adviser, National Assembly
BWALYA, Barnabas (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
KAWIMBE, Stephen (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
CHELU, John (Mr.)	Official, National Assembly

MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr.) Official, National Assembly

MAAMBO, Loveness (Ms./Mme) Official, National Assembly

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)

(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

### ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr.) Speaker of the National Assembly  
Leader of the Delegation Chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (*ZANU/PF*)

KHUMALO, Mtshane Lucas (Mr.) Member of the Senate (Chiefs' Council)

MUZENDA, Tsitsi Veronica (Ms.) Member of the Senate (*ZANU/PF*)

MACHAKARIKA, Tinoda (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (*tionale ZANU/PF*)

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (*MDCA*)

MUTOMBA, William (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (*ZANU/PF*)

MAVENYENGWA, Robson (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly (*ZANU/PF*)

CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr.) Clerk of Parliament  
Member of the ASGP

CHISANGO, Rumbidzai Pamela (Ms.) Principal External Relations Officer  
Secretary of the Group

MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr.) Director in the Clerk's Office  
Member of the ASGP

MUSHANDINGA, Martha (Ms.) Executive Assistant to the Speaker

SIBANDA, Robert (Mr.) Aide to the Speaker

(*ZANU/PF*: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)

(*MDCA*: Movement for Democratic Change Alliance / Alliance Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

**II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES****ARAB PARLIAMENT / PARLEMENT ARABE**

AL-SULAMI, Mishal (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
ALSHAMMARI, Mastourah (Ms.)	Member
BINSAMNOH, Aisha (Ms.)	Member
ZEID AHMED, Ali (Mr.)	Member
TALAAT, Hossam (Mr.) Director of Protocol- Cabinet of the President of the Arab Parliament	Employee at the General Secretariat of the Arab Parliament- Attaché to the Arab Parliament delegation

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)  
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

NGOGA, Karoli Martin (Mr.)	Speaker Chairperson of the Commission
HAJI NKUHI, Fancy (Ms.)	Committee on Accounts Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution
MUHIA, Wanjiku (Ms.)	Committee on Accounts Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges
NDUWAYO, Christopher (Mr.)	Committee on Accounts Committee on General Purpose
AMODING, Priscilla (Ms.)	Senior Administrative Assistant to Rt. Hon. Speaker
MANZI, Victor (Mr.)	Clerk Assistant
NGELEJA KADONYA, Charles (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Principal Clerk Assistant
ODIKO, Terah Bobi (Mr.)	Senior Public Relations Officer

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (IPA CIS)  
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES NATIONS MEMBRES DE LA  
COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS (AIP CEI)**

OSIPOV, Yury (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member, Secretary general of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat
NASRIDINZODA, Emomali (Mr.)	Member Chair of the Committee of Majlisi namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on Legislation and Human Rights Chair of the IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Legal Issues
RAHMONOVA, Nargis (Ms.)	Member Committee of Majlisi milli of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan for Safeguarding Constitutional Principles, Human and Civil rights and Freedoms, and Legality IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Science and Education
RAKHIMOV, Ibod (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council – Plenipotentiary Representative of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan
AKULICH, Andrey (Mr.)	IPA CIS Staff Member

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)*****PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)***

SALL, Ibrahima Baba (Mr.) Chef de la délégation	Membre
YIBATOU, Sani Glele (Ms.)	Membre
SOME, K. Bertin (Mr.) Membre de l'ASGP	Directeur des Affaires parlementaires et de la Recherche

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY (CEMAC)*****PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET MONÉTAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)***

MAHAMAT, Ali Kosso (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général
BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (M.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Directeur de la coopération et des affaires interparlementaires
MAHAMAT, Tahir Ali Kosso (Mr.)	Directeur de cabinet

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)*****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)***

MAURY PASQUIER, Liliane (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	President
KOVACS, Elvira (Ms.)	Member of the Serbian Parliament
KASIMATI, Nina (Ms.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament
SAWICKI, Wojciech (Mr.) Secretary General, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
CATALANO, Micaela (Ms.)	Head of the Communication Division
FAGGIANI, Greta (Ms.)	Deputy to the Head of the Private Office
SIRTORI, Sonia (Ms.)	Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination
ZUFFEREY, Guillaume (Mr.)	Advisor to the President of the Parliamentary Assembly

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)*****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE***

IVANOV, Violeta (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member
DULCA, Daniel (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General

**III. OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS****FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

COUMARIN, Yannick (Mr.), Partnerships, Outreach and Communication Officer  
 MENDES DE CARVALHO, Celso (Mr.), Policy Officer  
 RODRIGUES BIRKETT, Carolyn (Ms.), Director

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)*****PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT***

FOGSTAD, Helga (Ms.), Executive Director  
 MOHAN, Anshu (Ms.), Senior Technical Officer  
 HINTON, Rachael (Ms.), Technical Officer  
 TOURE, Kadi (Ms.), Technical Officer

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)*****PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)***

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes  
 SAPIENZA, Emanuele (Mr.), Policy Specialist - Civic Engagement

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)*****ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE***

ALMUZAINI, Abdulaziz (Mr.), Director of the Liaison Office in Geneva  
 TUKHTABAYEV, Bobir (Mr.), Senior Liaison Officer

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)*****FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION (FNUAP)***

FERRO, Monica (Ms.), Director, UNFPA Geneva Office

**UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)*****ENTITE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EGALITE DES SEXES ET L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES (ONU FEMMES)***

GOBERN RIUS, Maria (Ms.)  
 RABELSI, Meriem (Ms.)  
 BALLINGTON, Julie (Ms.)

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)*****ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)***

GHEBREYESUS, Tedros Adhanom (Mr.), Director General  
 BOCCOZ, Michéle (Ms.), Assistant Director-General for External Relations Office of the Director-General,  
 SILBERSCHMIDT, Gaudenz (Mr.), Director for Partnerships and Non State Actors, External Relations  
 SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms.), Technical Officer

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)*****ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES MIGRATIONS (OIM)***

PROFAZI, Manfred (Mr.), Senior Regional Adviser for Europe and Central Asia

**WORLD BANK*****BANQUE MONDIALE***

VERBEEK, Jos (Mr.), Manager and Special Representative to the UN and WTO

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)*****ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC)***

EL HACHIMI, Said (Mr.), Adviser, Information and External Relations Division  
 TORRES, Raul (Mr.), Counsellor

**LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES*****LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES***

ALSAMMAK, Ali (Mr.), Ambassador, Permanent Observer  
 CHAROUIE, Ali (Mr.), Expert

**ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (JPA)**

***ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE***

OWONA KONO, Joseph Hyacinthe (Mr.), President

KYENGE, Cécile Kashetu (Ms.), Vice-President

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**

***UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)***

CASSAMA, Cipriano (Mr.), Chairperson

NZI, Koffi (Mr.), Secretary General

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr.), Director

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)**

***UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE***

AL-SHAWABKAH, Fayez (Mr.), Secretary General

NIHAWI, Samir (Mr.), Director of Parliamentary Relations

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**

***ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE***

MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr.), Secretary General

TABATABAEE, Kia (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General for Administrative and Financial Affairs

**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE**

CHAGNON, Jacques (M.), Président

EZA, Mireille (Mme), Conseillère

SIMARD MORIN, Mélissa (Mme), Conseillère Commission politique

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (I.A.O.)**

***ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORTHODOXIE***

ZATULIN, Konstantin (Mr.), Chairman of the Committee on International Policy

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)**

***FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE (SADC)***

SEGKOMA, Boemo (Mrs.), Acting Secretary General

MUNGANDI, Yapoka (Mrs.), Director of Administration

KHOUBLALL, Mahendrasing (Mr.), Director of Finance

**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION  
(FP- ICGLR)**

***FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS  
LACS (FP-CIRGL)***

KAKOBA, Onyango (Mr.), Secretary General

MBODI, Jenny (Ms.), Administrative Assistant

POGHISIO, Samuel Losuron (Mr.), Member of the Executive Committee

**CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**

***MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL***

SAID, Mokadem (Mr.), General Secretary

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)**  
**PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFERATION NUCLEAIRE ET LE DESARMEMENT (PNND)**

VAN RIET, Rob (Mr./M.), Director of the Peace and Disarmament Program for the World Future Council  
NURZHAN, Marzhan (Ms.), Coordinator for Commonwealth of Independent States

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**

ROQUE, Pedro (Mr.), President  
PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr.), Secretary General  
PUTMAN-CRAMER, Gerhard (Mr.), Permanent Observer to the UN and other organizations in Geneva

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (OSCE)**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION EN EUROPE**

MONTELLA, Roberto (Mr.), Secretary General  
TSERETELI, George (Mr.), President

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA RUSSIE**

AFONSKIY, Vladimir (Mr.), Head of the delegation, Member of the State Duma of the Russian Federation  
LEIKAUSKAS, Audrius (Mr.), Deputy Head of the Main Department of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia  
LADUTKO, Oksana Mrs./Mme), Consultant of Department for ensuring the activities of the commissions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)**  
**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)**

NIASS, Mouhamed Khouraiichi (Mr.), Secretary General  
MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

**WORLD SCOUT PARLIAMENTARY UNION (WSPU)**  
**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE MONDIALE DU SCOUTISME (UPMS)**

CHO, Yong Tak (Mr.), Director

**GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA**  
**FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME**

BOULE, Scott (Mr.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

AYALA, Luis (Mr.), Secretary General  
MARINKOVIC, Vladimir (Mr.), Representative  
PERRY, Latifa (Ms.), Coordinator

**GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)**  
**CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES (DCAF)**

BORN, Hans (Mr.), Assistant Director and Head of Policy and Research Division, Head of the delegation  
HOYOS, Cristina (Ms.), Head of the Latin American and the Caribbean Unit  
FRITZ, Antje (Ms.), Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Division  
BOLLI, Cedric (Mr.), Project Assistant, Latin America and the Caribbean Unit

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)  
COMITE INTERNACIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

CHARLIER, Benjamin (Mr.), Legal Advisor

SHAKERIAN, Shahrokh (Mr.), Adviser for Diplomatic Capability at the Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division

**INTERNATIONAL IDEA**

KANDAWASVIKA-NHUNDU, Rumbidzai (Ms.), Senior Programme Manager

**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 139<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY  
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 139<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE**

**LUXEMBOURG**

FRIESEISEN, Claude (M.)

Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général, Chamber of Deputies

BARRA, Isabelle (Mme)

Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chamber of Deputies

ROTH, Georges (M.)

Fonctionnaire de la Chambre des Députés

**MONTENEGRO**

MIRJACIC, Marja (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

Deputy Secretary General

ROSANDIC, Tijjana (Ms.)

Member of the ASGP

Adviser, Secretary General's Office



**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 139<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION  
DE LA 139<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

GIANOTTI, Fabiola (Dr.), Director General, CERN

ROGERS, Henk (Mr.), Founder and Board Chair, Blue Planet Foundation

**Special segment – 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

MENDEL, Toby (Mr.), Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy

LIMON, Marc (Mr.), Ex Director, Universal Rights Group

HICKS, Peggy (Ms.), Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Rights to Development Division, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

**Panel discussion on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation***

VIGNARD, Kerstin (Ms.), Deputy Director, UNIDIR

KĀRKLIŅŠ, Jānis (Mr.), Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Latvia in Geneva

MERCOGLIANO, Silvia (Ms.), Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva

PLESCH, Daniel (Mr.), Director, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London

**Panel discussion on *Combating sexual violence in UN Peacekeeping operations and beyond***

KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms.), former MP, Sweden

CUE, Wendy (Ms.), OCHA Senior Coordinator for PSEA/SHA at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat

BARDET, Céline (Ms.), President of the NGO We are not weapon of war (WWoW)

**Expert hearing on the theme of *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights***

BRUYÈRE-OSTELLS, Walter (Mr.), University Professor of Contemporary History

APARAC, Jelena (Ms.), UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries

**Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**

**Panel discussion: *Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy***

DE BLONAY, Marina (Ms.), IRENA

LOZO, Sandra (Ms.), Programme Officer for the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Division

**Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

AXWORTHY, Lloyd (Mr.), Chair of the World Refugee Council

**Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

**Panel discussion: *Would a UN intergovernmental tax body help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion?***

BLANKENBURG, Stephanie (Ms.), Head, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD

RYDING, Tove Maria (Ms.), Policy and Advocacy Manager, EURODAD

**Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

ZAHIDI, Sadia (Ms.), Member of the Managing Board, World Economic Forum

LE DUC, Ingrid (Ms.), PhD, Conseillère pédagogique / Teaching Advisor, EPFL

**Forum of Young Parliamentarians**

JOSHI, Devin (Mr.), Associate Professor of Political Sciences, Singapore Management University

BELSCHNER, Jana (Ms.), PhD Candidate, University of Bergen

GONZÁLEZ, Marta (Ms.), University of Granada

KROOK, Mona Lena (Ms.), Rutgers University

**Panel discussion: *The role of Parliaments in combating terrorism and violent extremism***

AVANESSOV, Alexander (Mr.), Special Advisor on Prevention of Violent Extremism, UNDP

AVSAN, Anti (Mr.), Former Swedish MP

MIEDICO, Mauro (Mr.), Chief a.i Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC

ALIRZAYEVA, Sevil (Ms.)

BUBA, Imrana (Mr.), Youth Coalition Against Terrorism

BUNU, Falmata (Ms.), International Alert

**Panel discussion: *Where do parliaments stand in the fight against sexism and harassment?***

TOMEI, Manuela (Ms), Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO

CÓRDOVA, Lorenzo (Mr.), President of the Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE)

**Panel discussion: *Building bridges between the parliamentary and scientific communities***

QUEVEDO, Fernando (Mr.), Director of ICTP

LOMAS, Pete (Mr.), Raspberry Pi

**Panel discussion: *What can MPs do to sort fact from fiction in the age of fake news?***

LEANDER, Anne (Ms.), Faculty Member of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy and Professor of International Relations at the Department of International Relations and Political Science of the Graduate Institute, Geneva

FAKUDE, Thembisa (Mr.), Head of Research Relations at the Al Jazeera Center for Studies

ALY, Heba (Ms.), Director, IRIN News

**Parity Debate: *Ensuring that children enjoy their rights and grow up protected from violence***

SANTOS PAIS, Marta (Ms.), UN Special Representative of the SG on Violence against children

HATTREM, Tore (Mr.), President of the UNICEF Executive Board

GASS, Anya (Ms.), Girls Advocacy Alliance Officer, Plan International UN Office in Geneva

JAMES, Owain (Mr.), Global Campaign Director, KSCF

**Side event on Health**

CHIMKOWOLA, Tikondwe (Mr.), Youth Representative, Malawi

VERBUNG, Gerda (Ms.), United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Coordinator of the SUN Movement (Moderator)

**GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE****English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament  
President of the Group

Adviser  
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson  
Clerk  
Deputy Speaker  
Head  
Leader of the Delegation  
Officer  
Researcher  
Secretary of the Group/delegation  
Spokesman

**Parliaments:**

House of Commons  
House of Representatives  
National Assembly  
People's Representatives

**Parliamentary Committees:**

Abroad  
Agreements  
Broadcasting  
Building  
Citizenship  
Complaint Reception  
Computer Science  
Cross-cutting Issues  
Directive Board  
Elderly  
Fishery  
Food  
Foreign Affairs  
Freedoms  
Funding  
Gender Equality  
Growth  
Health/Healthcare  
Heritage  
Home Affairs  
Housing  
Human Rights  
Intelligence  
Investigation/Inquiry  
Joint Committee  
Labour/Work  
Law  
Legal  
Local Self-government  
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons  
Oversight  
People with Disabilities  
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country  
Planning  
Public Expenditure  
Public Works  
Rehabilitation  
Social Welfare  
Standing Committee  
Standing Orders/Rules

**Français****Titres/Fonctions:**

*Président du Parlement*  
*Président(e) du Groupe*

*Conseiller*  
*Président(e)*  
*Secrétaire général/Greffier*  
*Vice-Président(e)*  
*Chef*  
*Chef de la délégation*  
*Fonctionnaire*  
*Chercheur*  
*Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation*  
*Porte-parole*

**Parlements :**

*Chambre des Communes*  
*Chambre des représentants*  
*Assemblée nationale*  
*Représentants du peuple*

**Commissions parlementaires :**

*A l'étranger*  
*Approbations*  
*Radiodiffusion*  
*Bâtiment*  
*Citoyenneté*  
*Instruction des plaintes*  
*Informatique*  
*Matières transversales*  
*Comité directeur*  
*Aînés*  
*Pêche*  
*Alimentation*  
*Affaires étrangères*  
*Libertés*  
*Financement*  
*Egalité entre les sexes*  
*Croissance*  
*Santé*  
*Patrimoine*  
*Affaires internes*  
*Logement*  
*Droits de l'homme*  
*Renseignement*  
*Enquête*  
*Comité mixte*  
*Travail*  
*Lois*  
*Juridique*  
*Autonomie locale*  
*Personnes disparues ou lésées*  
*Surveillance*  
*Personnes handicapées*  
*Aménagement du territoire*  
  
*Dépenses publiques*  
*Travaux publics*  
*Réinsertion*  
*Protection sociale*  
*Comité permanent*  
*Règlement*

State Device  
Sustainable Development  
Trade  
Training  
Truth  
Underprivileged  
Ways and Means  
Wildlife  
Women, Children and Youth

**IPU Committees:**

Advisory Group on Health  
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians  
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law  
Executive Committee  
Forum of Young Parliamentarians  
Gender Partnership Group  
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus  
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security  
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade  
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights  
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

*Dispositif étatique*  
*Développement durable*  
*Commerce*  
*Formation*  
*Vérité*  
*Défavorisés*  
*Voies et moyens*  
*Faune*  
*Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes*

**Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :**

*Groupe consultatif sur la santé*  
*Bureau des femmes parlementaires*  
*Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*  
*Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*  
*Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire*  
*Comité exécutif*  
*Forum des jeunes parlementaires*  
*Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes*  
*Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre*  
*Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale*  
*Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce*  
*Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*  
*Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies*