



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 140th IPU Assembly

Doha, Qatar

6-10 April 2019

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Introduction

Delegations from 147 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

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

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

The Parliaments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Liberia, Nauru, and Saint Kitts and Nevis participated as observers with a view to future affiliation/re-affiliation.

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Health Organization (WHO); Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO);

(ii) regional inter-governmental organizations: the League of Arab States;

(iii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD), Maghreb Consultative Council, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TurkPA), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF);

(iv) worldwide non-governmental organizations: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(v) international political party federations: Liberal International (LI), Socialist International;

(vi) other IPU partner organizations: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Of the 1,521 delegates who attended the Assembly, 757 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 74 Presiding Officers, 38 Deputy Presiding Officers, 227 women MPs (30%) and 132 (17.4%) young MPs.

Opening of the 140th Assembly

SITTING OF SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2019

The inaugural ceremony took place in the Al Dafna hall at the Sheraton Convention Center on Saturday, 6 April 2019 at 7.30 p.m., with His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, in attendance.

Mr. A. AL MAHMOUD, Speaker of the Shura Council, welcomed His Highness and all delegates to the 140th IPU Assembly. He said that the holding of the Assembly in Doha demonstrated the international community's faith and trust in Qatar, and an appreciation of its role in international affairs.

H.H. SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI, Emir of Qatar, congratulated the Member Parliaments on the 130th anniversary of the IPU and on how the IPU strengthened parliamentary institutions across the world. He said that the theme of the General Debate *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law* was relevant to people's current concerns. Today, education was a social right. Investing in quality education helped to build societies and economies, achieve growth and prosperity, maintain stability and security, and tackle intolerance, racism and preconceived ideas about others. To that end, Qatar had supported developing countries and international organizations with a range of education initiatives.

Through popular movements that had called for greater dignity, justice and freedom, young people across the Arab world had proved that they wanted to protest peacefully and express themselves freely. Regimes that had denied them those rights bore the responsibility for deteriorating situations and the spread of violence. Ruling elites had to understand such demands, shun oppression, and lead reform. If education did not embrace tolerance and universal values, and was not integrated into a comprehensive development plan, it could spread ignorance and become a breeding ground for extremism.

The rule of law was an almost universally accepted benefit to society, without which injustice, chaos and tyranny would ensue. Currently, respect for international law appeared to be receding. There was a concerning tendency for power alone to be prioritized over the rule of law, or for the rule of law to be exploited to serve vested interests. The result would always be a feeling of injustice followed by instability. For example, one superpower had recognized the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Despite a clear consensus that the annexation was contrary to international law, no State could be compelled to abide by that consensus. Instead, superpowers must acknowledge the duties incumbent on them as well as the privileges they enjoyed. Without dialogue and respect for international law, occupation and injustice would prevail.

In areas such as Syria, Libya and Yemen, His Highness said that local leaders and international powers bore equal responsibility for the current situations. Had all those concerned pushed for political solutions, and had certain actors privileged peace-making over arms sales, people in those countries could have been spared a great deal of suffering. However, there were more common challenges to unite the world than issues to divide it. Addressing climate change, poverty, armed conflict, extremism, terrorism and cybersecurity all required a commitment to shared human values as enshrined in various crucial international covenants. No-one could claim exemption from them on grounds of diversity or difference of approach. Indeed, God had created people with differences so that they could get to know one another. Humans could not live in isolation; rather, they were mutually interdependent.

Even though extremism was clearly not confined to one particular civilization, religion or region, certain types of that behaviour were not being included in the fight against terrorism. So that those challenges could be tackled, partnerships forged to address the root causes of extremism must be as deep-seated as cooperation between States on fighting terrorism. Equally, cooperation on climate change must become as natural as trade and industry cooperation. A crucial tool in forging such partnerships was parliamentary diplomacy: it had the power to promote dialogue for the peaceful settlement of disputes, even with seemingly insoluble conflicts.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the 130th anniversary of the IPU bore witness to the Organization's past and continuing relevance, and to the responsibility of MPs to seek effective solutions to the problems their constituents faced. The world was full of contradictions: greater-than-ever access to information was coupled with growing doubts about the veracity of what one read; a rapidly growing green technology sector alongside insufficient action on climate change. In short, technology was not enough without real political will behind it.

Although there was some cause for celebration on gender issues, it would still take 50 years at the current rate of progress for all parliaments to reach gender parity, and there were worrying signs of regression within executive branches of government. Positive news for young people was also in short supply. Half the world was under 30 years old, but 75 per cent of countries did not allow people under 30 to stand for election, while only 1.9 per cent of MPs were in that age group. While e-commerce facilitated trade in goods and services enormously, difficulties around people moving across borders still prevailed. And while opportunities to learn about other cultures were more available than ever, xenophobia and hate speech were entering political discourse. It seemed that the world had not learned the lessons of the 20th century.

Since its foundation, the IPU had witnessed many great achievements, although it had also seen wars, climate change and a failure to fully include all citizens. Serious challenges would persist, particularly building an inclusive economy, tackling poverty, and fighting for peace, stability and dialogue. Parliamentary diplomacy was a crucial tool for bringing parliaments together and overcoming those challenges.

The 46,000 MPs working in the IPU's Member Parliaments had huge potential. The more they could speak with one voice, share objectives, harmonize legislation, fight to implement solutions and make suitable budgetary provision, the stronger parliamentary institutions would become, and the more capable they would be of delivering the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In that regard, the theme of the 140th Assembly—the capacity of education to contribute to achieving peace, security, the rule of law and the full respect of human rights—was apposite. The Assembly should do everything possible to agree a meaningful declaration on that theme.

Turning global agreements into local realities was a crucial part of passing on a better world to future generations and setting the planet on a better course. As the IPU's Members were representative organizations, citizens and constituents must always be at the heart of each Member's work.

The 140th Assembly must be seized as a chance to find new tools to work with and build better spaces for cooperation and dialogue so as to make progress, not only on the Assembly's main theme, but also on improving health, fighting terrorism and building a more tolerant, inclusive and respectful world, in which no one was left behind. The IPU's voice had to ring out clearly to demonstrate the strength of parliaments that people expected; they were calling out for change.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that the 140th IPU Assembly was an important opportunity to reaffirm the IPU's role as a bridge-builder and the Organization's founding values of dialogue, understanding and a commitment to greater peace in the world. It was only by rising to the challenge of remaining relevant and acting in the interests of the people that MPs could live up to the expectations placed on them by all the peoples of the world. The Assembly's agenda had been designed to appeal to a broad cross-section of participants. That element of universality was a crucial part of the IPU's ability to address the concerns of each Member Parliament and, by extension, their constituents. It would be important to work towards conclusions that would inspire all participants to follow through at a national level on decisions taken at the Assembly.

Mr. V. VORONKOV, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, introducing the message of the United Nations Secretary-General, thanked the State of Qatar for hosting the Assembly and said that the UN enjoyed a deep, strategic partnership with Qatar. A strong relationship between the UN and the IPU was important when multilateralism was being questioned, and parliaments had a critical role to play in improving people's lives on the basis of international law and UN resolutions. An example of that strength was the five-year joint UN-IPU initiative on the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. A. GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Assembly by video message as follows:

"As a former member of the IPU, it is a pleasure to greet the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which comes so soon after our time together at your parliamentary hearing in New York in February.

I welcome your focus in Doha on education for peace and the rule of law and on advancing our joint efforts to counter and prevent terrorism and violent extremism. These are just some of the many challenges on which the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union enjoy fruitful cooperation.

Parliaments play vital roles as defenders of democracy, agents of accountability, and crucial links between the local and the global, bringing the concerns of people into the international arena. Today, we need you more than ever to help build a fair globalization, to combat rising intolerance, and to advance gender equality and the representation of women in parliaments. In the face of climate change, the most important systemic risk facing humankind, we need you to help increase ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance. I will convene a climate action summit in September, and I count on your support.

And at this time of declining trust in political establishments, parliamentarians and the United Nations have a shared duty to show that multilateralism can deliver progress and solutions. As a former parliamentarian myself, I have felt the weighty responsibility of representing people and trying to advance their aspirations. Today, I am committed to ensuring a strong parliamentary voice in the work of the United Nations. Thank you for your commitment and your partnership. I wish you fruitful discussions."

The speeches were followed by a performance of traditional Qatari music and dance in the Katara Cultural Village.

Sitting of Sunday, 7 April (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.20 a.m., with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT declared the 140th IPU Assembly open, thanked Members for having elected him as President of the Assembly and said that he looked forward to working together to ensure the Assembly's success. The chosen theme of the General Debate, *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*, coincided with growing calls for quality education to counter ideologies bent on overthrowing the current value system. The IPU had a decisive role to play on that score by disseminating knowledge and combating misguided beliefs that threatened peace, security and the rule of law. With technology enabling the rapid dissemination of such beliefs around the globe, quality education was more important than ever. As legislators and representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a responsibility to promote education for all as a fundamental human right, and to ensure that tolerance and respect for cultural and religious diversity was taught, with no room for exclusion or marginalization.

In working towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including as part of the Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar had already achieved significant results on Goal 4 (quality education). The merit of education as a tool for promoting peace, security and the rule of law was borne out by the fact that countries facing conflict and instability were often those with high illiteracy rates and poor education standards. The political, economic and technological difficulties that those countries faced were a further impediment to quality education. The hope was that the Assembly's deliberations would lead to the development of an IPU action plan on education, including a mechanism for the monitoring and assessment of progress towards achieving Goal 4 in particular.

Ms. M.F. ESPINOSA (President of the United Nations General Assembly), speaking in a video message, said that multilateralism was the only way to address current challenges, such as climate change, which no one country could resolve alone. Multilateralism was under attack, however, with some governments turning inwards and others seeking to undermine the rules-based international order. Parliaments had a vital role to play in reversing that trend and restoring faith in the ability of institutions to improve lives. That role included underlining the importance of multilateralism in strengthening sovereignty; promoting institutional effectiveness, transparency and accountability; pressing for the inclusion of constituents' views in global decisions; adopting legislation and allocating funding to promote implementation of the SDGs; and giving citizens a voice.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (President of the IPU) said that the chosen theme of the debate would be an opportunity to review what progress had been made on education. In today's fast-changing world, the guarantee of an inclusive education for all, irrespective of gender, age or economic status, inevitably entailed numerous challenges. Among the guiding values to be imparted through education from an early age were gender inclusiveness and gender parity so that gender would not stop people from fulfilling their dreams. Other aims to be inspired through education included achieving environmental sustainability for the benefit of future generations, and preserving national values combined with respect for all the planet's citizens, without discrimination, racism or xenophobia.

Education was essential to building a better world, with no one left behind. Parliamentarians must therefore legislate with an eye to the future changes, hopes and fears that technology, science and innovation might bring. Parliamentarians must likewise exercise their legislative, budgetary and oversight functions to ensure education for all and to promote equality and environmental responsibility. Members should take home with them the best practices they had learned from the debate, and commit themselves firmly to transforming their national education models to promote peace, democracy and human rights. Education had the power to change the planet and produce better outcomes for the world's children.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. G. Cuevas Barron for her important opening remarks and introduced the special guest, Mr. R. Yuste, Professor of Biological Sciences and Neuroscience at Columbia University and co-instigator of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative.

Mr. R. YUSTE, *special guest*, said that there was a proven link between education and peace. Education was not only a smarter path towards peace; it was a basic human right. His aim was to bring the voice of science to the debate and thereby inspire discussion in the broadest terms. As a scientist, he represented a network of individuals that extended through space and time. They worked together for humankind by looking into the future and helping public officials, including parliamentarians, to adapt societies to be able to reap the most benefit from that future.

A moment in history was approaching that would transform the human species and have a wide impact on its activities, including education. That transformation would come about through the merging of neurotechnologies and artificial intelligence. Neuroscientists looked at education as learning generated by low-level reformatting of the brain circuits, using teaching methods accumulated over time by trial and error. However, education would be more effective, and indeed be revolutionized, if it was understood how the brain worked. That could help to treat such conditions as epilepsy, stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Mental activity stemmed from the function of brain circuits. Once it was understood how the brain worked, humans would understand themselves for the first time.

An unstoppable revolution was underway in neuroscience. Large-scale BRAIN initiatives in numerous countries were generating a race to invest billions in improving tools for reading and changing brain activity. Those tools were needed to decipher brain circuits so as to treat brain conditions and understand how human beings learned. Brain-inspired algorithms were another revolution in artificial intelligence. They were already changing lives and outperforming humans in face recognition, for example. Companies and governments were also racing for dominance in that sphere. Indeed, technological companies were driving the world economy. Neurotechnology and artificial intelligence could together change the rules of the game by making it possible to decipher and manipulate minds using new ground-breaking and powerful tools that could be harnessed for good or ill.

It was for society to ensure that neurotechnological tools were used for the benefit of humanity. If they were misused or unregulated, the fear was that problems would arise in five specific areas. The first related to personal identity, which was increasingly diluted in proportion to the level of dependency on brain-computer interfaces or devices. The second was about free will: individuals who made decisions using external algorithms and information would be relinquishing their own agency. The third concerned mental privacy: once brain data were accessible and decipherable, then so would mental processes and even unconscious thoughts. Brain data was a mental organ and should be protected with the same legislative rigour as body organs, including by prohibiting their trade.

The fourth area was linked to neurotechnologies for cognitive augmentation, including augmented learning that involved sophisticated brain-computer interfaces. As they would not be cheap, equality of access to those tools should be assured, while their use for military purposes should be strictly regulated. The fifth concern was about guarantees to protect against biases, which were often implicit in artificial intelligence algorithms and could be inadvertently implanted into brain processing. If biases spread in that way, current progress towards equality and justice would be undone.

The five concerns raised by the merging of neurotechnology with artificial intelligence were so fundamental that they warranted attention in terms of both national legislation and global human rights. They also raised the question of who human beings wanted to be as a species. When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been adopted, no one had foreseen that personal identity, free will or mental privacy could be threatened or that cognitive processes could be augmented through brain technology. It was therefore time to add neurorights to the rights enshrined in the Declaration.

The twin revolutions taking place in neurotechnology and artificial intelligence raised the exciting prospect of a new renaissance and a new humanism, with positive outcomes in numerous spheres, including education. Parliamentarians should think hard about the type of humanity they wanted and then pursue it using the rule of law. As science and technology were ahead of society, the principles and rules of governance should be updated accordingly. Parliamentarians should spread that message and embrace the cause as their own. Scientists worked for humankind and would be delighted to cooperate with parliamentarians in that endeavour.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. R. Yuste for his valuable expert insight and noted the importance of the question he had raised about humanity. He asked whether it was true that electronic chips loaded with data could be implanted into the human brain and make learning redundant.

Mr. R. YUSTE, *special guest*, replied that such possibilities were no longer in the realm of science fiction. He was currently consulting for the design of a flexible chip with a million electrodes that could be revolutionary in helping paralysed or blind people. However, it was not yet known how to load the necessary data onto the chip and make them accessible to the individual concerned. The answer would undoubtedly be found in due course.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. R. Yuste for his thought-provoking presentation and expressed the hope that he would return in future to talk about further developments in his field of expertise.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*

(A/140/3-Inf.1)

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

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, spoke on the theme of the debate from the perspective of women. She said that peace, security and the rule of law were enduring objectives shared by all. Yet despite all efforts, achieving those objectives remained elusive. The global level of peace had deteriorated for the fourth consecutive year and the rule of law had similarly declined. She therefore called for unity and a focus on youth empowerment. Young people were over half of the global population, but their needs and rights were rarely prioritized.

Education was a human right that concerned young people in particular. Investing in education offered a high return in the form of more peaceful, happier and more prosperous societies. Education was about equipping young people with the wherewithal to shape the world for themselves. However, the barriers to education still faced by girls translated into a lack of access to skills and limited employment opportunities for young women. Education must therefore be a priority, including by making primary school education free for everyone. Public and private investment in the development of educational tools and facilities must be incentivized. The subjects of peace, human rights and gender equality should be part of school curricula. There were many opportunities, and it was time to seize them.

Ms. M. OSORU (Uganda), President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, presented a youth perspective on the theme of the debate. She said that education was a must for young people. It was peacebuilding by another name: hate was learned, and must be resolved at its roots, in the minds and aspirations of young people, through the power of education. Peace and security were not won at the end of a gun barrel, yet global military spending ran into the trillions. Much could be achieved if even a fraction of that money were redirected to education, while many would no longer be left behind if the world's militaries took a pay cut. However, those matters rested on appropriate legislation and policymaking.

Young parliamentarians believed that youth-responsive education could be achieved, including by: making primary, secondary and tertiary education free and accessible to all; adapting education to the jobs of the future by emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics for all; teaching diversity and cooperation by promoting peace, human rights, gender equality, digital literacy and civic engagement; and encouraging all lifelong education. Young people must participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws and policies on education. Young parliamentarians were ready to work with others to those ends: that was a win-win proposal.

The PRESIDENT invited participants to address the Assembly on the theme of the debate, starting with presiding officers of parliaments.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi), opening the debate, said that parliaments were well placed, by virtue of their legislative and oversight functions, to promote the pivotal role of education in achieving peace, security and the rule of law. Unfortunately, however, parliaments often failed to take the lead in that respect. Considering Goal 4 of the SDGs, which linked quality education with peace, his Parliament had continued to oversee substantive budgetary allocations to the education and justice sectors. The Malawian Parliament also recognized that illiteracy was a major factor undermining efforts to achieve peace, security and the rule of law. It had therefore embarked on an initiative to take parliament to the people through a series of public lectures to raise awareness of what parliaments were and what they could do.

Public pressure for greater involvement, information and accountability was clearly growing. Legislatures could address challenges such as illiteracy, especially in developing countries, through sound legislation, policies and awareness initiatives, such as the one the Malawian Parliament had embarked on. It had also passed critical legislation on legal education and access to information, in addition to constitutional amendments designed to protect the rights of the girl child, strengthen the independence of the judiciary and increase civil society space.

Ms. N.T.K. NGAN (Viet Nam) said that more concerted efforts were needed to attain the ultimate goals of peace, security and sustainable development, with the rule of law as a prerequisite. Education was critical to enhancing dialogue and mutual understanding, and to combating xenophobia and extremism. It should therefore be comprehensive, inclusive and equally accessible to all, with parliamentarians playing their crucial legislative, budgetary, oversight and awareness roles. In Viet Nam, education had always been a top priority, paying impressive dividends to which its Parliament had contributed by enacting and revising the relevant legislation.

To enhance education, including vocational education, for peace, security and the rule of law, the international community must work to promote the necessary legal and cooperation frameworks. Parliaments must engage fully in similar efforts at the domestic level, while continuing to oversee the implementation of national action plans for attaining the SDGs, assisted by such bodies as the IPU, which must also pursue its follow-up of IPU recommendations and resolutions. It was furthermore important to foster international and regional dialogue, cooperation and partnership; optimize resources for assisting the implementation of comprehensive and inclusive education programmes for sustainable development; and encourage both legal education in schools and relevant information-sharing among parliaments.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan) said that comprehensive development relied on the establishment of peace, stability and the rule of law supported by parliamentary legislation and oversight. However, the theme of the debate raised a question about how to deter parliaments from promoting war and endorsing the oppression of an entire people, as well as about the values of justice, without which such oppression would be never-ending. For generations, the Palestinian people had suffered injustice under an occupation that violated international law. That law was also being flouted by the United States, now it had chosen to abandon its role as an impartial mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict and instead recognize Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan.

Jordan had always stood for the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish a Palestinian State. Its values of moderation and tolerance contrasted starkly with Israeli intransigence that imposed *fait accompli* policies and unilateral measures at the expense of those rights. Instead of being Judaized, Jerusalem must remain a capital in which the three divine religions coexisted. As long as Israel persisted in its tyranny and occupation, the region would know neither progress nor prosperity, with disastrous wider consequences, such as the fuelling of terrorism.

Ms. G. MAMMEDOVA (Turkmenistan) said that Turkmenistan was striving to attain the SDGs and to strengthen global and regional security. Turkmenistan was actively engaged in several major regional projects to build gas pipelines, electric power lines, a fibre-optic cable system and a transport corridor. Turkmenistan had been among the first countries in the region to integrate the SDGs into national development plans and programmes. A book by the Turkmen President on progress towards achieving the SDGs had been presented to the international community. The book included an in-depth analysis of Turkmenistan's development, and its progress against implementing those SDG-related plans and programmes. It also identified the key areas, objectives and priorities of Turkmenistan's long-term national socioeconomic strategy.

Parliaments had a key role to play in the enhancement of education for peace, security and the rule of law. Turkmenistan was working effectively towards that objective and remained loyal to the principles and values of its forebears. The promotion of peace and unity was thus a national priority, together with the strengthening of rights, freedoms and democracy. The country's Parliament had also taken steps to ensure that education was accessible to all.

Establishment of a quorum

The SECRETARY GENERAL announced that, in accordance with Rule 33.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, the quorum of 57 was established for the 140th Assembly on the basis of the effective participation of 112 delegations in the current first plenary meeting.

The sitting rose at 1 p.m.

Sitting of Sunday, 7 April (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda (continued)

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. V. VOLODIN (Russian Federation) said that to learn about the customs, traditions and history of others was to learn respect for others. Yet the international system was increasingly undermined by unilateral decisions. The recent recognition by the President of the United States of the sovereignty of Israel over the Golan Heights posed a serious threat to the already fragile security in the Middle East. Parliaments must uphold the commitments undertaken through the resolution adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly on non-interference in the sovereign affairs of States. Conflicts and wars caused displacement. According to the United Nations, only 23 per cent of school age refugees were receiving education. Every effort must be made to rebuild peace and repair social infrastructure to allow refugees to return home. International relations must be built on a policy of creation, not destruction. The world's parliamentarians should join forces to draft model legislation and share experiences and best practices for strengthening security, fostering peace and educating the people.

Only 42 per cent of children in the world had basic literacy and numeracy skills. Comprehensive legislation on education was therefore essential. The rapid development and uptake of new technologies required new knowledge and competencies; digitalization in almost every sphere of employment was reducing the long-term stability of skills. Education prepared young people for work in the digital economy. A balance was needed between ensuring the accessibility of new technologies while guaranteeing security. Data volume was doubling every 26 months; consideration must therefore also be given to the effects of new technologies on the protection of intellectual property, and the safe storage of big data. Cybersecurity and the digital sovereignty of States must be protected as a matter of priority. Interference in the sovereign affairs of States no longer meant physically crossing borders; online interference could disrupt electoral campaigns, undermine the independence of the judiciary, cause financial destruction, hijack entire transport systems and damage the reputations of individuals and States.

Mr. A. ARDESHIR LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that peace could not be established without security and security could not be guaranteed without the rule of law. Those three concepts were intertwined and entirely interdependent and constituted the foundation of international law. Yet, the balance between them was being threatened by organized crime, international terrorism, violations of human rights, and hypocrisy and double standards in international relations. International law and internationally agreed commitments were being undermined by unilateralism. The United States administration's treatment of the Russian Federation and China, as well as its attitude to climate change, approach to the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran, hypocritical double standards in countering terrorism, arrogant and selfish treatment of Jerusalem and the occupied Palestinian territories, and irrational and unwise treatment of Venezuela, had caused havoc and chaos in international relations while jeopardizing peace and security. The recent decision to recognize the sovereignty of Israel over the occupied Golan Heights was in clear violation of international law and the decisions of the United Nations. President Trump was, however, only a symptom of the problem, not the cause.

Recent attacks against Muslim sites and religious and ethnic cleansing in East Jerusalem had been a further demonstration of the expansionist, anti-humanitarian and unlawful actions of Israel and the United States, which strove to create unrest for their own commercial and economic benefit. For decades, the international community had ignored the plight of the Palestinian people, which had led them to exercise their legitimate right to resist. The Islamic Republic of Iran had been supporting the governments of Iraq and Syria in their fight against terrorism, in which the United States had been playing a hypocritical and dangerous role.

There was an increasing belief that international organizations had either failed to uphold their responsibilities, or that their identity and functions were being blatantly ignored. New cooperation frameworks must therefore be designed. Parliamentary diplomacy must be promoted and recognized as fundamental to the advancement of the rule of law. International parliamentary associations had a key role in bringing parliaments together and bridging gaps between the people they represented. Parliaments must therefore play a much stronger role in the work of the United Nations and in international decision-making. Peace and security would never be established if the international system continued to be flouted by hypocrites.

Mr. N. NIGMATULIN (Kazakhstan) said that humankind was in a global whirlwind of new ideas, technologies and innovations. Education was the cornerstone of all elements of life, including preserving peace, ensuring security and upholding the rule of law. Since independence, the Government of Kazakhstan had advocated continually for peace, security and respect for fundamental human values. The quality of human capital could only be raised with an advanced education system. Efforts were therefore being made in Kazakhstan to improve the quality of education at all levels. Parliament had increased budgetary spending on education, conducted regular monitoring of the legal framework for education, revised and updated legislation, and enacted new laws, governing the quality and management of education.

Improving global education required joint efforts and coordinated action between all countries. Parliamentarians had a critical role to play in that regard, by effectively using inter-parliamentary cooperation to promote education in the interests of peace, security and the rule of law. Such cooperation could be boosted through forums such as the IPU, which brought parliaments closer together to facilitate the alignment of national legislation and exchanges of experiences and best practices. Through joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels, constructive solutions could be sought to global challenges.

Mr. T. XHAFERI (North Macedonia) said that, for a long time, education had been the privilege of an elite few and had been used as a tool for holding power over the masses. Since the end of the Second World War and the formation of the United Nations, education had become recognized as a basic human right, enshrined in international law. In the contemporary, globalized world, education must not be limited to specific knowledge and skills; it must endow young people with an understanding of the modern world, respect for human rights and freedoms and must foster mutual respect. Without that understanding, they would be open to exploitation by a culture of hatred. National parliaments played a key role in developing educational systems through the adoption of laws that directly or indirectly determined the educational process. Parliament also had an oversight function, which was essential for detecting weaknesses and using evidence to strengthen legislation. Through parliamentary diplomacy the world's parliamentarians could share experiences and learn from each other.

In North Macedonia, education was compulsory and free of charge up to the secondary level. Education was provided in the languages of the largest ethnic communities—Albanian and Macedonian. Children from smaller ethnic groups received primary education in their mother tongue. Thus, through their schooling, young people not only gained knowledge of their own culture, language and traditions, but also the cultures, languages and traditions of others. The Western Balkans had a history of military conflict based on prejudices and stereotypes. The current education system in North Macedonia aimed to eliminate such stereotypes and promote a culture of mutual respect, ensuring a peaceful future for the region. Together, the world's parliamentarians must form education systems that made education a force for unity and a shield against radicalism.

Ms. V.M. DHLOVO (Mozambique) said that education must play a key role in ensuring a better future for all. Children must be taught to love before others taught them to hate. Education must shape men and women to be peaceful, respectful and equipped to build a better world that brought happiness and well-being to all. In Mozambique, concrete actions were being taken to build a harmonious coexistence between peoples. Peace had been restored in Mozambique through the promotion of a culture of dialogue. Parliamentarians promoted education that focused on understanding, tolerance and respect for human dignity. They must legislate to increase access to quality education and promote a model of education that fostered peace. They must also ensure that sufficient budgetary resources were allocated to education. Lastly, parliaments should promote inclusive, gender-balanced education and advocate for inclusive democracy in order to protect human rights for all without discrimination.

Mozambique was suffering the catastrophic consequences of Cyclone Idai, which had left a trail of devastation and tragic loss of life. She thanked all those who had extended humanitarian aid. Monumental challenges persisted, and further assistance would be crucial.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIC (Serbia) said that it was not enough to teach children reading, writing and arithmetic; education must foster mutual respect and contribute to a more just, inclusive and peaceful community. A truly progressive and effective system of education must be based on the universal principles of peace and the rule of law, which would enable children to become drivers of change and builders of peace. It would empower them and foster a sense of shared responsibility for a common future. Education was essential for modernizing society and strengthening foundations of cooperation, development, peace and stability.

In Serbia, early childhood development and preschool education were available to all children. Primary education was free of charge, and ethnic minorities were educated in their mother tongue. The number of university enrolments had increased in 2018, more women than men had completed university education. Education systems must leave no one behind. The Serbian Parliament had adopted a comprehensive legislation on education and upbringing, which had sparked a large-scale educational reform. Parliament and other independent bodies, such as the Office of the Ombudsman, played an important role in overseeing the implementation of inclusive education. As a European Union candidate country, Serbia had harmonized its legislation with the European Union *acquis*. The Serbian Parliament was committed to continually improving its education policy. The future of society depended on the quality of education, and as such, funding for education must be a priority in the State budget. Education could foster a sense of belonging in even the youngest children and must be used to build a value system based on tolerance, humanity, unity, dialogue and peace.

Mr. A. PARUBIY (Ukraine) said that proper education to foster peace was particularly crucial in the modern, globalized world. In Ukraine, educational reform was necessary to remove the vestiges of Soviet propaganda and reveal the truth of Ukraine's history, language and culture. Education played a critical role in national security. The Russian Federation systematically used education in its occupied territories. In the occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russian administration was violating the right to education in the Ukrainian language, and was indoctrinating children against Ukrainians. Those expressing support for Ukraine were persecuted; teachers had been dismissed, and in some cases illegally detained and tortured. Academic curricula had been changed radically and schools providing education in Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar had been closed down. Parents who demanded education for their children in their native language were reported to the Federal Security Service. Ukraine had filed a lawsuit against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice and had appealed for the application of interim measures pending the consideration of the case on its merits. The Court had ordered education in the Ukrainian language to be permitted as an interim measure. That order had been ignored. Russian aggression against Ukraine had resulted in substantial challenges for education, particularly in conflict-prone areas in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions, where schools had been closed having come under Russian fire. Legislation had been amended to enable children from the occupied territories to study in new schools, without fear. The sooner those territories were liberated, the safer humanity would be. Together, the international community must work to build a safer, more prosperous future for all.

Mr. K. AL-MAAWALI (Oman) said that peace was a basic human right, which would never be enjoyed when people were subjected to occupation. The rights and independence of the people of Palestine must be respected. The recent decision by the United States administration to recognize the Golan Heights as the sovereign territory of Israel was in violation of international law. Calling people to hatred had catastrophic consequences, to which the barbaric murder of people at prayer in the mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, had been testament. The world's parliaments must do everything in their power to promote tolerance, strengthen laws and block any activity by the likes of criminals such as the perpetrator of the Christchurch shootings. Islam should be promoted as a vehicle for peace and security, not for hatred and violence. The Prime Minister of New Zealand must be applauded for her positive approach to the tragic events of Christchurch; her outstanding response had served to strengthen the sense of brotherhood and unity within the community. The Oman Vision 2040 plan had education at its heart. The plan was intended to foster peaceful coexistence between everyone in Oman. Education was considered both a right and an obligation. Educational policies must be reviewed everywhere in the world, to ensure that education could be accessed freely and that it promoted the rule of law, good governance and tolerance.

Mr. M. AL-HALBOUSI (Iraq) said that Iraq had overcome conflict and terrorism and was open to building good relations with its neighbours and the rest of the world. Peace remained under threat by the scourge of extremism and the abuse of religious teachings. Solidarity and peaceful coexistence must be promoted. Israel continued to expand its occupation of the Arab territories. The international community must support the people of Palestine in seeking a peaceful and just solution, with the establishment of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Occupation went against international law and the resolutions of the United Nations. The recognition by the United States of the sovereignty of Israel over the Syrian Golan Heights must be condemned. The concept of security was not limited to the protection of the State but also encompassed economic, political, social and environmental security. Terrorism was not the only threat to security; conflict and climate change also required proper remedies.

In Iraq, education was used to promote mutual respect. Parliament had enacted new education legislation, including on new school curricula. Universities had been equipped with better teaching materials, and more budgetary funds had been allocated to education. Education was the key to bridging the gap between developing and developed nations. Iraq was against any form of violence or use of force and was committed to dialogue and upholding the rule of law.

Mr. A. SOUMAHORO (Côte d'Ivoire) said that despite the commitment of States, the road to peace remained long. The parliamentary community must not remain silent faced with the resurgence of violence around the world, and the rise in radicalization and extremism, particularly among young people. Peace could not be imposed, and would never be sustainable if brought about with weapons. The root causes of conflicts must be addressed. In order to build peace, citizens must be educated to believe in the virtues of peace and taught how to replace violence with constructive dialogue. Education policies must therefore take account of the causes of conflict and should strive to foster peace.

Schools were the key to promoting equality, tolerance and mutual respect. Education for peace must be based on human rights, development, environmental protection and respect for all life. In Côte d'Ivoire, emphasis was placed on teaching children how to contribute to socioeconomic development and promote social cohesion. Schooling was compulsory for all children aged 5 to 16 years. Campaigns had been run on prevention of early pregnancy, and a policy on protecting girls against violence in schools was in place. The main aim was to provide citizenship education through dialogue, involving civil society and working to overcome exclusion. Challenges persisted, however, including economic marginalization, illiteracy, unemployment, polarization of wealth and absence of the rule of law, all of which could give rise to conflicts and terrorism. Parliaments must ensure that the people who had elected them were truly represented, and that education enabled everyone to participate fully in the process of nation building.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait) said that the recent events in Christchurch had shown that extremism knew no religion and no borders. Extremists committing murder in the name of any religion must be condemned. Extremism and terrorism were deep-rooted ills, the causes of which must be understood and addressed. Emotional, defensive responses were not the solution. Efforts must be made to build solidarity within society and to foster transparency, democracy and good governance. He expressed his Parliament's condolences to the people of Christchurch and support to the Prime Minister of New Zealand whose response to the tragedy had been exemplary. Kuwait had also been targeted by terrorism, and had also responded with compassion. Israel had been committing State terrorism for 70 years, unchecked by the international community. International resolutions were being flouted; the unilateral decision by the United States to recognize the sovereignty of Israel over the occupied Golan Heights should be rejected. The IPU should adopt a decisive position, condemning unilateral action in international conflicts, which went against international consensus and opened the door to bias. The IPU must not only be a forum for empty speeches. It must be a platform for action to build a just and peaceful world.

Mr. A. FARRUGIA (Malta) said that lessons must be learned from the past, to build a better future. To prevent violent history from repeating itself the values of peace, tolerance, non-violence, human rights and democracy must be inculcated in every individual. A culture of peace would be the foundation for a progressive, prosperous, stable society. Heinous acts had been conducted under the veil of public mandate, when in reality they had served the interests of power-hungry individuals. Radical groups were increasingly adopting extreme ideologies and using undemocratic and violent means to achieve their objectives. Young people needed education that did not glorify war, but rather instilled a culture of non-violence and promoted peaceful cooperation. Education would combat

misinformation and mitigate the hostile propaganda used to divide populations along cultural and religious lines. Never had it been more important for the younger generation to understand diversity and the values of tolerance, understanding and mutual respect.

Less than a month previously, New Zealand had suffered the worst terror attack in its history. Motivated solely by Islamophobia, the attack was not an isolated incident; it reflected continuing religious and racial hatred, which could only be countered by acts of inter-faith solidarity and ongoing education. Students must be taught to understand the value of the rule of law. Parliamentary democracies must ensure that education was inclusive, affordable and accessible to all. Inequality and exclusion must be eliminated and opportunities afforded to marginalized communities. Education could help build identities and overcome the legacies and grievances of previous conflicts, thereby moving societies towards reconciliation. It could rehabilitate and reintegrate former combatants. Poverty, lack of economic growth, corruption and bad governance were all related to a lack of education. Education was an investment in prosperity, equality and the solution to the world's greatest problems.

Mr. K. BAHADUR MAHARA (Nepal) said that citizens' trust constituted a basis for a peaceful, just and inclusive society. The Parliament of Nepal strove to uphold the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law to build a better life for all. Global peace and security could only be achieved if education was a priority for the State and its institutions. Education was the key to eliminating poverty, inequality and insecurity and building the foundations of peace, security and the rule of law. It had short- and long-term benefits, and sharing experiences could ensure that good practices were replicated around the world. Parliamentarians, as political leaders, must formalize education systems that took account of countries' specific needs and bridged development gaps. Efforts to secure freedom and justice for marginalized groups must be collective. Parliaments must bring a positive influence to bear in the formulation of laws.

Nepal had a plan to transition from a low- to middle-income country by 2030, in which education was a central focus. The rights of children to a safe future and to an education were enshrined in the Constitution. Educational reforms had resulted in significant gains in respect of school enrolments and the achievement of gender parity in primary education. A school sector development plan had been adopted, which aimed to ensure that all children, without discrimination, had access to a safe, inclusive learning environment. Exchanges of experiences and best practices through forums such as the IPU Assembly, would contribute to building peaceful and just societies.

Mr. M. ALI HOUMED (Djibouti) said that peace was a sine qua non for sustainable economic and social development. Once established, peace required respect for the rule of law. If institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights were established, injustices would be rectified automatically. Every parliamentarian had the duty to educate and advocate for peace, security and the rule of law. Everyone should have the right to live in dignity and the voices of the vulnerable and marginalized must be heard. Parliamentarians must take action through legislation, the establishment of committees in institutions and other measures to guarantee integrity and good governance.

Djibouti was located in a region that knew perpetual instability and misfortune, yet had always relied on the ancient wisdom of encouraging dialogue even in the worst conflict situations. The Parliament of Djibouti firmly believed in peace as the only means guaranteeing the rights and wellbeing of all, and condemned unilateral exertion of force, such as that used by Israel against the people of Palestine. Efforts to build an environment conducive to promoting peace, security and rule of law would be enhanced by strengthening international parliamentary diplomacy. The world's parliamentarians should therefore continue to build working relations to collaborate at the regional and international levels. Every parliamentarian had a moral duty to respond to tragedy—such as that faced by the innocent victims in Gaza, Myanmar, Syria and Yemen—through legislation. They must be united in condemning such atrocities.

Mr. S. ZUHUROV (Tajikistan) said that ferocious conflicts and violent extremism affected most regions of the world, with terrorism and radicalization at unprecedented levels. No State, regardless of geographic position or military power, could stand alone in the face of those challenges. International cooperation was essential, and must go hand-in-hand with legislative and preventive measures. Tajikistan had adopted a transparent position, condemning terrorism and violent extremism as a matter of priority. Political and military instability in neighbouring Afghanistan was a source of serious concern. Extremist groups remained intent on turning Afghanistan into a hotbed of terrorism and a safe haven for experts in sabotage. Organized crime was a significant source of funding for criminal organizations such as Daesh. Every effort must be made to assist Afghanistan and involve the country in international cooperation to promote economic and social revival.

Many countries around the world applied double standards and provided support for international terrorist groups in a bid to polarize populations and divide countries for their own political gain. Tajikistan supported the creation of a just international order, free from conflict. Cooperation and partnership must be enhanced through constructive dialogue under the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The IPU provided a platform for cooperation. Greater attention must be paid to humanitarian, scientific, educational and technical development.

Protection of water resources was crucial to guarantee sustainability of humanity and the environment, and must become a global priority, given the increasing threats posed by climate change. In that regard, a range of initiatives had been launched in Tajikistan, under the heading *International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development*. IPU Member Parliaments must coordinate their initiatives and work together towards sustainable development for all.

Ms. K. ALLI IBRAHIM (Ethiopia) said that as legislators, parliamentarians had a key role in ensuring peace at the national and international levels. Ethiopia was undergoing broad and profound changes; plans were in place to increase foreign investment. Focus had been placed on overcoming challenges related to conflict resolution, human rights promotion and fostering sustainable development. The Ethiopian Parliament endeavoured to achieve its mission for peace and security by promoting dialogue and was committed to teaching young people to be peacemakers. Work was being done with the Government, inter-faith groups and civil society to advance harmony among communities and prevent conflict.

Reforms of democratic institutions, including the judiciary, and electoral processes were underway to ensure respect for human rights and strengthen democracy in Ethiopia. The Government was currently the most gender-balanced it had ever been. Ethiopia was a major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions in neighbouring countries. The world had undergone tremendous changes, which must be used as an opportunity for reform and improvement. The development of the education sector was crucial in that regard. In Ethiopia, government financing for education had been increased by 70 per cent since 2003. Efforts had been made to ensure 100 per cent enrolment at primary level, and to have all girls attend school. To maintain that momentum, impetus in strengthening inclusivity, good governance and service delivery must be maintained, and peace and security should be enhanced by fostering dialogue and understanding.

Mr. N. BERRY (Lebanon) said that pressing issues continued to arise around the Middle East, the most recent of which had been President Trump's decision to recognize the legality of the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights. Israel had committed countless violations of human rights, shooting children, women and the elderly, targeting peaceful protesters, destroying villages and seizing land. The Palestinian territories had been turned into a giant detention centre. The rights of the people of Palestine must be protected. Unity and resistance were the only solution.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus) said that education was one of the most valuable investments that could be made in peace, security and economic prosperity. It was essential for reducing poverty, improving health, increasing gender equality, boosting economic growth, ensuring a more sustainable planet and thereby fostering peace and international security. Each educated child would have a better chance of making good decisions and enjoying a better quality of life. He had recently launched an initiative to provide schooling in Arabic, which was intended to ensure that Arabic-speaking refugee children in Cyprus could have access to the best possible opportunities to develop their cognitive and social wellbeing. Education could build the foundations of good citizenship: self-respect and respect for others. As legislators, parliamentarians had a duty to give schools the power to shape the views of young people towards peaceful relations. Education broadened horizons and could eliminate prejudices and stereotypes, and as such was the most effective measure for preventing conflict. The root causes of violence and conflict must be addressed, and problems should be solved through dialogue and negotiation.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi) said that despite the best efforts of the international community, peace was increasingly under threat the world over. Education was the driver of a healthy society. It must counter hatred and promote values of peace, freedom, equality, dignity, democracy, human rights and civil responsibility. It was a right for all and must therefore be universally accessible. With that in mind, the Parliament of Burundi had enacted legislation on free, compulsory primary education, which had increased the number of children in education. Efforts were being made to build more schools and raise awareness among parents of the importance of schooling their children. Measures were also being taken to prevent early pregnancies, to give girls a better chance of remaining in education. Given the key role of women in building peaceful societies, quotas had been set in Burundi for women's representation in governance institutions.

War had resulted in an inactive civil society and an absence of institutions for the defence of human rights. Security and respect for human rights had been restored, however, with a change in the institutional context of human rights protection. Peace education was a priority, to the extent that the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender had established a department for education for peace and national reconciliation. As well as the enactment of new legislation, a variety of mechanisms had been created to promote and defend human rights, such as the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Members of Parliament in Burundi met with communities to raise public awareness about the consolidation of peace, security and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. M. ŞENTOP (Turkey) said that he wished to pay tribute to the people of Christchurch who had endured the tragedy of terrorism, and to all those suffering insecurity, owing to environmental disasters, such as the recent flooding in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cyclone Idai. The world was undergoing unprecedented global challenges. Some people in power failed to respect the established rules; they undermined all rights. People were dying of poverty in some countries, while others had crises of obesity. Parliamentary diplomacy should go beyond words at meetings; it should be a force for action and real results. Turkey played a key role for stability both in neighbouring countries and those further afield, with a focus on conflict resolution through peace-building and negotiation. International law and institutions were not serving their purpose and the paradigms of the previous century had not been successful. Humanity was seeking a new international order based on equality of opportunity for all. International law must be respected. Parliamentarians had a duty to build a world where all people could live peacefully. Inter-parliamentary cooperation had a key role to play in that regard.

Mr. L. SLUTSKIY (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the allegations made by the representative of Ukraine had been contrary to the spirit of the IPU. The armed forces of the Russian Federation had never been present in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine. Russia had been accused of prohibiting education in Ukrainian in Crimea; such statements were simply not true. There were three official languages in Crimea and all schools and universities offered education in all three. Discussions in the context of the IPU should be constructive and professional. His delegation therefore objected strongly to the statement made on behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, which had been based on lies. He called on all other delegations to support the Russian Federation's rejection of the statement by Ukraine.

The sitting rose at 5.50 p.m.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda (A/140/2-Inf.1.rev and Inf.2)

The sitting was called to order at 5.50 p.m., with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that two requests had been received for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda and invited the Secretary General to elaborate further.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the first of those requests, received on 2 April 2019 from the delegation of the Netherlands, was entitled *Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai*. The second, a merged proposal received that day from the delegations of Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco and Turkey, was entitled *Ensuring international protection of Palestinian people, rejecting Israeli authority over the occupied Golan Heights, promoting the values of peaceful coexistence among people and religions and combating all forms of racism and intolerance*. He outlined the procedure to be followed in selecting the emergency item, as described in document A/140/2-Inf.1.rev, noting that the merged proposal was in accordance with Rule 11.2 (c) of the Rules of the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT invited the sponsors to present their proposals.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands), presenting her delegation's proposal, said that Cyclone Idai had first hit Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe on 6 March 2019 and then again on 9 March 2019, creating one of the worst-ever natural disasters to have occurred in the Southern Hemisphere.

Floodwater had risen to six metres and destroyed entire communities. Many thousands had been killed, injured or were missing and half of the million affected were children. The exact figures and the full magnitude of the devastation were as yet unknown, but hospitals were damaged, houses destroyed, infrastructure washed away and many acres of crops ruined, bringing the three countries close to famine. Cholera was fast spreading and likely soon to be followed by malaria, skin infections and other water-borne diseases. The disaster would set back development massively in the three countries, which needed urgent international assistance focused in particular on the most vulnerable. The United Nations had launched an appeal, but thus far only one tenth of the assistance required for Mozambique alone had been raised. Attention must therefore be drawn to the region's needs so that more countries would step in to support them.

A further reason to discuss the issue was that more extreme weather conditions were anticipated as a result of global warming and the damaging impact would be heavier in low- and middle-income countries. The utmost efforts must therefore be made to achieve the agreed climate goal of maintaining global warming at below 2°C in order to reduce the likelihood of such a catastrophic event reoccurring in Southern Africa. She appealed to Members for support in addressing the disaster, including by urging their Governments to provide assistance and follow-up commitments.

Mr. A. BENCHAMACH (Morocco), presenting the merged proposal also on behalf of the delegations of Indonesia, Kuwait and Turkey, said that the subject of Palestine needed no flowery speeches. He therefore wished simply to call on Members to explore their hearts and consciences for the sake of ending the tragedy of the Palestinian people, who continued to suffer under the occupation of its territory in violation of international law. Lasting peace would be achieved only through the two-State solution favoured in United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Ms. R. KAVAKCI KAN (Turkey), continuing the presentation, said that racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia had risen alarmingly, with Muslims subjected to denigration that hindered efforts to build inclusive societies founded on trust and harmony. The draft resolution proposed by the four sponsoring delegations underscored the need for collective action to reverse that trend by protecting the rights of Muslims and indeed all others experiencing racism, discrimination and xenophobia. It also affirmed solidarity with the Palestinian people and strongly supported its legitimate struggle. It was time for parliamentarians to present a united front against religious hatred and fulfil their responsibility of ensuring that religious freedom was enjoyed by all without fear.

The SECRETARY GENERAL, responding to procedural questions posed by a delegate from Zimbabwe, said that the first proposal had been submitted by a single delegation, which had therefore been the only delegation to speak during the time allocated for presentation of the proposal. The second proposal, however, had been submitted jointly by four delegations, two of which had opted to share the speaking time allocated for presentation of the proposal. As to whether the proposals related to a recent major situation of international concern, in accordance with Rule 11.2 (a) of the Rules of the Assembly, the second proposal referred to the occupied Golan Heights, over which Israeli sovereignty had recently been recognized by the United States of America, while the first proposal related to a recent disaster universally recognized to have caused widespread damage. Both proposals therefore complied with Rule 11.2 (a).

He explained the procedure to be followed in voting by roll call on the two proposals, drawing attention in that regard to the information set out in document A/140/Inf.2 concerning the allocation of votes.

A vote was taken by roll-call on the two proposals.

With 1,011 votes in favour, 149 against and 99 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

With 491 votes in favour, 378 against and 390 abstentions, the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco and Turkey failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the proposal submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands was added to the agenda of the Assembly as item 9.

The sitting rose at 7.15 p.m.

Final agenda

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 140th Assembly
 2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 3. General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*
 4. Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
 5. The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
 6. Reports of the Standing Committees
 7. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 142nd IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
 9. Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai
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Sitting of Monday, 8 April (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the 140th IPU Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 9 of the agenda

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:
Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe
hit by Cyclone Idai
(A/140/2-P.3)**

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly would need to appoint a drafting committee to finalize the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item by the delegation of the Netherlands, as set out in the annex to document A/140/2-P.3. He requested the prompt submission of nominations to the Secretariat.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that Cyclone Idai had left a trail of death and destruction in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The hearts of the people of India went out to the brave citizens of these three countries. India had sent three naval ships, which had been able to save 200 people in acute distress. In Mozambique, medical camps had been set up by the Indian navy, providing emergency medical assistance to some 2,000 people. The Indian diaspora in Maputo was also providing assistance. Navy helicopters were providing aerial surveillance services to assist Mozambique's national disaster relief agency. In Malawi, India had provided 1,000 metric tonnes of rice and medical supplies to the value of US\$ 2 million. A first tranche of medical supplies had also been sent to Zimbabwe. All Members of the IPU should contribute to rebuilding the disaster-affected countries.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that the floods caused by Cyclone Idai had killed hundreds and led to large-scale displacement and destruction affecting three million people. Access to those affected and provision of food and health care was still very difficult. Emergency assistance was desperately needed in all three countries. The economic costs and social impact of the cyclone in the affected countries and the region as a whole was immeasurable. The South African Development Community (SADC) had contributed financial assistance to the tune of US\$ 500,000, and had called on all its partners to contribute to the rescue operation and provide much-needed humanitarian aid. He called on all Member Parliaments to adopt the resolution and offer their support and provide practical assistance to the people of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Namibia was also committed to the question of Palestine and the right of the people of Palestine to self-determination in line with international law and the resolutions of the United Nations.

Mr. N. PREA (Seychelles) said that in 2017, the Seychelles had been struck by a cyclone that had devastated one of its outlying islands. The population had been evacuated, except for six men who had remained to clear the runway. The cyclone had passed over the island three times, devastating everything in its path. His delegation gave its heartfelt support to the choice of the emergency item for discussion. Cyclone Idai had been one of the worst on record to affect southern Africa. It had left a trail of destruction, taking hundreds of lives and leaving many stranded and without access to life-saving essential services. In all three countries, people were facing the devastating loss of loved ones, livestock, shelter, property and livelihoods. Their lives would never be the same. A crisis of that magnitude called for collective action to restore hope to those affected. With concerted efforts, the challenges, although immense, would not be insurmountable. Specific needs must be assessed with regard to food, shelter, clothing, safe drinking water, access to health services, rebuilding infrastructure. He urged the Assembly to adopt the draft resolution.

Mr. H. ROGERS (Blue Planet Foundation) expressed sincere condolences to the people who had suffered the wrath of mother nature and said that events such as Cyclone Idai were only the beginning. Despite such major environmental catastrophes, the public continued to behave as though nothing was wrong. Climate change was caused by coal, oil and gas, and yet fossil fuel production continued to increase. Humanity was destroying the world for future generations. The lives of future generations were being sacrificed out of greed and selfishness. Cyclone Idai was the new normal. Parliamentarians, as chosen leaders, must take the lead in making changes. Humanity must stop producing more carbon dioxide than nature could cope with; a deadline for making that change must

be set, and parliaments and governments must pledge to meet climate change mitigation targets. The transition to renewables must be complete by 2045. The Blue Planet Alliance had been formed to help reach that goal by governments pledging to act at the national level. The transition to renewables was the battle of the age; to be victorious, everyone must work together.

Mr. L. PRAPANCHA SURYANTORO (World Health Organization—WHO) said that WHO was supporting health responses by despatching staff, supplying medicines and strengthening disease detection in the countries affected by Cyclone Idai. Restoring regular health services was as important as mitigating the spread of cholera and other diseases. Almost 90 per cent of the infrastructure had been destroyed. WHO was helping to restore primary health care facilities to enable the delivery of essential health services, such as immunization, treating acute malnutrition and providing maternal care, while providing an ongoing supply of medication to persons living with HIV, tuberculosis and diabetes. Some 1,500 cases of cholera had been reported. WHO had responded immediately by sending expertise. Thus far, WHO had pledged US\$ 4.6 million from its contingency fund to respond to the emergency. On behalf of the Organization, he expressed gratitude to all States, partners and donors that had offered support. The response was only just beginning. More support would be needed to ensure sufficient operational funding for the health response to continue over the coming three months.

Mr. J. EPOLA (Republic of the Congo) said that Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe had suffered an unprecedented natural disaster. They could not cope alone. The support of the international community was required as a matter of urgency.

Mr. T.J. MONETHI (Lesotho) said that the people of Lesotho expressed their sincere condolences to the peoples of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Those low-lying areas were generally prone to flooding, but Cyclone Idai had hit heavily populated areas. Crops had been destroyed; people were hungry. Houses had been destroyed; people were without shelter. Hundreds had been killed and thousands displaced. Hospitals, schools and other public facilities had been destroyed. The roads between main cities had been destroyed and bridges had collapsed. He commended those who had provided disaster relief. The people needed temporary shelter, clean drinking water, food and medicine, and their infrastructure must be rebuilt. All IPU Members must do their utmost to support the assistance initiatives underway in all three countries.

Ms. A.P. ZANI (Kenya) said that Cyclone Idai, which had been the third deadliest tropical cyclone in the southern hemisphere, had started in March 2019 and had been fed by warm water temperatures. That was indicative of the effects of climate change in Africa, which previously had not been ravaged to such an extent. It was a wake-up call for the world. It had caused total devastation. Humanitarian organizations from around the world had responded, but access had been possible only by air and by boat. Many people had been stranded and could not be saved. In Malawi 2.6 million people had been affected by the rains that had followed the cyclone, causing the destruction of infrastructure and crops and a cholera outbreak, which had become a humanitarian crisis and a significant setback in development efforts. Urgent intervention was needed from the international community. Malawi and Mozambique had done their best with respect to disaster relief but had been overwhelmed. Immediate needs included providing food and water supplies, rebuilding houses, and affording psychological support for the victims. Kenya would do its utmost to support the relief efforts.

Mr. A. BENCHAMACH (Morocco) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the emergency item out of solidarity with fellow Africans. Morocco had sent food supplies and humanitarian aid to all three countries and called on others to do the same. Parliaments should bear in mind that the problems faced by Africa were the result of years of colonization and pillaged resources; measures were required to rectify issues that had not been caused by Africa. Climate change was the result of industrial development in western countries. The cyclone must serve as a wake-up call to prick the conscience of the whole world. International climate agreements must be respected. Climate change was the responsibility of the large industrial countries. His delegation had also supported the proposal for an emergency item calling for international protection for the people of Palestine, who suffered injustice on a daily basis. That situation was unacceptable.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that he wished to thank not only the Netherlands for having brought the devastating consequences of Cyclone Idai to the world's attention but also all the delegations that had voted in favour of the emergency item. According to the United Nations, Cyclone Idai had been the worst disaster that had ever struck south-east Africa. While Malawi had suffered natural disasters in the past, the magnitude of the devastation caused by the cyclone was unmatched. Strong winds and heavy rain had decimated property and infrastructure, taken lives and left thousands

of fields of crops completely inundated. The winds had then entered the Mozambique Channel and become a cyclone, hitting Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi for a second time in a few weeks. Malawi's economy relied heavily on agriculture, and as a developing country its infrastructure was weak and could not withstand the impact of natural disasters. More than 63,000 hectares of crops had been destroyed. Even before the rains, the country's food situation in some districts had already been precarious, with more than 3.3 million people predicted to require assistance for 2 to 6 months in 2018–2019. More than 860,000 people had been severely affected by the cyclone in Malawi, with 60 confirmed deaths and more than 600 people injured within a few days of the disaster. Women and children had been disproportionately affected. For the past two months, thousands of displaced persons had been living in temporary camps set up in schools, but sanitation and shelter provisions were grossly inadequate, leaving them at high risk of communicable diseases, especially cholera. Women and children were particularly vulnerable and the health services were overwhelmed. Roads and bridges had been completely destroyed, leaving some remote areas inaccessible. Millions of dollars would be needed to rebuild infrastructure and services. He thanked the aid organizations and governments that had responded to Malawi's initial call for assistance. The current resource gap stood at US\$ 30.6 million. Malawi supported the draft resolution and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Mr. P. MAVIMBELA (Eswatini) said that Eswatini shared a border with Mozambique and was therefore in close contact with the situation. The devastation was catastrophic; bodies were being washed out to sea and being brought back to shore along the coastline. He hoped that the call by the IPU to support the affected country would lead to the lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe, which could serve no purpose in such a situation. The devastation required an international response, not only in the form of financial support, but also through in-kind contributions. Eswatini would do all it could to support its neighbours, and called on the rest of the international community to do the same.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that Portugal had a close relationship with Mozambique. Tragedies, such as the catastrophic Cyclone Idai, usually had a disproportionate impact on the poorest people. The effects of climate change were increasingly serious; Portugal was committed to transitioning to renewable energy sources and halting climate change. Disasters such as Cyclone Idai tended to garner significant global attention in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, but that attention could dwindle quickly. Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe needed support, not just in the short term. Concomitant problems such as famine and disease outbreaks would also need a concerted response. Climate change could affect any country in the world. The whole international community was responsible to step in and support those in need.

Mr. D. DAS NEVES (Sao Tome and Principe) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution, but also wished to express its support to the people of Palestine. Sao Tome and Principe was an isolated archipelago, which was also suffering the effects of climate change. Every effort was being made in Sao Tome and Principe to mitigate those effects. Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe needed the support of the international community, not only in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, but also in the medium and long term. Sao Tome and Principe had sent medical teams and firefighters to Mozambique to assist in the relief effort.

Mr. S. JARA CRUZ (Mexico) said that the world's parliamentarians must play a key role in addressing the problems of climate change. The temperature of the planet had already increased by 1°C. A two-degree increase would see a 46 cm rise in sea levels and extreme damage to agricultural production. The polar ice caps would melt and islands would be submerged. In 2019, seven major weather events had already taken place. The United States had seen the coldest temperatures on record, while Australia had experienced the hottest summer it had ever known with temperatures of up to 50°C. Snow had fallen in Hawaii for the first time in history, and Cyclone Idai had caused a trail of devastation in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. According to the United Nations, action must be taken to reverse climate change by 2030, otherwise it would be too late. To achieve that reversal, greenhouse gas emissions must be halved and energy production would need to be 70 per cent renewable. Parliaments must therefore legislate to invest in renewables.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda) said that he wished to express his Parliament's condolences to the people of Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. Three million people had been affected across the three countries and the death toll was approaching 900. Idai had been the strongest cyclone witnessed in the southern hemisphere. The 1.5 million children affected were a whole future generation; they needed help urgently. People were struggling to get the food, water and shelter they needed to survive. Health care provision was sorely lacking and 1,400 cases of cholera had already

been recorded in Mozambique. With infrastructure valued at more than US\$ 1.5 billion destroyed, more than 100,000 homes decimated, and a million hectares of crops lost, famine was to be anticipated if urgent action was not taken. As well as adopting a resolution, consideration should be given to sending an IPU delegation to the three countries to deliver assistance. Uganda would stand by the people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in their recovery.

Mr. I. FLORES (Chile) said that the impacts of climate change would affect the whole world. Cyclone Idai was a demonstration of the damage that humankind had caused to the planet. The international community must not remain indifferent to the changes in the climate, and must work together to repair the damage to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. He expressed support on behalf of the people of Chile and urged all delegations to attend the IPU meeting that would be held in parallel to the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which would take place in Santiago de Chile in December 2019.

Mr. A. ARDESHIR LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had also suffered from serious flooding in recent days. The whole world faced the challenges caused by climate change. He expressed his delegation's solidarity with the people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. His delegation also supported the rights of the people of Palestine and Muslim minorities the world over. Racism and islamophobia were also global challenges, which the people and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The PRESIDENT, speaking on behalf of the delegation of Qatar, expressed solidarity and support to the people of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe who had endured extraordinary suffering as a result of Cyclone Idai. He called on the international community to support the recovery efforts and launch an international campaign to provide assistance to the governments of the three countries, which could not overcome the consequences of the tragedy without support.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands) expressed her condolences to all those who were suffering in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and thanked the delegations that had offered their support to the draft resolution and whose governments had provided assistance to the relief efforts through financial and in-kind contributions. None of the three countries had been prepared for such a deadly cyclone. The force of the cyclone had been extreme, causing landslides and dam breakages. Entire villages had been washed away, bridges and roads destroyed and crops ruined. Years of hard work had been undone. People were being housed in classrooms where no more classes could be given. Conditions were poor and sanitation was lacking; outbreaks of cholera and skin infections were rife, and there were threats of the spread of malaria and HIV. Medical care was lacking, which was disproportionately affecting women and children. Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe needed all the help they could get to overcome the disaster. The challenges were immense.

The world's parliaments must step up to support the region and to ensure that their governments lived up to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement. Time was running out. The fight against global warming must be a priority, and should unite the international community. Parliaments had the power to make the changes needed to stop climate change and prevent further humanitarian disasters. Every effort must be made to provide relief to the three countries hit by Cyclone Idai, for short-, medium- and long-term reconstruction. Global warming would affect lower- and middle-income countries disproportionately as they had fewer resources for disaster preparedness. The international community must provide Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe with all the help they needed to recover from the ravages of Cyclone Idai.

The sitting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 10.40 a.m.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. K.M. NGOGA (East African Legislative Assembly—EALA) said that where conflict arose, parliamentarians should play a key role as peacebuilders. States bore the responsibility to provide education to their citizens. Parliaments must uphold the rule of law and hold governments to account. They must promote legislation and enhance oversight of policies that ensured sustainable peace, access to education and respect for diversity, and redressed historical injustices. Greater efforts were required to educate people about the importance of peace and adherence to the rule of law.

Parliamentarians should promote cohesive societies to seek peaceful solutions to conflicts. Executive authorities must function in a just, fair and efficient manner. Parliaments must make their presence seen, heard and felt in overseeing the work of the executive. Citizens must respect the law, just as governments must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Treaty for East African Co-operation establishing the East African Community, emphasized peace and security as a prerequisite to social and economic development. The EALA had passed legislation and adopted resolutions on human and people's rights. The Assembly worked to build partnerships and peace initiatives to curtail conflict. An East African Community Security Council was being established, and other regional security mechanisms were being developed. The EALA stood ready to work with other parliaments to ensure sustainable development for all.

Mr. F. BOUKOUBI (Gabon) said that parliaments must legislate for the future based on the experiences of the past. Legislation must be adopted to ensure that education was directed towards building long-lasting peace, to ensure security and prosperity for all. A culture of peace must include respect for difference and ensure mutual respect and consideration without stigma or discrimination. Peace required solidarity and justice for all. The best kind of education took account of the interests and aspirations of young people on the one hand, and the needs of the labour market on the other.

The Parliament of Gabon had enacted laws on education, social security for widows and orphans, and on health care, which were intended to guarantee social cohesion and therefore peace. A youth parliament had been set up to teach young people how to live alongside each other and develop skills for critical thinking. A national network of parliamentarians for peace had also been established. One major challenge persisted; the use of social media to disseminate messages of hatred and intolerance and fake news. Consideration must therefore be given to how to use technology for good and prevent its misuse, and how to reconcile freedom of speech with protecting victims of libel and cybercrime. Parliamentarians must ensure that young people were given appropriate guidance in that regard, and that the world was made a safer and better place for all through education.

Mr. F. Boukoubi (Gabon), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that the right to education was a fundamental human right. Education was a powerful tool to foster peace, security and the rule of law by nurturing ethically responsible citizens who could contribute to building peaceful and inclusive societies. Education must be geared towards imparting the values needed to resolve conflict, enhance tolerance, accept diversity and promote respect for human rights. Parliaments, as representative institutions, could play an important role in bringing about change. Peace was not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, law and order. It required stability, which in turn required respect for the rule of law and social justice. Every challenge that threatened peace and security could be overcome through education. To create the foundations for peace, citizens should be taught not only how to make a living but also how to live. From an early age, children must be taught to love, to embrace diversity and to respect the law.

In Bangladesh, the Constitution provided for free and compulsory education for all children. Gender parity had been achieved in education and a scholarship system had been established to provide assistance to poorer students, in particular girls. Computer laboratories had been established in rural areas to introduce technology into education at the primary level. Textbooks were distributed to students each year and multimedia classrooms had been set up. Parliamentarians could work to shape education policies to promote peace, security and the rule of law, and could participate in the remodelling of the curriculum to include topics to inculcate those values. They must advocate for education to improve lives and build a better community, in which every individual could live in dignity.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law were essential for sustainable development. Despite large-scale public support for democracy and pluralism, parliamentarians continued to be confronted with a lack of political tolerance. Parliaments were prime institutions for addressing diverging interests, and their role was even more important in conflict-affected countries. The challenges of reducing poverty and securing livelihoods could not be met without respect for peace and the rule of law. Parliamentarians must foster leadership and improve legislation to guarantee peace and security. They must educate populations and oversee the activities of political institutions. The rule of law must remain the bedrock of just, inclusive and peaceful societies; it compelled institutions to be accountable, fair and transparent, to safeguard human rights and to empower citizens to participate constructively in society. Education must be used to promote the rule of law and enhance the culture of lawfulness.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) thanked the Assembly for its choice of emergency item, as tabled by the delegation of the Netherlands, and said he hoped that the world's parliaments would encourage their governments to marshal in the necessary humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. He expressed gratitude to those who had already provided support. Every government must endeavour to uphold their commitments under the Paris Agreement, to mitigate the effects of climate change and prevent such tragedies from occurring again in the future. Parliaments must use their oversight role to advocate for education policies and legislate for an education system that shaped the values and ideals of the people. They must believe that the power of education was transformative and would serve as a peace dividend to reduce inequalities and human rights grievances. Education must always be regarded as the cornerstone of human and social development; education was a fundamental human right.

In Zimbabwe, primary and secondary education were free of charge and accessible to all. The Constitution was taught in all schools, tertiary education institutions and security service training programmes. People must understand their rights to be able to stand up for them. The African Union's continental education strategy for the period 2016–2025 prioritized using education to promote peace in Africa. African parliaments must play a key role in implementing the strategy. Education could indeed be a tool for peacebuilding when it was available to all, of good quality, relevant and conflict-prevention sensitive. When its delivery was characterized by exclusion and inequity, it could exacerbate conflict.

Mr. I. SIDIBE (Mali) said that at a time when terrorism and socio-political conflicts were thriving in the fertile soil of intolerance and hatred, Mali had a long history of promoting peace and inclusivity. The fundamental principles enshrined in the Kouroukan Fouga treaty, adopted in 1236, including the rights to life and physical integrity and the obligations to treat others with respect and do no harm, were as valid today as they had been in the thirteenth century. Those values must underlie actions to promote peace, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

In the aftermath of crisis in Mali, a peace and reconciliation agreement had been concluded. The National Assembly had been central to its implementation, and had undertaken activities to raise awareness and educate the public about matters related to peace. Several bills on security and on political and institutional reform had been passed. The suffering endured by millions around the world each day served as a cruel reminder of the need for society to relearn how to live together in harmony. Education was a fundamental tool for building peace. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people must work to enhance tolerance. Children must be taught love. Well educated citizens rarely resorted to violence. Unemployment and poverty must also be addressed. Parliaments must sow the seeds for a more responsible education based on human rights, civic responsibility and the universal values of peace. The IPU had a coordinating role to play in that regard.

Mr. I. AHMED OMER (Sudan) said that education was vital for ensuring respect for democratic principles. Political peace was not sustainable; human dignity must be respected without discrimination. Efforts must be made to eliminate persecution, and in particular to counter the ignorance surrounding migration. The principles of justice and equality must be enshrined in all legislation. Unfortunately, respect for the rule of law appeared to be declining and society was regressing into an absence of good governance. Every day, the most powerful people around the world behaved unacceptably and with impunity. Rights were being violated, hatred was being spread.

Universal access to education was essential to achieve peace and security and combat impunity. By nature, people were good but weak, and populism was resurging around the world. Good education and economic opportunity for all would foster peace and security. Poverty must be overcome. Investment in knowledge transfer for developing countries was essential to lead people out of poverty and reverse the trend of illegal migration. International cooperation was therefore essential. The threats to democracy were clear; double standards in developed countries, which had not been mentioned in the concept note for the general debate, must be eliminated through sustainable oversight.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESU (Equatorial Guinea) said that education was a powerful instrument for defending peace and changing social attitudes. It allowed individuals to develop fully, and positioned them to tackle problems in society. The right to peace and security was a fundamental human right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and was not limited to the right to live free from conflict.

In Equatorial Guinea, primary education was compulsory and free of charge. The Parliament, as the representation of the will of the people, was committed to defending and promoting peace both nationally and internationally, by defending human rights and seeking sustainable development for all.

Parliaments must build bonds of friendship through parliamentary diplomacy, which should be used to defend peace and security around the world. Poverty must be eliminated and the rule of law must be defended. Everyone wanted peace.

Mr. W. NAMGYEL (Bhutan) said that democracy must be given freely; where democracy was demanded and restricted, civil strife would follow. Through its democratic constitutional monarchy, Bhutan was promoting peace, security and the rule of law for the well-being of its people, and as such was contributing to the peace and security of the world as a whole. Bhutan's development philosophy was based on maximizing gross national happiness, striking a balance between material wealth, environmental conservation, preservation and promotion of culture, and good governance. Transparency, efficiency and accountability were key; without them there would be no rule of law and thus no peace or security.

The Parliament of Bhutan accorded high priority to education. Basic education was provided free of charge, and State support for secondary and tertiary education could be obtained on merit. The curriculum was holistic, focusing on building a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure society. On the understanding that the rule of law was the key to well-being, the Parliament of Bhutan had enacted legislation to ensure progressive peace and justice, and to encourage the resolution of disputes out of court where possible. Yet challenges to peace, security and the rule of law persisted. The world's parliamentarians must therefore work together to fulfil the common goals of enhancing education for peace.

Mr. S. BRACKE (Belgium) said that, following terrorist attacks in Brussels in 2016, a parliamentary investigation committee had been created. In its report on violent radicalism, the committee had examined the role of school and education, which it had deemed essential for integration and thus for preventing radicalization. Compliance with compulsory education must therefore be followed very strictly. The Belgian Parliament had recently voted to lower the mandatory school age from six to five years. Everyone working in education must learn the signs of radicalization. Home schooling must be monitored. The basic training of religious teachers must be geared towards current social issues. Uniform application of the school curriculum must be monitored to ensure education was in line with the basic values of the State. While freedom of education and religion should not be challenged, security was a basic right for all. Religious education in particular should not lead to isolation, but should be a tool for promoting inclusion. Education should connect all philosophical, ethical and cultural approaches to counteract polarization. Education must be used to develop open mindedness and critical thinking, and to foster a culture of mutual respect, integration and shared community.

Mr. L. NGON-BABA (Central African Republic) said that in the Central African Republic, violence had been ongoing for more than twenty years. The Government had applied to the United Nations Security Council for the lifting of the arms embargo that had been in place against the Central African Republic armed forces since 2013, which left the population undefended against aggression, the burning of villages, killings and other violations of human rights. The Security Council had not, however, lifted the embargo but rather had extended it. Talks had been conducted in Khartoum, culminating in the conclusion of a peace agreement in February 2019.

The Parliament of the Central African Republic was legislating to strengthen the rule of law, and currently had before it a draft electoral code, to ensure fair, free and transparent elections. A bill on local government was also under consideration, in line with the Khartoum peace agreement. Parliament was also involved in public awareness-raising on the need to make peace a constant priority. Efforts were being made to involve the public in parliamentary activities and thereby improve transparency. An inclusive Government had been appointed to ensure the implementation of the peace agreement. International partners had provided invaluable support. The Central African Republic called for further assistance in promoting the principles enshrined in the peace agreement and ensuring its successful implementation. An IPU statement in that regard would be appreciated.

Mr. A. ABDI (Somalia) said that building fair and inclusive societies where the public could participate in the democratic process and make real and positive change, required strong national parliaments. Somalia's Parliament had undertaken a major legislative review, resolved disputes within the Federal Government and overseen the activities of the executive. Parliaments were the cornerstone of lasting peace and preserving the rule of law. Somalia rejected the decision by the United States to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights. Lasting peace would only be achieved in the Middle East through the realization of a two-State solution and Israel's commitment to uphold international law.

Parliaments must take a genuine interest in the activities of their government and raise public awareness about the reality of violence and the importance of peaceful and secure societies. They must enact laws that set standards for education, ensure equal access to education for girls and boys, and prevent the spread of terrorist ideology among young people. The people of Somalia wanted peace, yet had been surrounded by war for decades. Support from the international community would be crucial to restore sustainable peace. Those who lived in peace must do everything in their power to preserve it, for the good of the whole world.

Mr. A. MIRZOYAN (Armenia) said that the role of parliament was not only to adopt laws and policies but also to promote the values of democracy and peace. Women's public participation was crucial to creating lasting peace. The number of female parliamentarians in Armenia had increased significantly. Education, which would form the future generation and instil a sense of citizenship, was a priority for the Armenian Parliament. Positive peace was defined as the absence of structural violence, rather than the absence of any conflict. Armenia's history showed how hate speech could escalate into crimes and genocide. All traces of xenophobia and intolerance had been removed from Armenia's educational materials; spreading hatred through education was not a way to prepare the population for peace. Education could be a long-term investment in the prevention of violent extremism, radicalization, crimes against humanity and genocide. Encouraging cultural and educational exchanges, promoting the arts and fostering relationship-building through new technologies would all contribute to building peace and tolerance.

Mr. O. TINNI (Niger) said that in Niger, efforts were being made to provide quality education in a context of scarce resources and rapid population growth. A sectoral education programme had been devised, to foster investment in education and school infrastructure, and to strengthen curricula and enhance teaching quality, with a view to reaching the target of universal primary education. Parliament was monitoring implementation of the programme. Civic education was also crucial; a law had been enacted on educating young people to become responsible citizens by fostering a spirit of acceptance of difference and mutual respect, thereby making the future generation drivers of peace.

Terrorist networks, such as Boko Haram, operated close to Niger. Parliament was running awareness-raising campaigns across Niger to increase cooperation with the security forces and thus, without violating the principle of the separation of powers, was playing an active role preventing the outbreak of wider violent conflict, which terrorists sought to provoke. When unrest in a country was increasing, parliaments should rethink their role and heighten their involvement in conflict resolution. Every effort was being made to improve the sense of unity in Niger, defend the country's borders and improve the standard of living for the population.

Mr. K. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka) said that parliaments were an appropriate platform for promoting education to enhance peace, security and the rule of law. Strengthening democratic governance and accountability was crucial to address violent extremism. Sri Lanka had long advocated for universal access to education. Education was free of charge, and was compulsory for children aged 5 to 16 years. Peace could only be established on the basis of moral and intellectual solidarity. The rule of law must be furthered through education. A lawful society required a belief that the law provided a fair and just response to the needs of the population and implied that the population had equal access to the justice system. It also presupposed interaction between the government and the people, whereby the government obtained public trust by demonstrating commitment to respecting human rights. The IPU should work with partner organizations to formulate specific tools for parliamentarians to help them promote those values for the benefit of all, and help them to gain voters' confidence. Parliaments had a duty to foster peaceful, just and prosperous societies for future generations.

Mr. N. PREA (Seychelles) said that the Parliament of the Seychelles was enhancing democracy by strengthening national institutions and promoting the rule of law. A fair and inclusive society must be built, in which everyone contributed to the democratic process. In the Seychelles, which was a melting pot of cultures, focus was placed on ensuring free, accessible and good quality education for all. Basic education was free of charge for all citizens in the Seychelles, without discrimination. The care and support mechanisms for children nurtured their cognitive, emotional and social development, making them responsible, peace-loving citizens.

Legislation had been enacted to foster an inclusive society, in which the universally shared values of peace, freedom, equality and human dignity were promoted. Several measures had been taken to enable girls to complete their education. The education system was building a generation

prepared to cope with contemporary challenges, such as the impact of climate change, the use of IT and the development of trade. Consideration was being given to how to update the school curricula, and programmes were being put in place to encourage students to interact with Parliament.

Mr. K. LUSAKA (Kenya) said that parliamentarians must foster education that would contribute to peace by building public trust, changing attitudes towards violence, and developing skills for building sustainable livelihoods. The Parliament of Kenya had enacted legislation on the provision of compulsory, free basic education for all, and ensured that adequate budgetary resources were allocated to the education sector. National dialogues and public parliamentary hearings were held to engage the public in parliamentary activities related to education for peace, security and the rule of law.

Civil society was a valuable partner for parliament in ensuring the flow of information, especially to people in remote areas. The media also helped to disseminate information from parliament to the public; democratic oversight could only be effective if the public was aware of major issues open for debate at parliamentary level. In that regard, the Kenyan Parliament had established a broadcasting unit for facilitating ease of access to information. By building parliamentary networks at the subregional and regional levels, parliaments could give far-reaching impact to their activities. They must ensure that education programmes were not hampered by conflict, and were used to foster economic and social development, to build a better society for all.

Mr. A.B. SARAHI (Nigeria) said that the most successful nations prioritized the education of their citizens and placed education high on the list of priorities for government spending. In Nigeria, much remained to be done: budget allocations for education fell well short of international recommendations and development was under serious threat from terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram. Yet, where opportunities were provided for citizens to be educated, there was peace. Nigeria's population was projected to increase significantly in the coming 10 years. Education would be the key to delivering a sustainable future for the large youth population and a viable society for all.

Efforts were being made to enhance peace by providing de-radicalization programmes—which included a strong education component—for former militants. A Presidential amnesty programme for former Niger Delta militants included free tertiary education. Legislation had been enacted guaranteeing free compulsory education for all Nigerians up to secondary level, and budget allocations for education had been increase. Steps had been taken to include agricultural colleges in tertiary education funding schemes and to enhance efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against girls in education. Legislative measures had also been taken to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons and reintegrate their children into education. Sustainable democracy was essential to guarantee the rule of law and foster economic development, as guarantees of peace and stability. Education for all was therefore a necessity, not a choice.

Mr. A.N. AMARAL (Timor Leste) said that all education programmes should be underpinned by respect for difference and diversity as part of the human experience. Schools and teachers were key players in ensuring that human rights were known and respected. Education was not, however, confined to schools; it was a life-long learning process. Political participation and transparency in governance were essential to strengthening citizenship and ensuring the rule of law. Parliaments must therefore ensure transparency in their legislative processes by publishing information, making data available and holding open discussions on proposed bills. An open and transparent parliament fostered understanding, tolerance and respect. Steps were therefore being taken to increase the transparency of parliamentary processes in Timor Leste and encourage public participation. Under the national development plan, pre-school education facilities would be made available to all. Particular efforts were being made to encourage those living in poverty or in remote areas, and vulnerable groups, such as ethnic or linguistic minorities, young mothers and working children, to attend school and thereby become contributors to social and economic development and the rebuilding of peace.

The sitting rose at 1.20 p.m.

Sitting of Monday, 8 April (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Ms. R. Kavakci Kan (Turkey), Vice-President of the Assembly in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. I. FLORES (Chile) said that peace, security and the rule of law were under threat as a result of continuous human rights violations, conflicts, terrorism, environmental degradation and other destructive phenomena. The situation was causing millions of deaths, producing mass migration and undermining socioeconomic development. Education was the only way to overcome those phenomena, as they were caused by ignorance, prejudice, intolerance and aggression. States had a duty to ensure that education for peace, security and the rule of law was taught and practised at all levels of the education system. Doing so would foster plurality, understanding, dialogue and peaceful coexistence. It would also encourage citizens to participate in collective life and thus promote sustainable development. The end result would be the creation of more successful democracies with stronger political and legal institutions that left no one behind. Members of Parliament had a tremendous responsibility to support such efforts.

Mr. H. BENCHAMACH (Morocco) said that the international community had a collective responsibility to combat radicalism, intolerance and violence. However, it was not enough to do so by military or financial means alone. Education was also necessary. Violence came from ignorance, exclusion and marginalization. It also arose when major powers imposed their own agenda onto smaller nations, such as Palestine. By introducing education for peace, countries would promote universal human values, including responsible citizenship and tolerance, while also combatting hatred and xenophobia. Dialogue was the best way to achieve peace and security. The world's major religions must learn to understand each other, communicate and exchange ideas. It was particularly important to focus on education for women and girls. The IPU should draw up its own action plan on education for peace.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that parliaments were platforms for different opinions. They were therefore particularly well placed to promote education for peace, as long as they were truly representative. Peace, security and the rule of law were preconditions for sustainable development. Education should address the root causes of conflict, such as inequality, competition for natural resources, and unemployment. It must also facilitate social and economic justice. Africa had many natural resources yet was stricken by poverty. Its focus should be on education that enhanced innovation and technology, promoted value-addition and generally fostered economic development.

Under its *Growth at Home* strategy, Namibia provided free primary- and secondary-school education and supported university students from low-income families. Recently, the Namibian Parliament had also run a workshop on cultural diversity and political tolerance, aiming to integrate a culture of peace into the legislative process. Similarly, the country had set up parliaments for children and young people to instil democratic values in people at a young age.

Mr. D. DAS NEVES (Sao Tome and Principe) said that education was key to promoting peace, security and the rule of law. However, it must be inclusive, comprehensive, fair and high-quality. Citizens must learn to understand different perspectives and adopt a culture of peace. Education must be conducive to sustainable development. Peace and democracy were closely related. Constitutional reforms were therefore necessary to promote participative democracy and foster social and political dialogue in parliament. Parliaments would then be more effective in advancing education for peace, security and the rule of law. Countries must allocate more resources to education.

Mr. A. QAISER (Pakistan) said that education for peace, security and the rule of law was the substratum of just, inclusive and peaceful societies. However, the concepts of "rule of law" and "culture of lawfulness" were complex and socio-politically situated. They should be clarified and defined.

Peaceful societies could be created through education policies that were globally suitable and locally administrable. Parliamentarians had a powerful role to play in formulating those policies. It was impossible to reach the desired level of human security, economic prosperity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability in the context of exclusionary governance and fragile statehood. Free and compulsory education could make a powerful difference in that regard. Parliaments must exercise oversight to ensure that school curricula promoted peace and tolerance, and also fulfilled societal needs. It was important to allocate sufficient resources to the matter.

Pakistan strived to engage with the world on the basis of equality and respect. It sought resolution of conflicts and convergence of interests. Dialogue was therefore crucial. A new international consensus was needed on peace, security and development that cherished global diversity, promoted respect, upheld shared values and supported vulnerable people.

Mr. E.A. CASTILLO (Latin American and Caribbean Parliament—PARLATINO) said that PARLATINO had established nine institutional principles that aimed to promote peace, security and the rule of law. The principles featured in its institutionalization treaty, on which all PARLATINO activities were based. To guide its activities on education, PARLATINO used resources, including UNESCO declarations and reports from organizations such as the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century. PARLATINO's functions included debating all relevant issues, developing new regional laws and monitoring the work of national parliaments. Since its establishment, PARLATINO had worked extensively on culture, education, science, technology and communication. It had recently organized a number of conferences, including regional seminars on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without good-quality education, development could not be achieved. If children were to assimilate knowledge, factors such as health and food must also be considered. Governments were not investing enough in education.

Mr. A.C. BUNDU (Sierra Leone) said that parliaments were platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law, but also to strengthen democracy and sustainable development. That was especially true for Sierra Leone, whose parliamentary history had been difficult since regaining independence. Its institutions had been debilitated by inefficiency, inaccessibility and disempowerment after experiencing a one-party system, followed by a military interregnum and a decade-long civil war. However, in 1996, the country had reverted back to a multiparty parliamentary democracy, establishing the rule of law, restoring the constitution and making its Parliament supreme. Those events had been made possible by the military leader at the time who had led the process of restoring constitutionality. That military leader was now the President of Sierra Leone. At the top of his priorities was education, including science, vocational, girls' and adult education, particularly for the underprivileged. The President had allocated 21 per cent of GDP to education.

Mr. T. JOMO SANGA (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that the legacy of British colonialism could still be felt in his country 40 years after regaining independence. At the time of independence, underdevelopment was rife. There were only two secondary schools, a functional illiteracy rate of over 50 per cent and an agricultural economy. As a result, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had been fighting for reparations from the colonizing powers that would be used to fund educational development. He encouraged the IPU to support his country's efforts. Peace, security and the rule of law were unattainable without justice and development.

The Caribbean had been a region of peace for 40 years and wished to remain so. However, peace in the region was threatened by events in Venezuela. It was vital to prevent powerful countries from sabotaging weaker ones and to enforce the principles of non-interference and self-determination. Countries must do more than just make great speeches on the topic. They must take action, including through education for peace, security and the rule of law.

Mr. C. CASSAMA (Guinea-Bissau) said that the world was facing a struggle for security and human rights. Global security was built on national, sub-regional and regional security. National institutions must therefore be responsible for building more secure and law-abiding societies. Parliaments should exercise their legislative and oversight functions in that regard, particularly on education. They must make sure that enough funds were allocated to education and that education policy was well implemented. Lack of investment in education and extreme poverty caused people to fall prey to terrorist groups. Parliamentarians must be proactive in addressing challenges such as terrorism, money laundering and human trafficking.

Mr. R. NAILATIKAU EPELI (Fiji) expressed his gratitude for the warm tribute paid to the late Ms. J. Luveni, Fiji's first woman Speaker of Parliament. He commended the Assembly on the topic chosen for the emergency item, *Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai*. The Fijian Parliament had made great efforts to promote education in and out of schools, providing learning opportunities for people of all ages. Education was a daily concern of Fijians. Making progress towards the SDGs, including on education, would improve lives.

Ms. A. BOURAN (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean—PAM) said that a lack of education, as well as unemployment, provided extremely fertile ground for radicalization and terrorism. PAM had therefore set up a parliamentary committee on terrorism, the first session of which would be dedicated to youth and education. Her country, Jordan, had incorporated 200,000 Syrian refugee children into its school system and aimed to deter them from being radicalized. Academic institutions must create new education models that guaranteed a peaceful and prosperous future by, for instance, targeting the productive sector. PAM had established an academic platform to facilitate interaction among key higher education and research actors, including economic actors such as the World Bank. Above all, the platform sought to anticipate future problems that young people could face. PAM was doing its utmost to ensure that its youth remained in the region, where their talents and contribution were needed.

Mr. B. CHAMBERS (Liberia) said that it was an existential necessity for parliaments to be used as platforms for the enhancement of peace, security and the rule of law. Parliamentarians must adopt values such as honesty, transparency and compassion. The driving force behind peace, security and the rule of law was constructive education. Constructive education would help combat hurdles to peace, such as inequality and injustice. Liberia had enshrined the right to education in its Constitution so as to provide mass education and eliminate illiteracy. Primary schools and public colleges were therefore free of charge. Without education the world would remain in chaos.

Ms. B.-M. GAVRILIȚĂ (Romania) said that it was important to invest in education to boost economic development. Parliaments should be platforms for enhancing the effectiveness of the education system, which must respond to society's needs. The education system must strengthen critical thinking, promote cultural diversity and keep up with technological progress. Parliaments must communicate with citizens via the internet, including on social media platforms. The Parliament of Romania had enhanced its own education system in a number of ways. For instance, it had set up a national agency to promote gender parity in education and employment. It was also assisting vulnerable groups so that they could access education and social welfare.

Mr. A. BODRY (Luxembourg) said that parliaments had a key responsibility to promote education for the rule of law. The rule of law was the basis for fair, inclusive and peaceful societies, but was currently fragile and vulnerable. It must be developed and implemented on the basis of two criteria. First, countries must domesticate international laws, thereby creating a single and coherent body of legislation. It was particularly important to incorporate international laws that promoted human dignity, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Second, the rule of law must be based on a separation of powers, with an independent judiciary and the capacity for independent oversight. Education should help citizens to understand, accept and respect the law. It was better to adopt fewer laws that were simple and easy to understand than to adopt many laws. Citizens should be engaged in the legislative process. For example, Luxembourg had involved citizens in the development of its new Constitution through broad consultations, awareness-raising campaigns and a referendum. Civic education was not just for young people but for all citizens throughout their lives. Formal rights enshrined in law must be respected and enforced in practice. Legislators and educators must embody the values that they preached in order to be credible.

Ms. Y. SHEN (China) said that parliaments had a duty to promote peace and should do so in a number of ways. First, they must promote win-win cooperation by joining forces to address problems. Second, they must champion friendship between peoples, mutual learning, inclusiveness and respect for cultural diversity. Third, to enhance fairness and justice, parliaments must advocate for the rule of law, including by observing international law. China's Belt and Road Initiative was an example of a project that sought to build a community with shared values. The Initiative had helped participating countries to accelerate their own development through consultation and cooperation.

China had adopted a people-centred philosophy and a peaceful approach to development. The country's aspirations included modernizing its governance system and fostering growth that was higher-quality, fairer, more efficient and more sustainable. China was also opening up more to the world, as evidenced by its new foreign investment law.

Mr. P.T.C. GALLAGHER (Ireland) said that parliaments had a duty to ensure that education systems addressed the needs of young people. Ireland's history had shown that education was a way out of poverty, discontent and violence. Ireland had introduced a number of education policies that had placed Irish people at the forefront of academia, entrepreneurship and technological innovation. Among those policies were free post-primary education and the abolition of university fees. An action plan for disadvantaged students was also in place to give them better access to higher education. The country's national strategy on education for sustainable development sought to create informed and active citizens and to equip learners with the necessary skills and values to empower them throughout their lives. The country's recent reform of the post-primary junior cycle espoused the SDGs by moving from a content-based curriculum to one based on skills. Key skills underpinning educational reform included learning to work with others, respecting difference, developing good relationships, dealing with conflict and making the world a better place. Ireland also sought to become internationally recognized for the highest quality education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that parliaments should empower future generations. Enhancing education for peace, security and the rule of law was therefore crucial. However, talking was not enough. Parliaments must work towards full implementation, and the work must begin at home. Countries should combat the causes of displacement, such as inequality and climate change. They should stop exporting arms to governments that incited wars or violated human rights. They must also harness the power of education and engage in dialogue and cooperation. Human dignity applied to everyone and should be a guiding principle in all parliamentary work.

Mr. G. VAREMENOS (Greece) said that the historic agreement between Greece and North Macedonia showed that parliaments could work together for peace and security even under difficult circumstances. The Hellenic Parliament had worked on many initiatives to enhance peace. For instance, it was helping to accommodate thousands of migrants and refugees, especially from Arab countries, including Syria. It also organized memorial events (such as the Peace Marathon March) for peace movements of the past to remember those who had died. It was important that parliaments did not become bureaucracies, distanced from the interests of the people.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that it was vital to act to enhance peace and not simply talk about it. The Palestinian people had suffered for 70 years as a result of the illegal Israeli occupation. The Israelis were establishing settlements, inflicting human rights violations and attempting to change the demographic, historical and religious characteristics of Palestinian territories. The attitude of the administration of the United States of America had further exacerbated the situation. It was imperative to denounce the practices of the Israeli Government and recognize the right of Palestinians to return to their land. International law must be respected for peace and security to last.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that the recent terrorist attack in New Zealand had highlighted the importance of promoting peace and security in the modern world. Good-quality education was one of the most effective ways to achieve that. Part of the New Zealand curriculum sought to instil certain values in students, such as respect, diversity and equity. However, real change meant going deeper. Parliaments must provide support to those sections of the population that were most vulnerable. New Zealand had introduced many policies that improved access to good-quality primary, secondary and post-secondary education, especially for young women and marginalized communities, such as the Māori and Pasifika populations. Initiatives to implement those policies included Tai Wānanga, a secondary school with a uniquely Māori environment, and a Pasifika education plan. Parliaments could play a significant role in promoting peace, security and the rule of law. They must lead by example by promoting cultural diversity, gender balance, transparency and citizen engagement within parliamentary institutions themselves.

Mr. A. LINS (Brazil) said that Brazil had many success stories regarding education for peace, security and the rule of law. Under the Brazilian model, education was a right for all without discrimination, but also a responsibility of the State, families and society as a whole. The country had introduced many education laws, including one that provided for a teachers' wage threshold, and another on including people with disabilities in schools. Brazil was also ensuring that education reached the indigenous people of the Amazon. That required a special focus by individuals, the State and religious entities. In that context, Brazil would be contributing at the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region in October 2019. The discussions would reflect on ways in which the Church could integrate people in the region, including through education. It was through education that countries could build a fairer, more inclusive and more peaceful society.

Ms. A. LINDESTAM (Sweden) said that education led to more peaceful and prosperous societies by laying the foundation for employment and preventing discrimination and exclusion. In Sweden, quality, equity and accessibility were the cornerstones of the education system. It was compulsory for all children aged between seven and sixteen to attend school. Gender-focused pedagogy was common: it aimed to reduce gender stereotypes and provide equal opportunities for girls and boys. Children with disabilities had the choice of attending a regular compulsory school or a special school. The country had also made impressive efforts to provide equal education to immigrant children, although more work was needed in that area. Recruitment for higher education was broad and relatively independent of social background. Universities were located throughout the country and distance learning allowed for more flexibility. There was a generous financial support system for students. Similarly, education for pupils with disabilities and adult education was free of charge. Sweden was also a strong supporter of international exchange. Education was a human right for all regardless of gender, family situation or any other factor. Democratic values should be at the heart of all education.

Ms. A. Lindestam (Sweden), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. S. PON (Myanmar) said that Myanmar had recently developed its National Education Strategic Plan for 2016–2021. The Plan was a comprehensive, widely owned and evidence-based roadmap intended to reform the entire education sector. Myanmar would cooperate internationally to implement the Plan. For example, it would work with the European Union to ensure better access to secondary education as well as to technical and vocational training. With the help of other development partners, the Parliament had already undergone capacity-building programmes designed to improve its performance in promoting democracy.

Education had been identified as one of the key drivers of Myanmar's democratic and peacebuilding process, and its sustainable development objectives. The country had progressed its education policy in a number of ways. For example, it had developed programmes for children with mental and physical disabilities, children living in poverty and children from remote areas. It had also approved a national education law that laid the foundation for a wide range of educational reforms. Those reforms included recognizing the right to free, compulsory primary education, establishing a standards-based quality assurance system and ensuring greater decentralization within the education system.

Ms. R. MYLLER (Finland) said that parliamentarians must put human rights before their quest to win elections or risk compromising the rule of law. Building tall towers in society was impossible without a solid foundation—the rule of law.

Education was a human right but also the bedrock of societal well-being. Finland had made the transition from a poor agrarian society to a modern welfare state due to heavy investments in education. Free education, including at university level, had been the strongest factor in guaranteeing equal opportunities. A strong school system was also crucial, since it gave everyone a chance to pursue higher education. Gender equality, including in education, was one of the cornerstones of Finnish society. In 2017, 58 per cent of university graduates were women. Discussions had intensified about how to keep boys motivated in school. Better education would give people the tools to think critically, including in local or global politics, and so acquire a sense of shared responsibility for global problems.

Mr. S. SUZUKI (Japan) said that education was the cornerstone of international peace, security, well-being and prosperity. States must look at the past, present and future to define the direction of education. The Japanese Constitution enshrined the right to equal education. It also set out a number of guiding principles, such as pacifism and popular sovereignty, which shaped the country's education policy. The aim of education should be to develop peaceful and democratic societies. Japan was doing a great deal for education. For instance, it had introduced a financial support system for senior high school students and was currently deliberating free pre-school education. The country was adapting to accommodate vulnerable people, such as those affected by poverty, famine, conflict and disasters. Other priorities included developing human resources for science and technology, and enhancing regional and international educational cooperation. Parliamentarians must come together to improve education.

Mr. E.A. LUVSANTSEREN (Mongolia) said that Mongolia's vision for sustainable development particularly emphasized education. By focusing on education, Mongolia hoped to develop its citizens' skills, create a knowledge-based society and foster inclusive growth. Over the years, Mongolia had attained one of the highest levels of human development due to its emphasis on education. Education

was needed to teach citizens the rule of law and so create a just society. Mongolia had therefore adopted a national programme to improve legal education. He invited parliaments to Ulaanbaatar to attend the Second Regional Seminar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, where there would be further discussions on the topic.

Mr. A.T. CORREIA (Cabo Verde) said that education, if well designed, had the potential to advance peace, security and the rule of law. Above all, it could empower people to participate in the democratic process, exercise their rights and fulfil their obligations in society. Parliamentarians should play a major role in enhancing citizenship and democracy education, for instance, by defining education strategies that drove good attitudes and behaviours. However, their most important task was to ensure that their own behaviour reflected that of an educator for peace. They must promote peaceful ideas in their speeches and put those ideas into practice. They must exercise their oversight, legislative and representation functions fairly. They must also be open to gender parity. As with any other citizen, parliamentarians should also have access to education opportunities.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that education was the only way to stop the decline of peace, security and the rule of law. However, education must go beyond just a diploma, and instead teach people culture, non-violence and a sense of national and global awareness. It must also continue throughout people's lives. Latvia had developed a joint comprehensive national defence system to promote institutional cooperation and raise educational awareness about concepts such as peace, security and good governance. The country had also introduced a mandatory educational standard to ensure quality. The standard required the curriculum to incorporate peace and security awareness as early as possible. In addition to school teaching, themed camps were also organized covering subjects such as national and global history, culture and foreign policy. Parliament provided citizens with opportunities to attend open parliamentary sessions, listen to live nationwide broadcasts and engage in discussions. Parliamentarians also visited remote areas to raise awareness of educational development. Other initiatives included a youth parliament and the chance to shadow parliamentary staff. Overall, countries must remember that the wealth of a society was its people, especially young people.

Ms. S. LEUDEMOUNSONE (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that her country regarded education as central to human resource development. Under its *Vision2030*, every Lao citizen should enjoy equal access to good-quality education, enabling them to become good citizens and participate in sustainable development. In particular, the country sought to improve secondary education, enhance the quality of teachers, and strengthen education administration and management. Developing physical education was also a priority. Lao's target was to allocate 16 to 17 per cent of its budget to education. Its funding priorities included developing education infrastructure and improving curricula. Lao had also passed many education laws, including a 2015 amendment which redefined the principles, procedures and measures necessary to manage and monitor the education sector. Under the Constitution of 1991, state organizations, civil society and government officials were required to raise awareness of laws among the population. Similarly, the country had set out a plan to develop a legal system that was uniform, coherent, clear, credible, predictable, just, high-quality and accessible. In addition to their law-making function, parliamentarians were also expected to disseminate laws to the public and oversee their implementation by the executive and judiciary. Due to its education policy and laws, Lao was able to enjoy political stability, peace, harmony and increasingly better living standards.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda) said that it was vital not to forget the lessons learned from the Rwandan genocide. Education was the key to not forgetting. The Rwandan Parliament had set up an anti-genocide forum to educate citizens about preventing genocide ideology, denial and revisionism. The Parliament was also involved in the leadership academy that taught values, such as unity and tolerance, to high school students.

To achieve peace and security, efforts were required from a diverse range of actors, including governments and civil society, both nationally and internationally. Those efforts should address the root causes of violence. Every government must support a multilateral system based on inclusiveness, equity, justice and regional cooperation. Parliamentarians should integrate security and development programmes into their legal frameworks and oversight activities. Strengthening alliances with local communities was also crucial.

The Rwandan Parliament was responsible for monitoring a number of constitutional principles, including the eradication of genocide ideology, the promotion of unity and reconciliation, and support for dialogue and consensus. Three values were particularly important: unity, accountability and strategic thinking. She encouraged parliaments around the world to pass laws that prevented genocide ideology, denial and revisionism.

Mr. R.K.B. RAJA AHMAD BAHARUDDIN SHAH (Malaysia) said that Malaysia operated on the basis of five main principles called the *Rukunegara*: belief in god, loyalty to king and country, compliance with the Constitution, the rule of law, and good behaviour and morality. The *Rukunegara* was helping parliamentarians to instil peace, security and the rule of law in Malaysia.

It was crucial to develop a comprehensive and innovative education framework that fostered mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for human dignity. However, parliamentarians must go even further by exerting their influence as politicians, including through the media. Education must be used for the common good rather than for harmful ends such as extremism. While Internet and social media could be useful educational tools, they could equally be misused, for instance, to spread hatred.

The Malaysian Parliament had recently allocated 19 per cent of the country's 2019 budget to education. The funds would be spent on enhancing physical and intellectual development as well as on providing assistance to people living in poverty. Malaysia was in favour of inclusive education available to all. Given that the Palestinian people had been deprived of a good education and were receiving less and less support from their neighbours, the international community must step in. The IPU should help all persecuted minorities deprived of a proper education. Peace was a key principle under Islam.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States—IPA CIS) said that education would allow citizens to find employment and teach them peace, security and the rule of law. It was also the best antidote to terrorism, extremism and radicalism. The Russian Federation had recently allocated US\$12 billion to a national education programme designed to make its education system more competitive, particularly through technological development. The programme prioritised gifted children and children with disabilities. The Russian Federation was also doing a great deal to provide equal access to education for indigenous people. For instance, it had proposed that 2019 be the International Year of Indigenous Languages at the United Nations and set up a foundation to promote indigenous languages. Among other initiatives was a new pilot project between the IPA CIS and Tajikistan under which Russian teachers worked in Tajik schools. Young people had also been involved in efforts to better protect intellectual property, including in education. In addition, there were more than 220,000 foreign students from 93 countries studying in Russian universities. Inter-parliamentary cooperation was very important in efforts to enhance education for peace.

Mr. J.I. ECHÁNIZ (Spain) said that education was a public and private good with the potential to bring long- and short-term benefits to society. An investment in education was an investment in peace, understanding, security and stability. It was also an excellent tool with which to address world challenges. The only way to build a better world was by establishing an education system that taught human rights, peace, tolerance, coexistence, participation, equality, pluralism and respect. Such a system would encourage citizens to embrace other cultures, accept different opinions, work as a team, communicate and trust others. It would also help to fight xenophobia, extremism and violence. Children and young people everywhere must have equal access to adequate schooling. Although parents had a primary responsibility for their children's education, public institutions also had educational responsibilities. It was vital for parliaments to construct education systems that were effective, high-quality, innovative and inclusive. No one should be left behind due to a lack of resources.

Ms. I. PASSADA (Uruguay) said that, first and foremost, parliaments must promote a culture of peace. It was necessary to work with the formal education sector in that regard as well as with other social institutions, such as the family. Children who grew up in a violent household were unlikely to adopt a culture of peace. Education could be transformed towards a culture of peace by introducing appropriate content into the curriculum and using effective teaching methods. However, schools themselves must also transform, including in their goals and organizational structures. It was particularly important for teachers to have good working conditions.

Countries should adopt three objectives with a view to transforming their education systems into frameworks for peace. First, it was crucial to increase the participation of students and the community at large. Second, respect for social and cultural differences should be promoted. Third, education must respond to the specific realities of each society.

The meaning of peace differed from country to country depending on their historical, socioeconomic, temporal and spatial circumstances. However, peace was always based on respect, justice, solidarity and harmony. All forms of violence and destructive rhetoric should be eliminated through education. Furthermore, the only way to achieve peace was collectively rather than individually. Peace was a multidimensional concept that encompassed all aspects of society, including personal, social, ethical, physical, intellectual and biological factors.

Mr. H.N. SINGH (India) said that the Parliament of India had paid great attention to education, which it considered the wealth of the nation. It had enshrined in the Constitution the right to free and compulsory education for children and had increased the 2019 budget allocation for education by 10 per cent. Various schemes and programmes had been introduced to ensure vulnerable children attended mainstream schools. Other measures included virtual learning, which allowed students to take their education home, and scholarships for college and higher education. The country was also focusing on promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including through its *Skill India* project.

Education was not only for children. Teachers must be kept abreast of the latest developments in the education sector. Parliamentarians must also continue their education. The Indian Parliament had set up the Speakers Research Initiative, which made critical knowledge, inputs and expertise available to members of parliament who could then use it in their work. Social media companies must be held accountable for misuse of their platforms.

Gender must be mainstreamed into all government policies and programmes. India had introduced the *Save Girl Child, Educate Girl Child* scheme, which aimed to empower women throughout their lives. Parliamentarians must ensure that the benefits of modern education trickled down to all sectors of the population, especially marginalized and vulnerable people, such as minorities and women.

The sitting rose at 6.40 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 9 April (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.35 a.m. with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada) said that the IPU had come a long way on human rights in the past forty years. Parliamentarians had fought hard for the rights of women, including for their right to vote and to own property. The number of women parliamentarians participating in IPU Assemblies had dramatically increased thanks to IPU rules, which showed that change was not dependent on good will alone but at times required pressure. Parliamentarians had also fought for the rights of indigenous minorities. Canada was currently undergoing a long and painful process of reconciliation with its indigenous peoples, and had also taken initiatives to increase the participation of young people in politics. Although the IPU should be proud of its achievements, much remained to be done. Human rights were universal and it was vital to extend human rights to all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Canada had made great progress on human rights and hoped that the rights recognized nationally would also be recognized internationally.

Mr. K. CHRISTIANSEN (Denmark) said that investing in education was an investment in a better future. The State had a responsibility to provide high-quality education for all citizens. Investing in education would not only create smarter people, but also give them the tools to be active in political life. It would help to build more peaceful, democratic and prosperous societies. An educated population was a precondition for the achievement of many of the SDGs. However, many countries had a long way to go. Almost one quarter of women from developing countries aged between 15 and 24 had never completed primary school, due not only to a lack of resources but also to gender discrimination and an absence of political will. Denmark tried to encourage young students to be active citizens. Every two years, the Danish Parliament organized school elections, with almost 80,000 young students taking part. Students organized campaigns, took part in political debates and voted in elections at real polling stations, with the results broadcast on national television.

Ms. R.A.S. ABOURAS (Libya) said that her country had seen a decline in its security and economic situation but hoped to achieve stability again soon. It was vital to ensure that education acted as a vector for peace and security. Libya offered its full cooperation in resolving many of the world's problems. The IPU should put pressure on parliaments and governments to end the suffering in Libya as well as in other countries worldwide. There was a vital need for legislation banning proxy wars, a mercenary culture and human trafficking. The Libyan people deserved to live in dignity and a democratic society.

Ms. I. OLIVEIRA VALENTE (Angola) said that peace, security and the rule of law were key to building prosperous nations. After four decades of armed conflict, Angola had initiated a peace process that had helped to rebuild the political, economic and social infrastructure of the country. Peace had been achieved in Angola thanks to a commitment to non-partisanship and a power-sharing arrangement that had paved the way for a plural and inclusive democracy. Key measures taken by Angola included conducting debates and passing legislation that promoted peace, unity and plurality. A women's group had also been created, which discussed gender issues in a non-partisan way. Parliaments must promote education for peace, equality, liberty and social solidarity. However, that was only possible with strong, inclusive institutions that respected the rule of law. Education policies were important for stability and development, but they could only be put into practice with sufficient human, material, technical and financial resources.

Mr. R. LOPATKA (Austria) said that education was a human right that could help solve many of the world's problems, including by improving standards of living and shaping mindsets. The Parliament of Austria was promoting an understanding of democracy and an interest in politics among children

and young people. Austria was the first country in the world to lower the voting age from 18 to 16. It also ranked high among the countries with the highest numbers of young parliamentarians under 30. Biannual youth parliaments were organized for students and apprentices and a democracy workshop had been set up to teach children about politics and law-making. Around 100,000 young people had taken part in the workshop over the past 12 years, with one million more involved via an online platform. A collection of Austria's best practices on education would be presented at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Vienna in 2020.

Mr. M. SAIDANE (Tunisia) said that education was vital to sustainable development, peace, security and the rule of law. It was thanks to education that Tunisia had built state institutions and instigated an economic and social renaissance. Given its lack of natural resources, the country had invested in education to accelerate progress. Since the 2011 revolution, many important political reforms had also been put in place, including a new constitution that enshrined the right to free public education. The new constitution sought to develop youth capacities to their optimal potential and thereby encourage young people to contribute to social, economic, cultural and political development. Not only did education help to achieve sustainable development but also to protect the country against threats such as terrorism. Furthermore, education could instil positive values in children and young people such as tolerance and openness. It was the duty of parliamentarians to be a force for action towards good education systems.

Mr. K. WASINONDH (Thailand) said that his country had been focusing its efforts on sustainable development, aiming to create people-centred communities that left no one behind. For example, it had been assigned the role of coordinator on sustainable development cooperation for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Thailand was guided by the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), which was a holistic, people-centred approach to sustainability promoting lifelong learning as a means of transforming society. Thailand had incorporated SEP into its national education strategies and plans, and set up more than 21,000 SEP-guided schools and learning centres. Parliament had also passed several laws seeking to build an inclusive and decent education system. For example, the Equitable Education Act had set up a fund to support marginalized young people regardless of nationality. Another bill had established a new ministry for higher education, science, research and development and innovation. Education was one of the most powerful vehicles for attaining the SDGs.

Mr. A. PAGANO (Italy) said that there was a strong link between peace and freedom. The harshest conflicts were those that destroyed freedom, including inner freedom and religious freedom. Modern totalitarian regimes sought to take away the inner freedom of their citizens by depriving them of their right to self-determination. However, a person without self-determination lost their inner peace, which, in turn, led to the breakdown of peace in society. Inner freedom was also compromised when powerful countries imposed economic rules on others for their own gain. Similarly, religious freedom was under threat from radical secularism and religious fundamentalism. Denial of religious freedom disrespected the individual and thus generated conflict.

Overall, freedom and peace were at risk when those in dominant positions controlled others, whether militarily, politically, financially or culturally. Currently, many people around the world were experiencing a loss of freedom because of outside interference. Certain countries were attempting to destroy other cultural identities by creating a unified globalist ideology. However, peace could only be achieved by defending one's own culture, history and right to self-determination. There was no single, one-size-fits-all solution to the evils of the world. The spirit of war always emerged when human rights were violated.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIÈRE (France) said that education for all was the solution to conflict, intolerance and violence. It should therefore be a priority for the international community. Education should also be at the heart of international solidarity. By working together to improve education, countries could resolve global problems such as terrorism and climate change. Indeed, terrorism was born out of misinformation, which in turn resulted from a lack of education. Similarly, the change in production and consumption patterns needed to reverse climate change could only be achieved through education. It was through education that the 16-year-old climate activist, Greta Thunberg, had been able to mobilize her campaigns.

Against that backdrop, France had decided to increase its development aid by 50 per cent, much of which would be allocated to girls' education. Doing so was necessary since more than half of the world's population was struggling to access education, with women particularly affected.

Sustainable development should be a key pillar of all efforts to improve education and training. However, it was not enough to simply raise awareness of the need for education; concrete action was needed. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to implement SDG 4 on education as well as the other SDGs.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that democracy was not a given, but an ongoing exercise that needed defending. Parliamentarians must therefore promote initiatives to enhance understanding, peace, tolerance, respect for institutional frameworks and human rights. In recent times, democracy had come under attack, either in the form of violence or in more subtle forms. The uneven distribution of wealth and related social inequities was a subtle trend that undermined democracy. There was an urgent need for a global pact that rejected conflict and embraced differences. All those involved in international affairs must be willing to give up a small amount of their power in favour of cooperation and solidarity.

The Parliament of San Marino had taken many initiatives to defend democratic values, including unanimously approving a national day for citizenship education, which encouraged citizens, and especially young people, to instigate change and shape their own future. The country had ratified the Paris Agreement and developed a series of projects to reduce emissions and protect biodiversity. A law on civil unions had been passed to improve the rights of same-sex couples. There were also frequent debates on the importance of implementing the rights of persons with disabilities. Despite progress, much remained to be done to promote education for peace, security and the rule of law.

Ms. B.M. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana) said that parliaments were responsible for providing accessible and quality education to all citizens. Since gaining independence in 1966, education had become a tool for empowerment and liberation in Botswana. Its leaders envisioned an education system that unified the population, promoted social harmony and maintained a peaceful coexistence. Some of the measures introduced included free formal schooling and assistance in the form of loans and grants for students in tertiary education. Several national plans aligned to SDG 4 had also been developed. For many years, the Parliament of Botswana had been allocating the largest share of the budget to education. The aim was to ensure improved access, better infrastructure and a dynamic curriculum that responded to current and future demands. Educating voters was also key. A number of laws had been passed to ensure access to quality education. It was not possible to attain global peace if individual governments were not willing to invest in it. The transformation to knowledge-based societies would be impossible without peaceful coexistence. The failure to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law suggested that the efforts of legislators were far from enough.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) said that, between 1975 and 1979, the dictatorial Khmer Rouge had ruled Cambodia. Despite being well-educated, the leaders had practised a doctrine of suspicion, mistrust, hatred, prejudice and revenge. They had killed millions of people and subjected them to starvation, hard labour and torture, while also destroying the education system. However, the Cambodian people had fought back, later installing a new government committed to the safety and happiness of its people, and Cambodia was currently a country of peace, political stability, security, democracy and the rule of law.

SDG 4 stressed the link between education and peace. Enrolment in schools had increased dramatically, with widespread peace and security, fair wages, good transportation systems and a decent curriculum. In Cambodia, students of different nationalities, religions, backgrounds and genders enjoyed equal treatment from the authorities. The 2019 budget for education had increased fourfold.

Parliaments must take the lead in promoting respect. It was important not to be suspicious or mistrustful of others just because they followed a different way of life. All countries must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of others.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the attitudes of parliamentarians could influence the behaviours and attitudes of others. As a result, parliamentarians must uphold the values of democracy, peace, security and the rule of law and reject discourses of hatred, violence, radicalism and xenophobia. They must do so through political action. There was also a need to make sure that education programmes invested in the above values. People who were hateful must be punished.

A society with a good education system was a more tolerant society that was less prone to radicalism. Portugal had been successful in education, with school dropout and illiteracy rates falling drastically. Initiatives had been taken to disseminate the values of citizenship and promote a democratic spirit, and a youth parliament had been set up, which involved members of parliament

visiting schools to discuss different topics with students who would then make proposals in parliament. Among the topics discussed were climate change, the Portuguese Constitution and the participation of women in politics. Although Portugal was a country that embraced multiculturalism and respected different ways of thinking, it was always willing to learn how to make improvements.

Mr. J. CHUN (Republic of Korea) said that his country had a long history of foreign invasions, colonial rule and war. However, after a series of people's revolutions, citizens had re-established civil liberties, human rights and democracy. The National Assembly had played a crucial role, for example by holding parliamentary hearings to investigate crimes and human rights violations. It continued to build on those achievements today.

One important way to preserve peace, security and the rule of law was through proper and equal education that was available to all without discrimination. Education had been the driving force behind rapid economic growth and the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in the Republic of Korea. Students were required to study history, which taught them about the painful consequences of war. Similarly, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea had been teaching democratic values, such as human rights, to the public sector and civil society. The country had also passed several laws that promoted education for peace. They included the Unification Education Support Act, which sought to cultivate national identity and raise awareness of the need for the unification of the Korean Peninsula.

Many children and young people in the world did not have access to education, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens in least developed countries. The international community must work together to support them.

The sitting rose at 1.15 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 9 April (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud (Qatar), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law* (A/140/3-Inf.1)

Resumption of the debate

Mr. S. RAKHMANOV (Belarus) said that the successes achieved by his country were attributable to its education system, which had been developed in close cooperation with international organizations. In its own region, Belarus in fact led the field in education, which lasted on average for a period that would eventually be increased from 12 to 16 years. The majority of children attended kindergarten, while preschool enrolment was almost universal. Education was inclusive, free of charge and delivered by professionally qualified teachers, with positive results.

Belarus also ranked highly in the areas of information and communication technology, artificial intelligence and augmented reality. It furthermore had one of the world's largest pharmaceutical industries, manufacturing and supplying high-quality medicines to third countries, as well as state-of-the-art medical equipment. Belarus cooperated on education with European countries and with the Russian Federation, with which it ran joint academic programmes and exchanges. It stood ready to expand that cooperation to include others.

Ms. D. RATNASARI (Indonesia) said that the alarming rise in racism, intolerance, xenophobia and Islamophobia had underscored the need for quality education to build mutual understanding and deepen empathy towards others. With a view to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, all stakeholders, including parliamentarians and civil society, bore a collective responsibility to cooperate constructively for fulfilment of the right to education.

In Indonesia, that right was guaranteed to all by law, the aim being to instil respect for human rights and diversity, nurture solidarity, and further advance peace, security and the rule of law. Non-formal education, which incorporated local wisdom, was provided for indigenous communities and a curriculum had been developed for peace education from the Islamic and Acehnese perspective. Parliamentarians must ensure that education was designed to foster multiculturalism and build good character. There could be no development without peace and no peace without development. It was therefore vital to understand the interlinkage between SDG 4 and SDG 16, which was to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary) said that human sustainability had a huge impact on the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainability, from which it therefore stood apart. With their thoughts and deeds shaping the environment for future generations, individuals were the driving force behind sustainability. Parliamentarians must therefore focus on ensuring their intellectual, psychological and physical well-being. Creative thinking and responsible behaviour could not be expected from anyone suffering hunger and need, which must be addressed if individuals were to join in working for the achievement of the SDGs.

To that end, Hungary had increased the minimum wage, reduced unemployment and introduced a unique support scheme for disadvantaged families to alleviate financial difficulties. A negative self-image was another impediment to reaching one's full potential. Measures introduced to counter that problem included the provision of daily physical education classes and healthy meals in government institutions. In schools, faith classes were aimed at fostering inner peace, while national traditions and history were taught with a view to strengthening identity and togetherness. A popular scholarship exchange programme had also proved instrumental in helping participants to overcome the fear of others through exposure to different cultures, opinions and perspectives. Parliamentarians must play their part in establishing the conditions needed for peaceful coexistence.

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

Ms. I. DIMIC (Slovenia) said that education was a fundamental human right and promoted awareness of global interdependence, solidarity and the role of the individual. It was also crucial to sustainable development, the prevention of xenophobia, extremism and violence, and the elimination of poverty and inequality. In that knowledge, Slovenia was promoting education and notably so in connection with the rights of the child by way of a low-cost tool it had developed for universal use.

Slovenia was active in a cross-regional grouping involved in supporting human rights education and training. It had also recently adopted a second national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. Its foreign policy activities were focused on advocating a culture of peace, dialogue and respect for human rights and international law, highlighting in particular the role of women and youth in peace and reconciliation processes. Dialogue among young people especially was key to building inter-ethnic and intercultural tolerance, including in the interest of lasting peace in post-conflict areas. Parliamentarians must make the most of the opportunity offered by the IPU for collective involvement and a common insight into possible approaches to the challenges of the future.

Item 9 of the agenda
(continued)

***Call for urgent international action to support
Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai***
(A/140/9-DR)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a draft resolution (A/140/9-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 entitled *Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai*, said that the cyclone disaster was a reminder that the effects of climate change from global warming knew no boundaries and could strike anywhere. All were now aware of the threat and intensity of such disasters and the damage they caused. The draft resolution reflected the general alarm concerning both the crisis in the three countries affected by the cyclone and the potential occurrence of similar disasters elsewhere. In appealing for urgent assistance to help those countries, it was both clear and succinct and merited unanimous support.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

The representative of TURKEY said that his delegation welcomed the resolution but nevertheless wished to express a reservation to preambular paragraph 10 thereof and to operative paragraph 3.

The reservation of the Turkish delegation was noted.

Special segment on education for refugees

The PRESIDENT introduced the guest speakers in the special segment on education for refugees: Mr. A. Aynte, Director, Strategic Partnerships Division, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Mr. A. Baker, a Palestinian refugee and student parliamentarian living in North Amman; Ms. H. Abu Asbah, a Palestinian refugee and student parliamentarian living in Hebron; and Mr. R. Uttamchandani, founder of the Humanity. Education. Rights. Academy (H.E.R. Academy).

Mr. A. AYNTE, *guest speaker*, said that UNRWA provided quasi-State services to over five million refugees scattered across the Middle East. For such victims of protracted displacement, education was the most important harbinger of hope and the surest way out of despair and poverty. UNRWA delivered quality education to over half a million children who, together with their communities, appreciated that service above all else. Many of those who had graduated from UNRWA schools over the decades were leaders in private and public sectors worldwide, with the UNRWA education system recognized globally for its quality and vitality in human development and as an investment in the future of generations of displaced communities.

UNRWA also regularly provided health-care services, including life-saving medical care, to Palestine refugees in its many clinics. Themselves mostly Palestine refugees, the proud and dedicated staff at those clinics worked tirelessly in extremely challenging environments. The approaching seventieth anniversary of the Nakbah, the original forced displacement of Palestinians, was a reminder of the urgent need to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict. As a witness to the historic injustice and plight of Palestine refugees, UNRWA had a responsibility to sound the alarm about the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

Palestinians had long been told to keep faith in the political and diplomatic peace processes, yet no solution was in sight and they meanwhile continued to endure multiple armed conflicts, occupation and a stifling blockade. Their plight was now exacerbated by the lack of political progress, the announcements on Jerusalem and the dramatic funding cuts in 2018 that threatened UNRWA's very ability to implement its mandate. It was thanks to international support and solidarity that UNRWA had nonetheless managed to preserve its education service.

In 2018, it had furthermore launched #DignityIsPriceless, a global fundraising campaign aimed at raising awareness of the plight of Palestine refugees and mobilizing resources in new and innovative ways. It had partnered with countries and institutions to diversify its sources of funding through traditional and non-traditional means, sending a powerful signal to Palestine refugee children that their education was protected and also celebrated. UNRWA students understood implicitly that education was not an act of charity but a fundamental right for all children. It was his honour to introduce two exceptional young leaders who were UNRWA student parliamentarians and who would share their experiences as Palestine refugee children studying at UNRWA schools.

Mr. A. BAKER, *guest speaker*, said that he was a 15-year-old who had been elected by students of UNRWA, which was his home, as a member of the Agency-wide Student Parliament and as president of the UNRWA student parliament in Jordan. He represented the voices and aspirations of some half a million boys and girls studying in hundreds of UNRWA schools in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Gaza and the West Bank. He had also represented his peers at international gatherings, such as the League of Arab States and the United Nations General Assembly. At the present IPU Assembly, he was in fact replacing another member from Gaza who had been unable to leave because of the current situation there. Neither he nor his peers had asked to be refugees. They wanted respect for their skills and determination and wished to contribute to solutions for a better world, with nothing more important to them than continuing their education. Like all other children, they had dreams and hopes. Education was their right and they appealed for help to protect that right.

Ms. H. ABU ASBAH, *guest speaker*, said that she too was a member of the Agency-wide Student Parliament. She was 14 years old and president of the UNWRA student parliament in the West Bank. She came from the womb of suffering in the refugee camps, where the sound of bombs and bullets was commonly heard. She was often woken from sleep by loud knocking and voices asking her father to open the door for a house inspection. Even schools were sometimes raided and checkpoints were a routine part of students' daily journeys to school. The only hope she and her peers had of achieving their dreams and ambitions was the education offered by UNRWA, thanks to which she had become a youth representative and learned about human rights. Realizing that she must advocate for those rights, she had helped her peers and community by way of initiatives and campaigns organized by the school parliaments. UNRWA students did not therefore see themselves as victims but as change-makers. In 2018, they had persistently championed their right to education in the face of the funding crisis, with the result that UNRWA schools had opened as normal in 2019. She called for support to protect the right to education and also the right to peace.

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI, *guest speaker*, said that the outstanding progress achieved in science, engineering, and technology coincided with arguably the worst series of humanitarian crises ever known. Human beings had been sent to the Moon, explored the depths of the solar system and even passed into the realm of interstellar space, yet there were now more displaced people in the world than ever before and more young persons and adults sold into sex or labour trafficking. The concept of world peace was more evocative of an innocent child's dream, rather than of any achievable reality. The struggles with political instability, far-right movements, forced displacement, xenophobia, extremism and violence had moreover reached unprecedented heights.

What had been done to drive great change in the field of education? Education for whom, about what and according to which standards? In developed countries, many children happily had ready access to some of the world's best schools. But in how many of those schools was it mandatory to cover universal human rights in their curricula? In how many classrooms was the value of human life

and dignity discussed? Just as there were courses for science, history and literature, there must also be courses that explored and built strong character, honest values, morals, and basic human decency. That could be classed as real education.

By contrast, hundreds of millions of children had no access to any form of schooling. What had been done for them? How many schools had been created in refugee camps out of the honest desire to make a difference in the lives of those who needed it most? It was through such an honest approach in all communities in need that success would occur in combating xenophobia and gun violence and also in instilling economic growth and development.

It was doubtful whether many individuals had ever promoted basic human morality at their own expense, but clearly everyone had much to work towards. There should be no fear of admitting faults or failures, as the struggles to be and do good were part of the human experience. Nor must any blame be laid. It was a matter of looking at oneself honestly and asking what could be done better and of looking to others in a spirit of friendship and camaraderie.

It was his observation that most statements from parliamentarians were akin to advertisements or infomercials about the merits of their countries or parties. It should be admitted that there was a deep disconnect between politics and reality and between voters and elected officials. Instead of praising and talking about successes and affecting to have resolved the myriad problems facing the human species, it would be preferable to admit freely to errors and be proud about struggles faced in attempting to adopt new programmes. Real joy in fact came from driving genuine grass-roots change from the sweat of one's own brow and the strain on one's own back. To be the change, it was first necessary to experience what needed to be changed. It was time to erase the disconnect, bring back honesty and humanity, and watch the magic unfold.

The PRESIDENT thanked the guest speakers for their important contributions on the subject of education.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law* (A/140/3-Inf.1)

Resumption of the debate

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom) said that to ensure peaceful, secure and law-abiding societies, education must be lifelong and cater to all generations, including older citizens, who were an important resource. For children especially, the core aim of education was to inform and impart the skills needed to cope with an uncertain and ever-changing future in an increasingly multicultural world. In addition to literacy and numeracy, key to building self-respect was the ability to engage in critical thinking and in purposeful debate with empathy and understanding for other viewpoints. As to new technological tools in education, their misuse must be prevented through regulation and legislation developed on the basis of shared experience and good practice and moreover subject to parliamentary oversight of implementation.

Likewise important to enhancing peace, security and the rule of law was language education, which facilitated intercultural exchange, opened minds to new possibilities and built friendship and goodwill. Conflict resolution was best achieved through meaningful dialogue in a common language, which helped to create understanding and trust. With the media also playing their part in educating citizens, media freedom must be robustly defended. Lastly, teacher training and remuneration must be prioritized in policymaking on education, itself a top priority.

Mr. G. Chen (China), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. K. BAYRAMOV (Azerbaijan) said that public spending on education must be generous in order to enhance peace, security and the rule of law and thereby promote democracy and economic development. In Azerbaijan, primary and secondary education was free, compulsory, secular and aimed at instilling national and universal values, in keeping with the relevant international human rights conventions. It was guaranteed to all citizens, without discrimination on any ground, thus ensuring equal opportunities for males and females, including in employment. The national development strategy furthermore envisaged wide-scale measures in education that would ultimately position Azerbaijan among the leaders in the field.

Indeed, the country's second largest budget item was for education, providing material and technical support for improving learning conditions, such as through the construction and renovation of school premises and increased use of advanced information and communication technology. A new higher education fund offered loans to students from low-income families on a fair and transparent basis, with grants also available for study abroad. Peace and security were hampered, however, by the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by a neighbouring State. The hope was for a peaceful resolution of the conflict that would allow the country's youth to have faith in the safety of their future.

Mr. J. HASLER (Liechtenstein) said that investment in quality education provided a high return in the form of more peaceful, happier and fairer societies. Education was important for improving lives in the globalized world, with parliamentarians playing a powerful role to that end through their legislative and budgetary functions. In Liechtenstein, human rights and tolerance featured in the curricula from primary school. Education to enhance peace, security and the rule of law did not stop there, however. The country's youth were successfully encouraged to engage in public life, including through participation in a youth council where they could assume a parliamentary-like role.

Having progressed from being a poor country to one of the world's most industrialized, Liechtenstein was well aware of the crucial importance of education and operated a dual education system that was behind its low youth unemployment rate. Ensuring access to quality inclusive education was also a top priority for the Liechtenstein Development Service, which allocated over one half of its budget to education and vocational training. Recognizing that conflict and inequality drove instability, Liechtenstein had furthermore initiated the Syrian war crime accountability mechanism and a private-public partnership aimed at ending modern slavery and human trafficking. By working together, anything was possible.

Mr. F. MÜRI (Switzerland) said that, in Switzerland, the choice was between an academic education or vocational training, with over two thirds of individuals opting for the latter, as he himself had done. After serving a three-year sales apprenticeship, he had set up his own business to increase his income, but fate had eventually brought him into politics. Clearly, however, whichever path one chose in life, it was essential to earn a living wage and to have the opportunity to move up the ladder. Vocational apprenticeship programmes offered that prospect.

Ms. A.A. SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that education was integral to the Icelandic policy of promoting well-being and equal opportunities for all, irrespective of status. Gender equality had long been a major focus in education and the country's gender gap was consistently ranked as the world's narrowest. Challenges remained nonetheless, with gender stereotyping in education choices contributing to a gender-segregated labour market, the gender pay gap and the imbalance between the sexes with respect to unpaid care and household work. Women were also visibly absent from senior management positions.

Female education and empowerment were strongly associated with democratic development, while the female approach to difficulties and priorities should not be underestimated. Schools had a key role to play by instilling in all children from an early age such values as equality, empathy and respect for others. Strong political will was needed, however, to bring about genuine change towards more equal and better educated societies open to new ideas, such as legislating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive budgeting and measures to combat gender-based violence were also instrumental to achieving gender equality and the ultimate goals of peace, security, economic growth and sustainable development, with no one left behind.

Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. T.P. GUANIPA VILLALOBOS (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the repression of the Venezuelan people at the hands of his country's present regime continued, with fellow members of the National Assembly variously imprisoned, humiliated or forced into exile. The socio-economic crisis was moreover unprecedented and deepening, thanks to rampaging hyperinflation. In a country with the world's largest crude oil reserves and a wealth of other natural resources likewise pillaged by the regime, the education system and health-care services were broken through lack of funding and investment and there were persistent shortages of electricity, water and medicines. Citizens were leaving in their droves. All attempts at dialogue to resolve the situation had failed for lack of political will. Grateful for the global solidarity with its cause, the Venezuelan people would never abandon its legitimate struggle for peace, freedom and stability, which it would continue to wage with dignity to the end.

Mr. J. URUSEMAL (Federated States of Micronesia) said that, as a small island developing State, his country faced additional challenges in educating its youth owing to the remoteness of many of its islands, which were also sparsely populated. Although school enrolment rates were high, the literacy and numeracy skills of students remained exceptionally low, which had eventually been linked to the low performance of teachers as revealed in their certification tests. Programmes had therefore been developed to improve that situation through the provision of additional training and support for first-time teachers, as well as for school administrators. Thanks to the courses organized, both those groups were able to acquire the solid foundation needed for them to pursue successful careers in the classroom or management setting. A second initiative for the benefit of existing teachers consisted of small intensive summer workshops designed to identify and remedy weaknesses in the methods used to teach literacy and numeracy at the primary level.

Mr. S. JARA CRUZ (Mexico) said that his legislature was fighting a decision to end the benefit of public day care for children of working mothers and fathers, which also entailed the loss of jobs and income for child workers. The decision ran counter to the principle of progressive education, including early education, for which the budgetary allocation had already been approved. It was also incompatible with the Mexican Constitution and numerous human rights instruments. Early learning was key to the subsequent contribution of Mexicans to the country's peace, security and the rule of law. The Government should therefore reverse its decision.

Parliamentary efforts to promote educational reform were moreover being impeded by unions. The reform was intended to promote inclusion, peace, non-violence and respect for the human rights enshrined in the Constitution but regrettably not observed. Establishment of the rule of law was furthermore a fundamental priority for the protection of those rights and for sustainable political progress. It called for, among others, a culture of legality, as well as transparency, anti-corruption measures and quality education. It was no coincidence that countries with good education systems also experienced less violence and crime.

Mr. H. IDDRISU (Ghana) said the sayings in Ghana were that if you believed education to be expensive, you should try ignorance; if you educated a man, you educated an individual; and, if you educated a woman, you educated a nation, which had in fact informed the country's gender policy in education. With education as the surest investment in people, it was guaranteed as an equal right under the Ghanaian Constitution. It was furthermore compulsory and free of charge from the basic level up to the senior secondary school level, with the result that school enrolment rates were high. Investment in education would contribute to strengthening respect for the rule of law, promoting gender equality and stimulating economic growth for development. It was an investment in human capital and hence the key to prosperity.

Ms. M. ESPINALES (Nicaragua) said that the fundamental right to education was upheld in Nicaragua, which was aiming to increase the education budget as part of its national development plan. It was also working towards SDG 4, concerning quality education, including by updating teacher training to incorporate the use of technology, improving the educational assessment system, and encouraging sports activities and language learning. A law had recently been enacted to promote dialogue, reconciliation, peace and security, reflecting the desire to build tolerance, unity, solidarity and cooperation. Prisoners were to be released and negotiations for electoral reform were under way.

Expressing solidarity with the Venezuelan parliamentarians from the Bloque de la Patria who were in Doha, she called on the IPU to serve peace and democracy by reviewing its decision concerning their participation in the Assembly. The Venezuelan people were suffering as a result of the economic blockade imposed on its country for political reasons by the United States of America. The important thing was to recognize diversity and work together for a better world, namely, one of peace.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the theme of the debate was timely in the light of the current threats posed to peace by countries with high education levels. Parliaments should rethink their vision and build the architecture for lasting peace, which could not be achieved through education alone. While education constituted a fundamental pillar of peace, there were also geopolitical factors at play. Nor was peace a simple matter of democracy, as it also rested on well-being and provision of the basic needs for a decent life. Education for peace must also go beyond the schoolroom towards promoting a culture of peace in society at large.

Hers was a peace-loving country that sought to strengthen interculturalism, as well as cooperation and mutual understanding among peoples. It advocated diplomacy and dialogue as the optimum means of conflict resolution while reserving its right to defend its sovereignty if attacked. The

decision concerning the participation of members of the Bloque de la Patria in the Assembly must be considered from that perspective. More generally, a new chapter of peace should be started for the sake of all.

Mr. R. HOPKINSON (Suriname) said that Suriname was working hard to align its education with its aspirations by revising Western-based educational content, in place since colonization, to create a system more suited for enabling its citizens to develop their unique talents. With the Constitution ensuring free basic education for all, schools had been established in remote areas and e-learning was being explored as a possibility to increase access. The road map adopted for the implementation of SDG 4 included a focus on vulnerable groups, youth and women. In that context, his Parliament had recently organized a youth debate and established an education fund for children and women.

The achievement of gender equality was another objective, as women's empowerment through equal access to education, resources and opportunities would contribute towards a safe society and economic prosperity, as well as towards peace, security and the rule of law. Measures to combat gender-based violence were also in place to that end. Suriname prided itself on being a peaceful multi-ethnic and multicultural nation of one people and recognized that its security was best guaranteed by promoting peace and investing in development for socio-economic well-being. Endeavours on that score were a responsibility to be shared by all stakeholders in society.

Mr. D.O. GORA (South Sudan) said that, thanks to continued regional and international support, his country was moving towards peace and stability following the signing of a revitalized peace agreement, which had ushered in a transitional period to be followed by free and fair elections. The procedures under way to form a government of national unity were impeded, however, by lack of resources. He therefore called for international assistance to overcome that financial obstacle.

The Transitional National Legislative Assembly meanwhile continued to play a vital legislative role in pursuance of peace and stability. One key problem was the proliferation of small arms, which in remote areas of the country had militarized the traditional practice of cattle raiding and intensified intercommunity violence. Efforts were being made to address such conflicts so as to consolidate peace country-wide. A multi-layered approach had been adopted to repair the social fabric and promote national healing. Its grass-roots component worked with local communities to identify and resolve causes of division and had proved itself as an effective way forward.

Mr. K. KHALIFA (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—UNHCR) said that the many millions of refugees and persons displaced by the ongoing multitude of crises around the world were not mere statistics but individuals, many of them women and children, with tragic stories to tell. In addition to providing protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and returnees, one of the priorities of his Office was to ensure that those individuals had access to education at all levels, including higher education, through scholarship programmes, training and connected learning systems, among others.

Education was a human right and contributed to solutions and post-conflict reconstruction. It provided children with the basic social and life skills needed to secure a job, be active members of their communities and lead a fulfilling life as contributing members of society. Regrettably, however, access to education for refugee children was limited. Those children not only lost their dreams but were also targeted for forced recruitment into armed groups, child labour and sexual exploitation. On a more positive note and with the help of partners, over one million had been supported to access education in 2018 and several thousand education and health facilities had been constructed or renovated since 2012.

Mr. G. SILBERSCHMIDT (World Health Organization—WHO) said that investment in education and health was key to preventing conflicts that created perfect conditions for health system disruption and disease spread. In the context of pandemics, health emergencies and weak health systems, lack of education and training for health workers cost lives and endangered the global economy and security. Without urgent action, the massive projected shortfall in health workers would jeopardize progress towards universal health coverage and attainment of the SDGs, with disastrous implications for public health, well-being and indeed security and social stability. Investment in education for the health workforce would therefore constitute a double investment with high returns.

For its part, WHO was working to establish an academy for accelerating development of the competencies needed to achieve health for all by 2030. Bringing together the best evidence, adult learning science and learning technologies, it would target, among others, WHO staff, researchers, health workers and community organizers in the public and private sectors operating in countries

committed to progressing the health-related SDGs in and beyond the health sector. Parliamentary support would be pivotal to bringing that ambitious initiative to fruition. The voice of parliamentarians was moreover crucial in advocating for increased investment in health and education.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Asian Parliamentary Assembly—APA), highlighting his Assembly's aim of promoting peace in the Asian region, said that peacebuilding was key to strengthening security and the rule of law. It was soft power that must be used to win the battle of ideas, through education, democratic debate and intercultural understanding. Parliaments had a critical role to play in addressing the challenges entailed in that quest, including by fostering interfaith dialogue to enhance tolerance and trust. They must also seek to build the mechanisms for that purpose through education programmes in schools and universities with a view to strengthening peace, security and the rule of law.

Mr. S. BOULE (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) said that quality health care was essential to achieving the aim of enhancing education for peace, security and the rule of law. Learning was difficult or impossible for anyone ill, while a lack of health infrastructure undermined stability and security. The Global Fund invested several billions annually in eligible countries and its programmes had saved millions of lives. In addition to providing a substantial percentage of the international funding used to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, it allocated a further percentage towards building resilient and sustainable health systems through various activities that formed the foundation for the achievement of universal health coverage.

The Global Fund was thus the world's largest multilateral grant funder for those vital needs. Its focus was now turned to ending the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030, in accordance with SDG 3.3. If successful, mortality and incidence rates would be effectively halved as a result of the millions of lives saved and infections averted. Support from parliamentarians would be essential to that achievement.

Ms. F. GIOVANNI (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization—CTBTO) said that although the treaty banning all nuclear testing was not yet in force, the verification system was almost complete and several hundred stations worked round the clock to ensure that no such testing was conducted. CTBTO treasured its long-standing collaboration with the IPU and looked forward to continued cooperation in future, especially in disarmament education. It would be delighted to see the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians involved in the activities of its Youth Group for promoting disarmament and championing peace and multilateralism. Protection of the planet and humanity from the catastrophic consequences of nuclear testing was consistent with the efforts for justice, equity and peace. With nationalism on the rise and competition among the great powers more acute, parliaments were an indispensable voice for good and could lead the way in working for the rapid entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Ms. C. SPARKS (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO) said that her Organization was mandated to lead and coordinate the education-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a wellspring of hope and peace, education was a transformational force that cut across all SDGs. More resources for education meant fewer for war, while an educated people was a peaceful people. Education policies must be inclusive so as to tackle illiteracy and promote the integration of migrants, refugees and displaced persons; gender-responsive so as to empower girls and women; and more supportive of teachers so as to facilitate transmission of the skills and mind sets needed to participate wisely in a globalizing and technology-rich world. The Doha Declaration to emanate from the Assembly would be a valuable contribution towards the achievement of SDG 4.

Ms. P. SCHNOOR (Denmark), commencing the segment reserved for second speakers from delegations, said there was an important link between education, well-being and mental health. To ensure well-being and healthy lives was moreover the crucial aim of SDG 3. In addition to facts and knowledge, quality education must equip students to engage in society and politics, with the courage to speak out. Education developed in young persons a feeling of belonging, empowerment and responsibility to further build democracy, decent lives and well-being. Many of the world's children suffered from mental disorders, half of which began in the early teenage years. Education was a clear indicator of life outcomes and a strong predictor of well-being. As to mental health, it enabled individuals to realize their potential.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) said that Belgium provided free quality education for its three communities and that democracy and citizenship formed an integral part of the curriculum. A potential concern in education was where curricula included "fake" history, with facts distorted or presented in a one-sided manner in order to conceal unpleasant truths. Failure to come to terms with the past, however, was often at the root of long-standing conflicts and hindered their solution. Parliamentarians must therefore work to guarantee the quality of history education so that facts were kept straight and seen from the right perspective, which would help to prevent history from repeating itself.

Ms. M. TRIANTAFYLLOU (Greece) said that peace and security could be established through social justice, development and education for all. Educational policies must therefore be designed with the needs of women, refugees and vulnerable groups in mind. University programmes should also cover subjects ranging from, inter alia, peace, development and environment to counter-terrorism, religious tolerance, citizenship and democratic resilience. Greece was expanding and improving its education and training programmes for refugees and migrants in a bid to provide equal access to education. It had also recently ended the naming conflict with its northern neighbour. It was action, not disagreement, that built trust and peace.

Mr. M. NAKANO (Japan) said that many thousands in Japan had lost their lives to the powerful earthquake and huge tsunami experienced almost a decade earlier. Several thousand schoolchildren in the vicinity of the disaster had fortunately managed to avoid that fate by swiftly escaping to higher ground, as they had been taught to do as part of their evacuation training. The episode perfectly illustrated the importance of education for disaster prevention and had prompted the United Nations General Assembly to designate an annual World Tsunami Awareness Day to raise awareness of the threat posed by tsunamis and promote measures for dealing with tsunami-related disasters. In observance of that occasion, Japan organized related educational and training initiatives for students from around the world, which it hoped would qualify them to lead disaster prevention and mitigation efforts in their own countries.

Mr. C. PROSPERI MANUITT (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his country's National Assembly remained under siege by the so-called "collectivos", while its members remained without pay. In a further worrying development, its Speaker had also been attacked. He called on all participants to express support for the Plurinational Legislative Assembly by condemning all such violence.

Ms. L. MAKUNTS (Armenia) said that, in addition to being a determinant of a more just society, education was an agent of positive change towards an environment more conducive to peace, security and the rule of law. It was the most critical factor in long-term development and sustainable democracy, the most effective response to intolerance, racism and discrimination, and a pivotal driver of reform. An educated society was also the guarantee of greater gender equality and equity. Parliamentarians must therefore remain focused on education, especially as it offered new opportunities for the empowerment of youth as the guarantee of a better life, peace and sustainable security in all countries.

Ms. S. DE CROM (Belgium), commencing the segment reserved for young parliamentarians, said that Belgium faced the challenge of engaging its youth in parliamentary democracy and making them aware of the importance of democracy and the rule of law. Its Parliament had therefore taken the initiative to welcome daily visits from schoolchildren, organize parliamentary simulations for students, and arrange for youngsters to interview its members. Most parliaments neglected the online opportunities to attract youth attention and would therefore benefit from the development of a comprehensive digital strategy for reaching out to youth. She called on anyone wanting to see more young parliamentarians in office simply to vote for them.

Mr. M. BENSOUF (Tunisia) said that young persons were the wealth in which to invest and that their empowerment was the key to development. SDG 4, concerning quality education, was linked with various other SDGs, such as those relating to gender equality, poverty eradication, and peace and justice. That link underscored the important role of parliaments as a platform for promoting education for peace, security and the rule of law. Education was vital in resisting extremism and terrorism and in guaranteeing tolerance and respect for the rule of law. Lastly, all parliaments should create child and youth parliaments to encourage participation in public life and decision-making.

Ms. L. O'REILLY (Ireland) said that parliamentarians were under obligation to match their words with action in support of education and to lead by example. The positive impact of education in transcending borders had been seen in the partitioned island of Ireland, where education was the only pathway to peace and understanding. As exemplified earlier by the two young guest speakers from Palestine, investment in education was an investment in dignity and as such was priceless.

Mr. T. LOMBARD (Ireland), continuing his delegation's statement, said that education was set to become an even higher priority for Ireland as it strove to meet its climate change and other targets by 2030 and beyond. The next challenge would be to transfer the knowledge needed for moving to a carbon-free digital economy. The IPU should work to provide information concerning the requirements on the ground in that connection.

Ms. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that the role of parliamentarians was crucial to ensuring the goals of education enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which included the maintenance of peace. In that light, her question was whether parliamentarians had done enough to stop acts of military aggression carried out in violation of international law against countries such as hers. Owing to the annexation of Crimea, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced children had lost their right to quality education and numerous universities had been compelled to move to unoccupied areas of the country. A move from words to action in such cases would ensure that education remained a powerful weapon for creating a safer and happier world.

Ms. U. HEINDORFF (Sweden) said that education was indeed the most powerful weapon for changing the world. It was invaluable for young persons and also for parliamentarians insofar as effective decision-making was dependent on knowledge of the relevant facts. In Sweden, a country known for its equal rights, education at all levels was accessible to all. Jobs and incomes for women especially were also essential to the creation of an equal society. Action spoke louder than words and it was time for action to guarantee the right to education.

Mr. S. SOK (Cambodia) said that the new Cambodia was a multiparty democracy with a fast-growing economy and, thanks to institutional and administrative reform, an increasingly effective and efficient public sector. Education, including lifelong learning, had been a top priority, resulting in wider and improved facilities and teacher training. With their clear sense of purpose and strong skillsets, the many educated youth in Cambodia were encouraged to participate in decision-making processes. Young voters had accounted for over one half of the turnout at the most recent elections, the results of which represented the will and aspiration for independence, peace, democracy and the rule of law.

Mr. U. LECHTE (Germany) said that education was a lifelong process essential in such a complex and fast-changing world. Education from kindergarten onwards, together with continuing education and advanced vocational training, would aid mastery of the transformations taking place as a result of the digital revolution. In Germany, tax incentives were given to encourage parents to save for their children's education and a subsidy was to be introduced to help those working in dying industries to continue their education with a view to a midlife career change. The challenges to sustaining peace, security and the rule of law would be overcome only through lifelong learning.

Mr. S. TONMOY (Bangladesh) said that primary education was accessible to all in Bangladesh. Education was a right and key to progress and prosperity. A holistic approach was needed towards it, however, in order to establish peace, security and the rule of law, with parliamentarians working to instil a culture of respect and tolerance. Lack of education and information propelled xenophobia, Islamophobia and the like. Only by being better informed would humanity be suitably equipped to progress towards its dreams.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said it was troubling that Venezuelan parliamentarians who were members of the Bloque de la Patria had not been given accreditation to participate in the Assembly and were therefore barred from speaking. It was only fair, however, to allow them to share their version of events in their country. Equally troubling was the fact that the IPU, as a champion of dialogue and peace, was not engaged in working towards a solution to their country's internal difficulties.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU) said in response that the Executive Committee had considered the matter of accreditation in the light of the Statutes of the IPU. A comprehensive Venezuelan delegation, including representatives of the main political parties, had for several years been participating in the work of the IPU. For the past two years, however, the Venezuelan National Assembly, which was the IPU Member, had not been in a position to pay its contribution to the IPU as the National Assembly had not been funded and nor had parliamentarians received their salaries.

Given that special situation and as an extraordinary measure, the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Governing Council, had decided in accordance with Article 5.2 of the Statutes to permit the Venezuelan delegation to exercise its voting rights at the present Assembly. In accordance with that same Article 5.2, a Member in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization could not be represented by more than two delegates. Article 6 of the Statutes furthermore provided that it was the sovereign right of each Member of the IPU to decide on the manner in which it organized its participation in the IPU.

Further to a formal written communication from the President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, two delegates had been registered. Other Venezuelan parliamentarians were not accredited delegates and as such had no speaking rights. They had, however, been issued with public badges allowing them to interact informally with delegations throughout the Assembly. Any Member that still had concerns was urged to express them to the President of the IPU and to the Executive Committee.

The PRESIDENT said that the Statutes were clear and that there was consequently no option but to accept the decision of the Executive Committee.

Ms. M. ESPINALES (Nicaragua), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed the view that, in view of the circumstances, the request from members of the Bloque de la Patria for accreditation should be granted. It was sad to witness such inflexibility concerning the participation of those members in the Assembly of an organization that was all about promoting the values of democracy, peace, unity, tolerance and diversity.

The PRESIDENT said that compliance with the Statutes of the IPU was obligatory and that the decision of the Executive Committee could not be overruled. The concerns expressed had been noted, however, and would be conveyed to the President of the IPU and to the Executive Committee.

The sitting rose at 6.10 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 7 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/140/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 139th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2018)

The summary record was approved.

Interactive exchange with Mr. V. Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Common Principles for Support to Parliament were based on more than four decades of experience of parliamentary development. He encouraged all IPU Member Parliaments that had not yet done so to adopt them. Disarmament, weapons control and non-proliferation remained high on the IPU agenda and efforts were being made to strengthen cooperation with other organizations working in that field. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons would host an event during the Assembly to discuss the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and the attendant role of parliaments. A delegation from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization was present at the Assembly and was willing to interact with Standing Committee members.

A workshop on parliamentary strategies for weapons control, non-proliferation and comprehensive disarmament would be held in Geneva in 2019. A regional seminar on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) would be held for parliaments in the Pacific region in September 2019. Members of the Standing Committee were encouraged to attend both of those meetings. He then invited Mr. V. Voronkov, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism to address the Committee.

Mr. V. VORONKOV (United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism) said that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) had been established by United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, at the beginning of his tenure. The Office was developing swiftly, and cooperation with parliaments was crucial for translating into action the documents adopted by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. The work of the Office was guided by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, a living document that was reviewed and updated every two years by the United Nations General Assembly on the basis of intensive political discussions, and thus reflected the expectations and priorities of Member States.

The work of the Office was also guided by resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, such as those on eliminating the risks emanating from foreign terrorist fighters (resolutions 2178 and 2396). Thousands of foreign terrorist fighters, including women and children, had been detained in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, many of whom were displaced and wanted to return to their countries of origin. The issue was a complex one; the necessary and appropriate processes must be put in place for their safe return and their subsequent prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. Parliamentarians had a role to play in seeking solutions.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism had been established to coordinate and provide leadership to the work of the 38 United Nations entities engaged in activities for counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. The Office was also mandated to improve the visibility of

counter-terrorism activities, mobilize resources and ensure that due priority was given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system. The Office provided coordinated policy guidance and support to Member States and regional organizations. The first biennial high-level conference had been held in 2018, bringing together members of the intelligence community, law enforcement officers, military personnel, scientists, representatives of civil society and counter-terrorism coordinators. The next high-level meeting would be held in 2020, during the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week. Other events during the week would include the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the first ever global congress of victims of terrorism. Work with victims was particularly important in the context of building resilient societies; concerted efforts were needed to address the scope of the multiple and complex needs of victims.

Regarding coordination and coherence, the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which had been launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2018 and which included 38 United Nations entities, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, was the largest coordination mechanism of the United Nations system. It aimed to enhance common action on counter-terrorism across the United Nations. The Office of Counter-Terrorism also worked to strengthen capacity-building assistance for counter-terrorism among United Nations Member States. Prevention remained an overarching priority, and 340 projects were underway around the world. A United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre had been established.

The Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism had an annual budget of more than US\$ 26 million, contributed by 30 Member States. The four main donors were Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Netherlands and the European Union. The Office of Counter-Terrorism was mandated to increase the visibility of and the amount of resource mobilization to the Fund, and to that end had launched a multi-year donor appeal. The appeal aimed to mobilize the requisite US\$ 194 million to fund counter-terrorism activities throughout the United Nations system. As yet, only one quarter of that funding had been raised. Every effort was being made to ensure that those funds were used effectively, which could be challenging in complex security situations.

Prevention of violent extremism was the most effective way to stop the dissemination of terrorist threats. The Office of Counter-Terrorism worked with various international and regional partners to coordinate prevention efforts, and remained deeply committed to supporting United Nations Member States in key strategic areas, including parliamentary engagement. In that regard, the Office had worked together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the IPU to set up a joint programme to support parliamentary action on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. It was hoped that, through the programme, parliaments could take action at the national level to support international counter-terrorism efforts and ensure respect for international human rights standards and the rule of law. The programme would provide a platform for parliamentary cooperation and the sharing of experiences and practices pertaining to counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. It would also support parliamentary engagement in international efforts by contributing to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Two global parliamentary summits were planned in 2019 and 2022, and a global parliamentary network was also due to be established.

Other key strategic areas included a programme to counter terrorist travel, targeting the United Nations Member States most affected by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The programme would run for at least 10 years, with a focus on aviation security technology using biometric data. The programme was being piloted in Jordan, Malaysia and Morocco. Both the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Secretary-General prioritized support for victims of terrorism, without which terrorism would never be successfully halted. The engagement of parliamentarians was particularly important in that regard.

Mr. M.B.A. AL-HENZAB (Qatar) said that Qatar played an important role in the fight against terrorism, with a four-stage programme to address the root causes of and conditions for terrorism. National anti-terrorism legislation had been adopted, and Qatar was party to numerous international agreements. Cooperation and partnerships were being built at the regional and global levels, and several initiatives had been undertaken to prevent the radicalization of young people. Qatar had contributed significantly to efforts to build peace and stability in the Middle East region.

Mr. G. MIGLIORE (Italy) asked what was being done to encourage national parliaments to harmonize their legislative action with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations to ensure effective action for the prevention and prosecution of terrorist activity.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR (Jordan) asked whether there was a genuine will on the part of the United Nations to protect the victims of State terrorism, such as the people of Palestine, and particularly women and children. Jordan had played an active role in efforts to prevent terrorism and protect victims in the Middle East, with refugees from the region now accounting for 25 per cent of Jordan's population. The international community had, however, failed to uphold its commitments, leaving Jordan isolated and forced to shoulder an enormous financial burden.

Mr. V. VORONKOV (United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism) thanked the Government and the Shura Council of Qatar for the generous support they afforded to his Office, and drew particular attention to the joint programme on sport and the prevention of radicalization. Regarding the implementation of international resolutions, some 120 United Nations Member States were implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; every effort was needed to increase uptake of the Strategy and arrive at universal coverage. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in aligning national legislation with international resolutions. In that regard, the recently adopted United Nations Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts and the prevention and combating the financing of terrorism, constituted a basic document of international law and should be incorporated into national legislation. Other resolutions, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, including aspects such as foreign terrorist fighters, aviation security and border security and management, should also be implemented fully through national legislation. His Office was working closely with the authorities in Jordan, who had been instrumental in efforts to prevent violent extremism. Every Member State of the United Nations wanted to support victims of terrorism. The International Congress for the Victims of Terrorism gave them a voice to speak to the international community, and was testament to the power of the convening role of the United Nations.

Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights

(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs (C-I/140/DR; C-I/140/M)

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), *co-Rapporteur*, presenting the draft resolution contained in document C-I/140/DR, said that terrorism and armed conflict, whether international or not, undermined peace and international security, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States. From 2011 to 2014, the number of deaths from conflict and terrorism had more than tripled. Those acts of terrorism and armed conflict that were undermining peace, international security, human rights, and territorial integrity were driven by mercenaries, foreign terrorist fighters and private military and security companies.

The United Nations and its Member States were trying to establish a legal framework for fighting terrorism and asymmetric armed conflict. International definitions needed to be updated as the nature of conflicts and terrorism developed. With that in mind, the United Nations Human Rights Council was taking steps to define mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters. An internationally agreed definition of private military and security companies had been set out 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.

The draft resolution before the Standing Committee was an invitation to continue to formulate the legal context for countering the activities of mercenaries, foreign terrorist fighters, and private military and security companies. Every effort had been made to maintain a neutral text that did not mention the actions of specific countries. The co-Rapporteurs were grateful to those who had submitted proposed amendments, all 131 of which they had read and considered carefully.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR (Jordan), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all delegations that had contributed to the preparation of the draft resolution, which addressed an important international phenomenon requiring the concerted attention of the whole international community. In preparing the explanatory memorandum contained in document C-I/140/M and the draft resolution, the co-Rapporteurs had attempted to pool all the information at their disposal and to take due account of United Nations resolutions and international studies on mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters, while bearing in mind that those documents had, as yet, not enabled the international community to consider the matter in sufficient depth or establish a comprehensive legal framework with which to combat the

phenomenon. There were currently around 350,000 people involved in military and terrorist activities, the majority of whom were young people. Measures must be taken to halt the expansion and continuation of armed conflicts.

The large number of amendments submitted to the draft resolution was testament to the importance that all delegations placed on the subject. The co-Rapporteurs hoped that the Standing Committee would be able to work in a spirit of compromise to protect young people of the world against extremism and radicalization. The resolution was intended to foster peaceful coexistence between all people, and to prevent the undermining of international law. A robust resolution, agreed by the world's parliamentarians would reflect the gravity of the situation. Parliaments were representatives of the people; they must lobby governments to respect international agreements to protect societies against violence and create an environment in which all people could live peacefully together in spite of their differences.

(b) Debate

Ms. I. DIMIC (Slovenia) said that mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters were at the centre of major global security issues. The definitions of the terms "mercenary" and "foreign terrorist fighter" in international law and national legislation were not aligned. Slovenia had not suffered any terrorist attacks first-hand, despite having witnessed individual cases of involvement in terrorism in foreign regions and participation of mercenaries and private security services in conflict areas. There had also been cases of participation in extremist terrorist groups such as Daesh. The Balkan territory continued to be threatened by security weaknesses. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, many Slovenian nationals had participated in formal and semi-formal military training, and had been known as "weekend fighters". The police now took all necessary measures to ensure the timely detection and prevention of criminal activities. Security systems were crucial, but could only function successfully if potential hazards could be detected and prevented in a timely manner. Matters of security would continue to be a priority for Slovenia.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the use of private security companies and foreign terrorist fighters in armed conflict must be prevented. The perpetrators of armed violence must be held accountable. The Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had engaged companies in their war against the people of Yemen, and as such were directly responsible for the actions of those companies. They must therefore be held accountable for the perpetration of war crimes and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including kidnapping and arbitrary detention and torture. Mechanisms must be established for the prosecution of returning mercenaries, who had participated in military aggression in foreign countries. Repeated violations of human rights by foreign fighters and security companies in the conflict in Yemen had further increased the necessity of effective international surveillance. Every effort must be made to ensure that governments employing such companies complied fully with the international system, in particular with the requirements of United Nations entities. To date, United Nations representatives had been denied access to Yemen, thus preventing any scrutiny of the situation. The branding of organizations such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hizbullah as terrorist organizations, while the United States sponsorship of Daesh went unchecked, constituted a gross double standard.

Ms. S. MANSINGH (India) said that the phenomenon of mercenaries raised fundamental issues that had attracted the attention of the international community for several decades, touching on sensitivities from several perspectives, including sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity, the non-use of force in international relations, the right of people to self-determination, human rights, and conduct in situations of armed conflict. The development of new technologies had led to new recruitment methods, with children and young people being the main targets. The fight against such recruitment must be strengthened at the national and international levels. Her delegation broadly agreed with the draft resolution and its position on the use of mercenaries, but wished to amend some of the details.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) welcomed the work done by the co-Rapporteurs and said that international humanitarian law and internationally legally binding instruments, as well as soft law, could be used to contain and regulate the activities of mercenaries. Cooperation was the most effective tool for addressing the recruitment of mercenaries and foreign fighters. Parliaments should play a key role in negotiation processes and provide legal support to enhance the work of governments. Parliaments should scrutinize the thematic reports produced by 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. While his delegation recognized the concerns

that there was no internationally agreed definition of the term "mercenary", efforts to address the activities of mercenaries, bring an end to the impunity from which they benefited, and ensure respect for the human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, should be welcomed.

Mr. D. LEE (Republic of Korea) thanked the co-Rapporteurs and said that the draft resolution gave appropriate guidance to parliaments for devising legislation that would prohibit the activities of mercenaries which were in violation of international humanitarian law. Mercenaries were currently not bound by the rules and ideals governing the State military, such as patriotism and honour. They were driven only by their employers' interests and their own financial gains. In that regard, the modern economy was threatening the right to life. It was particularly telling that the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, which had entered into force in 2001, had only been ratified by 36 countries, with the conspicuous absence of many large developed nations, which used mercenaries in situations where they did not wish to use their State military forces in order to circumvent international criticism. Single countries alone could not regulate mercenary activities; a coordinated approach was crucial. He hoped the resolution would be adopted, and expressed his Parliament's commitment to take measures to implement it.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that any attempt to regulate private military and security companies brought to light legal and practical questions, in particular in defining those companies, the work of which was broad and could be subject to different interpretations. The term "foreign fighter" had no widely accepted definition, and the reference to the term "foreign terrorist fighter" led to further ambiguity that complicated the implementation of appropriate guidance and legislation. While Germany was very open minded towards initiatives to enable the effective detection and control of the activities of private military and security companies and had actively contributed to the drafting of the Montreux Document, her delegation considered that the topics of mercenaries, foreign terrorist fighters and private military and security company employees should be addressed separately. If those categories remained grouped together in the resolution, it would not cover the necessarily different regulatory approaches required, and her delegation would therefore abstain from voting on its adoption.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) thanked the co-Rapporteurs for their efforts and said that the world was witnessing tension, armed conflict and civil wars that required both a systematic, political solution and a constant fight against terrorism. His delegation regretted, however, that the draft resolution confused the concepts of mercenaries, foreign fighters, and private military and security companies. States must have sole control over the legal and legitimate use of armed violence; no individual should participate in an armed conflict without State agreement. The term "mercenary" was clearly defined and criminalized in French law. France was not, however, party to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, which did not differentiate between mercenaries being paid to participate in armed conflict and others who could be qualified as such without actually participating in conflict. According to the resolution, a weapons production engineer could be deemed a mercenary. Stricter definitions were therefore required, which clearly differentiated between the activities of mercenaries and those of private military and security companies.

Mr. G. MIGLIORE (Italy) thanked the co-Rapporteurs and said he agreed that a comprehensive approach was required to address threats to national sovereignty. At the same time, he understood the concerns raised by the delegations of Germany and France. A comprehensive approach was needed to ensure that legislation was in place at the national level to address mercenary activities. In Italy, two articles had been introduced into the Criminal Code, criminalizing the use of and organization of mercenaries. The use of non-authorized private security companies was also punishable under those articles. Travel for foreign terrorist fighters had been criminalized, and a general discussion was underway regarding their return, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Particularly careful consideration must be given to the situation of children born in Daesh territories. Those children were fully integrated into the criminal mind of Daesh and could pose a potential security threat. They were being used by terrorist groups and needed rehabilitation. A careful balance must be struck between respecting human rights, upholding the principle of non-refoulement and ensuring prosecution, while managing security threats. Thousands were returning to Europe from the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere, and their situation needed careful consideration. Those issues were too complex to cover in one resolution but must be examined very closely.

Mr. A. GASHI (North Macedonia) thanked the co-Rapporteurs for their work in preparing the draft resolution and said that years of conflict in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic had produced significant global security challenges. Foreign fighters and returnees from crisis regions to North

Macedonia were considered a serious security threat and a source of radical ideas and mindsets. The participation of women in conflict had been underestimated. Women returning from conflict areas should receive the same treatment as their male peers. Children presented an additional security challenge, in particular those born to foreign fighters during conflict, and applying for citizenship of their parents' country of origin. The role of parliaments was particularly important to legislate against the recruitment, financing, training, protection and transit of mercenaries and foreign fighters. No country could respond to such global security challenges alone; effective prevention and suppression required a concerted, coordinated approach. Furthermore, violent extremism and terrorism could not be addressed by security measures only. Their root causes must be tackled through education and development. Successful prevention would eliminate the need for security measures.

Mr. A.A. ANDICAN (Turkey) said that his delegation could not support the draft resolution, since it referred to international legal instruments to which Turkey was not party. The adoption of the resolution could not be interpreted as a change, in part or in whole, of Turkey's position or international contractual obligations under international humanitarian law.

Ms. C. WIDEGREN (Sweden) said that the Nordic countries had submitted a considerable number of proposed amendments to the draft resolution. Words could make a big difference. Well-defined international law adopted today could lead to change tomorrow, especially when related to matters of security and political will. Her delegation could not accept the draft resolution as it was currently worded, despite sharing concerns on the dangers posed by the impacts of mercenary activities and being fully committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The broad scope for interpretation of the draft resolution could be misused, and some national institutions could be caught within the resolution's definition of mercenaries. The resolution should not be based on the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, which had only 36 States parties. The draft therefore needed to be clearer and stronger in its message.

Mr. K. BAYRAMOV (Azerbaijan) said that addressing the use of mercenaries required an integrated, rather than solely punitive, approach. As well as legislation prohibiting the recruitment and use of mercenaries, preventive measures should include education, poverty eradication, military reform, and the provision of adequate financial support for veterans and military retirees. Azerbaijan had ratified the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries and the Government was doing its utmost to uphold its obligations thereunder. In that regard, legislative measures had been taken, including the criminalization of the recruitment, training and financing of mercenaries and their use in armed conflict and military operations.

Mr. M.B.M. AL-AHBABI (Qatar) said that clarity was required regarding the distinct definitions of "mercenary", "foreign terrorist fighter" and "private military and security company". The three different categories needed to be clearly separated. Consideration should be given as to whether the employees of private military and security companies should be considered mercenaries. The reintegration and rehabilitation of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries was a particularly important and complex matter, requiring a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Measures must also be taken to prevent people from being persuaded to go abroad to engage in conflict. Information and experiences from the countries affected should be shared. Every effort should be made to provide good quality, comprehensive education and training for young people to encourage them to find other outlets for their energy and better employment prospects than those offered by the entities recruiting them to engage in conflict abroad. More stringent laws on carrying weapons and transfers of weapons between countries were also essential.

Ms. L. MAKUNTS (Armenia) said that the draft resolution must take a balanced approach, without being predisposed to the interests of particular countries. The intention of the draft resolution was to address particular phenomena. The Standing Committee must not lose sight of that; the people of the world expected concerted parliamentary action.

Mr. M. ALQADI (Jordan) said that terrorism was a serious problem, although not a new phenomenon. It was undermining the very foundations of international cooperation and its root causes must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Trafficking in persons and in weapons, and training for mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters must be tackled, and the forces facilitating those phenomena must be stopped. Countries were being destabilized and were becoming breeding grounds for fighters

and mercenaries in a dichotomy between democratic principles and justice on the one hand, and serious economic and social problems on the other. Many countries in the Arab region were suffering from the scourge of terrorism and many had been the scene of local and international conflicts. Foreign powers were fighting wars in Arab lands. The time had come for the international community to face the truth; the reality on the ground could be denied no longer. The people of those countries, in particular women and children, were paying the price. The international parliamentary community must not remain passive; it must act as a matter of urgency.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) thanked the co-Rapporteurs and said that the draft resolution had been prepared after frank and open international discussions on organized crime and State-sponsored terrorism, and in particular the actions perpetrated by the State of Israel against the people of Palestine. It constituted an important document that would guide parliamentary action to combat that dangerous phenomenon, bringing to justice mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters, who numbered more than 60,000, and the States that sponsored them.

Mr. P.S. RUDANA (Indonesia) said that the use of mercenaries was destabilizing peace and international security. While his delegation agreed that the resolution should cover matters related to mercenaries, foreign terrorist fighters and private military and security companies, it should also consider the role of the private sector. Businesses must be held accountable and should function in line with international humanitarian and human rights law. Parliaments and governments must ensure that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were respected at all times. International cooperation was particularly important for sharing information and best practices. An international registration mechanism should be set up for private military and security companies. The root causes of the threats posed by mercenaries, foreign fighters, and private military and security companies must be addressed, by strengthening the rule of law, building economic resilience and protecting vulnerable groups and minorities. His delegation wished to submit several proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

Ms. G.N. SAFI (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan had been plagued by domestic and regional conflict for more than four decades. Peace must be built in full recognition of the rights and dignity of the Afghan people, and in particular the restoration of women's right to education. The peace process must be based on respect for the rule of law. Neighbouring countries must cease to interfere in Afghanistan's sovereign internal affairs, and in particular should not use Afghan immigrants as tools for promoting their own interests. Parliaments, as representatives of the people, must work together to face the challenges of law-making for peace and security. The Afghan Parliament stood ready to work with and learn from other parliaments to build a world free of war and violence.

Mr. A.H. FULATA (Nigeria) said that the Standing Committee should bear in mind that mercenaries were fully aware of the consequences of their actions; mercenaries were well paid and supported by weapons and ammunition manufacturers. It would be foolhardy to believe that they had innocent intentions. The resolution should call for the activities of mercenaries to be criminalized and their sponsors to be held accountable. The transfer of small arms and light weapons to mercenaries should also be criminalized and every effort should be made to ensure the prosecution of all the leaders concerned before the International Criminal Court.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that in Zimbabwe, work was already under way to address the activities of mercenaries. Parliament had legislated for sanctions to be applied to individuals or entities associated with international terrorism, and to suppress money laundering. The definition agreed by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on mercenaries included foreign-recruited fighters, as well as those internally recruited. The definition failed, however, to include those who trained and recruited them.

Mr. G. CRAUGHWELL (Ireland) said that Ireland had suffered its own history of terrorism and therefore had enacted strong anti-terrorism laws. The only reason a country would conceivably need to fund a private military or security company would be to operate outside the law that controlled legitimate armed forces. The radicalization and grooming of young people for terrorism occurred in every country in the world. The Irish authorities were currently faced with the situation of a radicalized Irish citizen seeking repatriation. There was some discussion as to whether that individual's return should be permitted. He believed that such individuals should be allowed to return, provided there was a thorough investigation into how and why they had come to be radicalized. Many lessons needed to be learned in that regard. The fact that certain groups, such as Al-Qaida or Daesh, had been beaten

did not mean an end to terrorism or an end to the war on terror. That war against terrorism was always ongoing. Groups would re-emerge in future. Those who provided funds, weapons and ammunition to terrorist groups must be held accountable. He did not believe in military invasion in the name of peace. Other solutions must be found. While he understood the concerns raised regarding the draft resolution, nothing was ever perfect; the draft constituted a good starting point for further discussion.

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland) said that human history had proven that war could not be prohibited. With that in mind, every effort must be made to limit its consequences. Although Switzerland was the repository State of the Geneva Conventions and their protocols, those instruments were not sufficient to overcome contemporary challenges. The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance had therefore been established to ensure the democratic control of armed forces. Rules and responsibilities for the armed forces must be extended to private military and security companies. The existence of those companies must be acknowledged and where their activities could not be prohibited, they must be regulated. Efforts in that regard had led to the adoption of the Montreux Document; reference to which should be made early in the preamble to the draft resolution. His delegation shared the concerns raised by others regarding the need to be precise in the definitions of what was to be prohibited, regulated and controlled, and to attribute clear and specific responsibilities. That said, his delegation did not want to vote against the draft resolution, the subject of which required urgent action. Every effort must be made in the forthcoming drafting meeting to strengthen the text.

Mr. H.H. EBINDA BESSACQUE (Gabon) said that his delegation considered the definitions used in the draft resolution to be too broad, and therefore had several amendments to propose during the drafting meeting.

Mr. M.A. EISSA (Sudan) thanked the co-Rapporteurs and said that clarification would be appreciated. Under the definitions used in the current draft resolution, would a government supporting another government be considered to be a mercenary act? The phenomenon of private military and security companies and mercenaries was prevalent in the Middle East and Africa. Definitions must be precise; legislation must protect the most vulnerable, but must not become a sword of Damocles.

Mr. A. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda) said that when mercenaries were active in a country, consideration should be given to who had invited them and under what sort of arrangement. They were often invited by governments. Border controls and national security must be strengthened to prevent the entrance of mercenaries, who by definition were driven by the prospect of financial gain, not by ethics. That said, in countries with very high unemployment, young people were often recruited and sent abroad to work without knowing fully what they would be required to do. Uganda was a leading contributor of peacekeeping troops in Somalia; would those troops be considered mercenaries? Efforts to counter terrorism must be coordinated and unified: terrorism knew no language, religion or race, and caused indiscriminate suffering.

Mr. G. CHEN (China) said that despite the world undergoing profound changes, striving towards peace through development cooperation for mutual benefit, injustice, inequality and conflict persisted. People in developing countries suffered from hunger and lacked access to drinking water. Children were disproportionately affected by wars. The international community must ask what had gone wrong, and must ensure respect for the principles of peaceful coexistence: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, equality, and mutual benefit. His delegation had proposed several amendments to the draft resolution to take account of national specificities, to give greater policy flexibility to parliaments for opposing the recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and to increase the focus on armed conflicts.

Mr. H.A. AL-AQULI (Iraq) said that human rights were violated daily around the world, with the worst crimes against humanity committed against women, children and the elderly. Thousands of people were fleeing their homes, seeking refuge abroad. The international community and all organizations working to defend human rights must undertake robust commitments to prohibit violations of human rights and bring situations of conflict to an end. Crimes committed by terrorist groups in Iraq had left thousands of widows and orphans. The massive loss of life constituted an enormous loss of human capital, which was a severe impediment to sustainable development. International resolutions must be adopted to ensure the protection of human dignity. No country was unaffected or safe from the threats of terrorism. The international community must therefore work together in a coordinated manner to bring an end to that scourge.

Ms. G. JOURDA (France) said that the use of mercenaries was having dramatic consequences the world over, making victims of women and children. The lack of clarity in the draft resolution was disappointing. France had neither signed nor ratified the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, owing to the definition of mercenary used in the Convention, according to which an individual could be classified as a mercenary even if he or she had not participated directly in hostilities. The resolution should focus on mercenaries. References to foreign fighters should be removed and the provisions on private military and security companies should be redrafted to better reflect the activities of those entities.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR (Jordan), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all participants for their contributions, and agreed that nothing was ever perfect; the draft resolution was, however, a starting point. Vulnerable people the world over were relying on the IPU to take steps to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Those steps must be taken as a matter of urgency. The time had come to take action. The matter was a complex one. Differentiation between mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters was not straightforward: the lines were blurred. Children born into Daesh, for example, did not belong to one category alone. The most important consideration was the protection of victims all over the world. While he understood the concerns raised regarding the draft resolution, a lack of action by the Standing Committee would serve to let down every victim. The resolution was a starting point, which would need to be followed up with more work in the future.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those delegations that had submitted proposed amendments and had committed to improving the draft resolution. The resolution constituted an appeal to the international community to make concerted efforts to prevent foreign terrorist fighters, private military and security companies and mercenaries from undermining peace and violating human rights. It was not the final word on the matter, but rather an invitation to the global parliamentary community to begin to take action. The resolution would serve to guide further work in future.

The sitting rose at 12.05 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 9 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.50 p.m., with Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights

(continued)

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary (C-I/140/DR)

The PRESIDENT said that the draft resolution had been revised in the light of the amendments and sub-amendments discussed in the plenary drafting meeting. Owing to a persistent lack of consensus, the draft resolution would be put to a vote.

The Standing Committee adopted the resolution by 23 votes in favour and 11 votes against.

Ms. C. WIDEGREN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Finland, France, Germany, Norway and Sweden, expressed reservations to the resolution as a whole as adopted, and said that those delegations wished to honour the work done by the European Union in 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. Given that only 36 States were party to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, the resolution as adopted did not respect States non-parties' sensitivities with regard to that Convention.

Ms. S.M. DINICĂ (Romania) said that her delegation also could not support the resolution as a whole, for the reasons put forward by Ms. C. Widegren.

Ms. J. LEVOVÁ (Czech Republic) also expressed her delegation's reservations to the resolution as a whole and its particular concerns with regard to operative paragraph 1. The Czech Republic supported the implementation of existing legislation.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those who had participated in the discussion, the drafting procedure and the vote. The discussions had been fruitful, transparent and democratic, and had taken place in a constructive spirit, despite the differences of opinion. The friendly atmosphere among the opponents to the draft had been commendable.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR (Jordan), *co-Rapporteur*, also thanked all those who had participated in the discussions and the vote, and said that he hoped the world's parliamentarians would continue to work together to sustain peace and security for all, the world over.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 140th Assembly

At the proposal of Mr. K. Al Bakkar (Jordan), co-Rapporteur, the Committee appointed its President as Rapporteur to the 140th Assembly.

Preparations for future Assemblies

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had received one proposal for the subject of the Standing Committee's next resolution, submitted by the delegation of Germany, entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate insecurity and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*.

Mr. M.B.M. AL-AHBABI (Qatar) said that his delegation had wished to submit a proposed topic related to the sovereignty of nations.

The PRESIDENT said that since the proposal had not been submitted by the statutory deadline under Rule 19 of the Rules of the Standing Committee, it could not be considered. The delegation of Qatar would, however, be welcome to submit the proposal for consideration at a future Assembly.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) suggested amending the title to read "strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts" rather than "mitigate insecurity and conflicts".

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that her delegation could agree to that change.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the proposal by Germany, as amended by Thailand. The draft resolution would thus be entitled *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*.

It was so decided.

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

The PRESIDENT said that Ms. C. Roth (Germany) had graciously offered to serve as co-Rapporteur. A second co-Rapporteur would need to be appointed. A debate on the subject would be held at the 141st 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 142nd IPU Assembly. He took it that the Standing Committee wished to appoint Ms. C. Roth as co-Rapporteur.

It was so decided.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

The PRESIDENT said that in line with Rule 6, the Standing Committee was required to set its own workplan. The Bureau proposed that at the 141st IPU Assembly, an expert hearing should be held on the subject item of the next resolution. The Committee would have four additional hours in which activities would be organized: the first proposed activity was a review of the Standing Committee's resolution *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments*, adopted in 2014; the second activity would be on the theme of criminalizing money laundering and how to legislate on the matter. In between Assemblies, members of the Bureau would undertake activities, including during Geneva Peace Week in November 2019, and would send a field mission to Jordan.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) suggested that consideration should be given to inviting Professor Dirk Messner from the United Nations University, a prominent expert in climate matters, to address the Standing Committee as a guest speaker.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. C. Roth and said that due note had been taken of her suggestion.

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

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that candidatures to the Bureau had been received from Ms. P. Ikourou Yoka (Congo) for the African Group, and Mr. S.A. Arbab (Pakistan) and Ms. O. Navaan-Yunden (Mongolia) for the Asia-Pacific Group. Under the rules of the Standing Committee, representatives of a Member should not hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years, and a member of the Bureau must wait two years after the end of his or her mandate before submitting their second candidature. The Eurasia Group was requesting a waiver of those rules in order to submit the candidatures of Mr. P. Tolstoy (Russian Federation) and Ms. S. Grigoryan (Armenia) after only one year had elapsed since their respective parliaments had representatives at the Bureau. The United Arab Emirates and Sudan wished to replace their Bureau members. The Arab Group had therefore submitted the candidatures of Ms. A. Al Jassim (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. A. Eissa (Sudan). He took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve all those candidatures.

It was so decided.

The sitting rose at 5.35 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 7 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe), President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-II/140/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 139th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2018)

The summary records were approved.

The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation

(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs (C-II/140/DR; C-II/140/M)

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee would hold a debate and then finalize the draft resolution, *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*. Twenty-one Member Parliaments had submitted 96 amendments to the draft resolution.

Mr. H. IDDRISU (Ghana), *co-Rapporteur*, summarized the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution, emphasizing that they referred to the trade-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other SDG targets influenced by international trade and investment. The preamble urged parliaments to follow appropriate guidance from the World Trade Organization (WTO) and pay due regard to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It also noted the need for trade to facilitate women's empowerment; although trade and investment were often the prerogative of the executive, parliaments could act to ensure free and fair trade. The preamble also acknowledged that globalization could have an impact on workforce displacement and have other harmful distortionary effects.

Ms. S. RASKOVIC IVIC (Serbia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution reaffirmed the vital importance of having a rules-based, multilateral approach to trade and investment and of establishing arbitration mechanisms. The paragraphs emphasized that free and fair trade and properly regulated foreign investment could reduce poverty, inequality, instability and conflict. They also urged parliaments to ensure that official development assistance was provided to support genuine economic development and trade in developing nations. Some operative paragraphs called on parliaments to periodically review and update existing national trade and investment arrangements. They urged parliaments to deliver infrastructure that enabled higher value-added production, noting that digital communication and finance infrastructure were just as important as traditional forms of hard infrastructure. Furthermore, parliaments were encouraged to ensure an even distribution of resources through sector-specific allocation of foreign direct investment, and to create sound financial systems in developing countries.

The Committee had received a number of amendments to the draft resolution. Ms. Raskovic Ivic emphasized the importance of the amendments from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, including one which called on parliaments to address women's under-representation in the economy. Among

the other amendments were those from India and Netherlands, which called for standards on workers' rights, and an amendment from Indonesia on small and medium-sized enterprises. Overall, the draft resolution should guide countries to live together sustainably, and especially to trade sustainably.

(b) Debate

Mr. M. MAVRIDES (Cyprus) said that parliaments were increasingly involved in developing trade agreements and integrating them into national commitments. Although the executive was usually in charge of signing treaties, parliaments were responsible for exercising oversight, legislating and detecting budgetary implications. Parliaments also played a vital role in examining the results of trade and investment both nationally and internationally, especially on the SDGs. Other parliamentary responsibilities included analyzing present and future trade and investment systems and reviewing fair trade rules, such as those aiming to address unemployment, improve social welfare and reduce poverty. It was important to focus on investments and infrastructure that stimulated economic growth. Achieving the SDGs was directly connected to the rules and procedures guiding trade and investment. Trade could only deliver sustainable and balanced results when it was fair and free.

Ms. S. LEP SIMENKO (Slovenia) said the WTO should play a key role in negotiations on fair and free trade. Slovenia participated in such negotiations as a member of the European Union. All recently concluded free trade agreements between the Union and its trading partners included a provision on trade and sustainable development. Slovenia had done a great deal to implement the SDGs nationally. For instance, it had closely linked its development strategy to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enshrined the right to water in its constitution. Internationally, the country had already completed a Voluntary National Review (VNR) and was a donor of international development assistance. It was vital to involve the private sector, the academic and educational spheres, civil society and parliamentarians in the SDGs. She welcomed the draft resolution.

Mr. V. SOCATIYANURAK (Thailand) said that Thailand agreed with the draft resolution on many points. Those included the importance of multilateral trade and investment liberalization under the WTO and the need to ensure the economic participation of women, youth and vulnerable people. However, he wished to draw attention to a number of other points. First, it was important to ensure that people living in remote areas had access to digital infrastructure, thus providing them with equal social and economic opportunities. Thailand, for instance, had provided three million people from remote villages with high speed broadband Internet. Second, countries must actively encourage international technology and knowledge transfer, which would improve innovation capacity. Third, universal digital policies and regulations were needed to ensure trust and data security. Fourth, parliamentarians must play a vital role in shaping national legal frameworks that promoted digital economies and maintained a level playing field.

Mr. M. AL-DALAL (Kuwait) said that some of the draft resolution's general points should be more specific. It should also include a reference to transport, including the transport of goods and services. His country had set up a fund to provide support to developing countries.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) said that he broadly supported the principles in the draft resolution. International trade and investment measures must address endemic poverty. Given that women were more vulnerable to poverty than men, he supported the amendment from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Trade liberalization (the removal or reduction of trade barriers) was also necessary, but should not lead to a complete absence of regulation. Indeed, trade liberalization should be combined with international rules to protect vulnerable communities, including women and children working in the informal sector.

Mr. J. KIM (Republic of Korea) said that the draft resolution made many good recommendations on the future role of parliaments in establishing a free and fair global trade and investment system. International trade, if implemented properly, could help reduce poverty and facilitate economic growth around the world. It was therefore vital to replace unjust trade practices with fair ones. Countries must not go back to protectionism. A trading policy based on narrow national interests would not bring economic prosperity or sustainable economic development. Parliamentarians must proactively follow up on the draft resolution.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that he fully agreed with the French amendment on establishing investment rules that prevented colonial action. The draft resolution did not draw attention to regions of the world, such as Palestine, which required more investment protection. Although Palestine was doing its utmost to develop, the Israeli occupation had created many obstacles. For example, Palestine could not access over 80 per cent of its own resources, including much of its arable land. Palestine was also being prevented from participating in international meetings on sustainable development.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, said that women's economic empowerment had immense potential to alleviate poverty and boost economies. At the heart of that empowerment was education. Education must be gender-responsive, and focused on training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It was also important to address stereotypes that confined women to certain fields. Countries must reduce gender gaps across sectors and in leadership positions, and create fair working conditions, including pay parity. There was also a need to build infrastructure, including financial infrastructure that was designed to benefit women. Offering support to women-run businesses, including technology start-ups, was crucial, as was ensuring that women had effective access to capital, investors, technology and capacity-building opportunities. Countries must cater to the specific needs of rural women, disabled women and women in vulnerable situations. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians had submitted amendments to reflect the above comments.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that national partners must play a crucial role in investment. Otherwise, investments could become a new form of colonization. It was important to consider the right to national property and respect for the territorial integrity of countries. Cooperation must be international, and have development as its objective. The rapporteurs should add a further point about the need to reduce restrictions on certificates of origin for certain industries. She supported the amendments put forward by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and called for the draft resolution to refer to SDG 5 on gender equality. In particular, free access to the Internet was necessary for women to participate fully in the national economy.

Mr. A. ALKARORI (Sudan) said that many countries, such as Sudan, were consumed by poverty because they imported more than they exported. Better infrastructure should be built, including roads and electricity systems, which would allow such countries to trade their products more effectively.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that the Dutch Parliament had introduced a campaign, *Adopt an SDG*, in which parliamentarians could choose a specific SDG to work on. NGOs then checked that parliamentarians were making progress on their commitment. It was a powerful campaign because parliamentarians felt responsible for their own SDG. She encouraged other countries to set up similar campaigns.

Ms. D. SOLIZ (Ecuador) said that she wished to make several areas of the draft resolution more specific. It was important to emphasize that free and fair trade did not currently exist, since many developing countries and small economies still faced inequity and unfair conditions. Parliaments must focus on overcoming poverty so that those living in deprivation could enjoy their human rights. Free trade must not be unrestricted. Instead, it must promote responsible production and consumption with an emphasis on decent working conditions, recycling and environmental protections. Trade agreements must be equitable and should not be imposed on developing countries. States should create enabling conditions for development. These might include producing clean energy, building infrastructure, investing in technology, and developing the capacities of young people. They must also ensure favourable credit conditions and establish accessible financial systems. The solidarity economy should be recognized in addition to the private and public economies.

Mr. M. KHUMALO (Zimbabwe) said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had not been successful because developing countries had relied too much on donor funding rather than their own resources. It was important not to repeat the same mistakes under the SDGs. Developing countries had many resources but lacked value addition. Parliaments must budget for the SDGs.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that resources and financing were needed to achieve the SDGs. Fair trade was important for mobilizing those resources. Parliaments must ensure equitable international trading conditions that secured the rights of marginalized producers and workers in developing countries, including women. They should do so by passing legislation, scrutinizing policy

and engaging in dialogue. The principles of fair trade should be revised and aligned with the SDGs. In particular, changes should be made to production systems, and supply and demand chains. Similarly, new mechanisms for financing, trading and taxation could be identified through innovation and technology. Proper fair trade policies and principles contributed to reducing poverty and inequality.

Mr. M. AL-JUMAILLI (Iraq) said that a development plan which operated on the basis of partnerships should be set up. Better administered resources were also needed so that all sectors of the economy could benefit. Countries were facing many economic, strategic and administrative challenges that had a negative impact on trade and investment. In the face of such challenges, parliaments must pressure governments to design and implement a development plan.

Ms. D. RATNASARI (Indonesia) said that trade and investment in infrastructure and innovation were crucial drivers of economic growth and development. It was becoming increasingly important to promote mass transport, renewable energy, and information and communication technologies. Technological progress was key to addressing economic and environmental challenges, such as those related to job creation and energy efficiency. Promoting sustainable industries and investing in scientific research were also important ways to facilitate sustainable development. Bridging the digital divide would ensure equal access to information and knowledge, and foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Trade policies and strategies must be in line with other relevant national policies. National policies should encompass trade-related priorities designed to connect countries to global value chains, finance and foreign investment. It was vital to retain a rules-based multilateral trading system led by the WTO.

Mr. E. PRIMAKOV (Russian Federation) said that, although the draft resolution was sound, he wished to suggest a number of further amendments. Operative paragraph 1 should contain the words "robust and effective" before "rules-based multilateral approach to trade and investment". Furthermore, the same paragraph should not include the words "arbitration mechanisms" which might later be used to apply political pressure. Although his delegation was in favour of fair trade, some countries were using it to justify deploying harmful unilateral and protectionist measures. He therefore preferred the term "free trade" over "fair trade". The draft resolution must focus on trade alone without reference to issues such as labour protection, ecology and human rights. Combining those issues with trade could give an advantage to developed countries. The Russian delegation was not interested in operative paragraph 9 on investor-State relations, since they were already regulated under Russian legislation.

Mr. R. EL HILAA (Morocco) said that the draft resolution covered a vast subject area and would therefore be difficult to implement. Parliamentarians must find mechanisms to ensure it was implemented.

Mr. A. PAPIZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that many factors impeded development, including insecurity and terrorism. Parliaments had a highly significant role in development. Under the Constitution of Iran, parliament must promote equal rights and engage in all stages of political decision-making. He was in favour of inter-parliamentary cooperation and exchanging experiences, particularly on economic and environmental issues.

Mr. A. AKAYLEH (Jordan) said that sustainable development, free trade and investment were not possible in a world that was rife with so many conflicts. Countries must resolve those conflicts before addressing sustainable development. The draft resolution should include a recommendation from the IPU to the UN Secretary-General on the need to provide security to all colonized countries. Colonized countries should liberate themselves from oppressive powers.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Committee would continue drafting the resolution in plenary.

Drafting continued from 3.55 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. The meeting then rose.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 9 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe), President of the Committee, in the Chair.

The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation
(continued)

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

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 140th Assembly

The PRESIDENT suggested that she be appointed as Rapporteur to present the draft resolution to the Assembly.

It was so decided.

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must propose a theme for its next resolution and decide on its co-Rapporteurs. The Bureau endorsed the theme suggested by the delegations of Belgium and Romania: *Mainstreaming digitization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production.*

The theme was approved.

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

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) and Ms. S. Diniča (Romania) had expressed interest in being nominated as co-Rapporteurs; the Kenyan delegation would nominate a third.

The representative of JORDAN said that Belgium and Romania were from the same geopolitical group. Other geopolitical groups should also be represented. In the Bureau meeting, the delegation of Jordan had also submitted a nomination for the Arab Group: Mr. K. Al Bakkar.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the delegations of Belgium and Romania had made separate proposals which they had then merged to create better content. Despite coming from the same geopolitical group, representatives of Belgium and Romania should become co-Rapporteurs since they had already contributed a great deal to the final proposal. The Rules of the Standing Committee suggested that equitable geographical distribution among co-Rapporteurs was desirable but not obligatory. Nevertheless, a representative of Kenya would be added for geographical diversity and because Kenya had experience in digitization and the circular economy. It would be difficult to work with four co-Rapporteurs.

The representative of KENYA said that he supported Mr. Gryffroy's comments.

The representative of JORDAN said that Mr. Gryffroy had been a co-Rapporteur before. In the name of diversity, it was vital to include participants from other geopolitical groups. The draft resolution was not just about those who had proposed it but about the whole Committee. The topic was also very important for Jordan and other Arab countries.

The representative of FRANCE said that he supported the comments of the representative of Jordan. The topic was very complex and would have a huge impact across many parts of the world. It was therefore important to have as many different views as possible, and four co-Rapporteurs should be appointed.

The representative of MEXICO said that Mexico had made a similar proposal to Belgium on e-commerce. As there must be an exchange between different geopolitical groups, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean wished to include a co-Rapporteur from Mexico. Mexico had much to contribute: it had been involved in drafting a free trade agreement with the United States of America and Canada and had already discussed the chosen theme with many other delegates at the present Assembly.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that he could work with four co-Rapporteurs. The Committee should decide whether to accept four.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that the Rules of the Standing Committees did not specify the number of co-Rapporteurs permitted for a resolution. However, delegates must consider the practical feasibility of four co-Rapporteurs drafting a joint text. Four co-Rapporteurs had never been appointed before.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee should clarify how it wished to proceed.

The representative of SWEDEN said that there were now five countries who wished to be co-Rapporteurs, including Mexico. The Committee must decide on a way forward.

The representative of KENYA said that there should be four co-Rapporteurs since the rules did not limit the number.

Ms. S. DINIČA (Romania) said that the delegations of Romania and Belgium had decided to work together given the importance of the topic. She supported appointing representatives of Belgium and Kenya as co-Rapporteurs. If necessary, she would withdraw.

The PRESIDENT asked the Committee to decide whether it wished to appoint three or four co-Rapporteurs.

A vote was taken to decide on the number of co-Rapporteurs for the draft resolution.

With 11 votes in favour of 3 co-Rapporteurs and 10 votes in favour of 4 co-Rapporteurs, it was decided that the Committee would appoint 3 co-Rapporteurs for the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must now decide which three countries would be co-Rapporteurs.

The representative of MEXICO said that Mexico should be included as a co-Rapporteur.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the co-Rapporteurs should be from the countries that had prepared the proposal: Belgium, Romania and Kenya.

The representative of FRANCE said that two proposals had been merged into one. Two proposals should lead to four co-Rapporteurs. The topics of digitization and the circular economy were related but different.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee had already decided to appoint three co-Rapporteurs.

The representative of SWEDEN said that the representatives of Belgium, Romania and Kenya should be co-Rapporteurs as they had prepared the proposal.

The representative of JORDAN said that some members of the Committee were trying to monopolize the work. It was important to air different countries' views. The resolution must be a product of the whole Committee. However, to resolve the dispute, she withdrew the candidature of Mr. Al Bakkar.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium) said that the drafting procedure would allow delegates to voice their ideas through debate and amendments. The Committee could count on him to ensure that the resolution was a product of the whole Committee.

The representative of JORDAN said that all members of the Committee had the ability to draft the resolution. Mr. Gryffroy could not be co-Rapporteur every time. Other members must be involved so as to leave no one behind. Although she had withdrawn the candidature of Jordan, she hoped that, in future, co-Rapporteurs would be diversified. One of the remaining four countries must withdraw, or the Committee should vote on the three it wished to see as co-Rapporteurs.

Ms. S. DINIČA (Romania) said that she was happy to withdraw.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that, as the only woman, Ms. Diniča was the only candidate who could not withdraw, so as to avoid a gender imbalance.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must now vote to appoint the remaining two co-Rapporteurs out of Belgium, Kenya and Mexico.

A vote was taken to decide on the remaining two co-Rapporteurs for the draft resolution.

With 11 votes in favour of Belgium, 22 votes in favour of Kenya, and 9 votes in favour of Mexico, it was decided that the remaining two co-Rapporteurs would be from Belgium and Kenya.

The PRESIDENT said that the co-Rapporteurs would therefore be from Romania, Belgium and Kenya.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must approve a work plan for the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade. The Bureau recommended that the Committee dedicate one sitting to debate the theme of the next resolution and one sitting to follow up on the 2014 IPU resolution, *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*. There would also be a sitting to discuss preparations for the parliamentary meeting at the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Chile in December 2019.

The work plan was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had received a number of nominations. The Arab Group had nominated Mr. A. Al-Khrbeed (Iraq) to complete the first term of Iraq and Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan) for a second term. The Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. S. Jannat Marri (Pakistan) for a first term. The Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. A. Boshyan (Armenia) to complete the current term of Armenia. The Twelve Plus Group had nominated Ms. S. Diniča (Romania) for a second term.

The nominations were approved.

The representative of IRAQ said that he wished to change the candidate from Iraq.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that the representative of Iraq should discuss the matter with his geopolitical group, which was the body that submitted nominations. The geopolitical group could then submit a new name at the next Assembly.

The sitting rose at 3.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF MONDAY, 8 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi), member of the Bureau of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-III/140/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 139th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2018)

The summary records were approved.

Debate on follow-up to previous IPU resolutions

(C.III/140/4-Inf.1)

The CHAIR invited participants to share information, with a focus on good practices, concerning parliamentary follow-up action undertaken at their respective national levels in connection with the IPU resolutions on: *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms* (2015); *The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy* (2013); and *Freedom of expression and the right to information* (2009).

Ms. S. SUWANNACHEEP (Thailand), opening the debate, said that her Parliament had recently approved a law with extraterritorial effect on personal data protection. The law would require data controllers to obtain, with certain exceptions, written or online consent to personal data processing; to protect sensitive personal data; and to observe restrictions on the transfer of personal data to a third country. It would furthermore require data controllers outside Thailand to appoint a representative within the Thai jurisdiction. The country's cybercrime law had also been updated to criminalize unauthorized access to computer systems and data, as well as all electronic interception of such data, and to promote cybersecurity in the public interest.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that Kuwait firmly believed in freedom of expression, which was enshrined in its domestic laws and evidenced in its sources of information, including the press. It also believed, however, that the major social media companies had a responsibility to prevent the dissemination of false, provocative and harmful information around the world via their websites. Cooperation with those companies should be pursued to that end, with an emphasis on leveraging the benefits of technology and ensuring the soundness and security of the information available on their platforms, especially as it was so readily accessible to all.

Mr. M. FARSHADAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in his country, the new social media and communication technologies had given impetus to civil protest movements and were potentially instrumental in the promotion of participatory and consultative democracy, such as through encouraging increased voter engagement and turnout. Knowing no borders and with the ability to transform situations rapidly, those tools exercised a growing cultural and socio-political influence among young urban Iranians in particular. His Parliament had recently enacted a new law providing for free access to information, a right that public institutions must be obliged to respect, which called for mechanisms to counter their pervasive culture of secrecy.

Mr. K. TANAKA (Japan) said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to uphold the fundamental right to Internet access while also ensuring that social media engagement did not replace offline engagement, including through traditional media. In Japan, the important media role in fostering democracy and ensuring the right to information was well recognized, while growing Internet use had led to the legalization of online election campaigning with a view to increasing political participation. New and traditional media each provided a foundation for democracy, which Japan endeavoured to preserve and promote, including through appropriate policymaking in relation to both forms of media going forward.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that his Parliament had enacted a law to combat the dissemination of "fake news" aimed at influencing and disrupting democratic electoral processes, as had been seen in a number of countries. The law also empowered the broadcasting regulator to block foreign State-controlled broadcasters engaged in publishing false information in a bid to destabilize the country's institutions. It was furthermore designed to promote transparency by requiring all future online political campaigns to declare their sources of funding. The difficulty lay in striking the delicate balance between ending the rapid spread of such news through online platforms and continuing to guarantee freedom of expression.

Mr. H.Y. BIN SAPARI (Malaysia) said that the ongoing changes in technology and digital technology in particular had clearly had an impact on human rights and democracy. In Malaysia, the law on "fake news" had been contested on the ground that it undermined freedom of expression. The repeal bill had been rejected by the Senate, however, but was now being amended. In a multi-religious, multiracial and multicultural society such as that in Malaysia, freedom of expression and information was essential to the maintenance of national stability. The formulation of the law on freedom of information was being studied with a view to enhancing that freedom.

Mr. M.R. RABBANI (Pakistan) said that freedom of speech and expression was a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution of Pakistan, which had furthermore been amended to guarantee the right to information. A law laying down the modalities for exercising that right, including through access to official documents, had been enacted accordingly. A law had also been enacted to regulate social media and prevent its misuse.

Mr. Y.R. AL-KHATER (Qatar) said he agreed that major global corporations running online platforms had a responsibility to cooperate with governments and parliaments in order to protect the public against those who misused social media. Such persons included online impersonators, hackers, hate speakers and violators of the rights of children and adolescents. Parliaments should enact legislation to prevent all such misuse.

Ms. M.L. ALCORTA SUERO (Peru) said that she was fully in favour of freedom of expression but that it was important to differentiate between the freedom of expression associated with human rights and democracy and the manipulative use of such freedom by big businesses in order to serve their interests. Freedom of expression was vital and should not be tainted by false news. It was not for sale at any price, was non-negotiable and must be respected.

Ms. A.P. ZANI (Kenya) said that, in Kenya, the space for democracy and freedom of expression had been widened under the Constitution and that parliamentary processes were increasingly open and interactive. The country's cybercrime law imposed stiff fines and prison sentences for such offences as unauthorized third-party access to or interference with computer systems, online harassment, bullying and stalking, and the dissemination of "fake news". Citizens must also be assured of the freedom to express themselves, however. The need to eliminate hate speech and incitement to ethnic violence must therefore be balanced with the right to spread the true news that helped to entrench Kenyan democracy.

Mr. S. ZUHEIR (Palestine) said that his country was a special case as it still endured under an unjust occupation by another country that moreover put its technological expertise to ill use against Palestine. It did so by, inter alia, hacking social media accounts to spread inaccurate and untrue information with two goals in mind: distortion of the historical and cultural facts relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and the creation of division among the Palestinian people through the dissemination of false information about individuals in the community. Those were examples of the oppression practised against Palestinians by the Israeli occupier.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that many countries were now involved in hacking, posing a major threat to international peace and security, affecting democratic processes and seeking to change public opinion. The cybercrime laws in place were moreover inadequate insofar as social media content was tailored to the agenda of the network owners. The virtual world negatively influenced the real world to the detriment of justice, equality and freedom, as well as the stability, security and prosperity of nations. To avert chaos, no one should be permitted to operate numerous social media accounts.

Mr. H. CHOQUE TARQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his Parliament had enacted a law on digital citizenship that provided for the monitoring of companies involved in the world of information, communication and technology. Care was taken, however, to ensure that the measures provided for in that connection were not abused. His country was making progress in implementing the recommendations made by the IPU but shared the concerns about the misuse of digital tools to discredit governments and individuals.

Ms. G. FERMIN (Dominican Republic) said that public and private data in her country were subject to its law on data protection. The right to personal privacy was furthermore a right enshrined in the Constitution and, in accordance with case law, it was prohibited to engage in online activity aimed at tarnishing the reputation of electoral candidates. Even though conducted through social networking sites, activity of that nature was a violation of the cherished right to freedom of expression and had thus been deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that efforts were under way in his country to drive forward reform and close legislative gaps with the aim of further promoting democracy and the fundamental human rights provided for in the Ethiopian Constitution. Many social media bloggers had been released from detention to resume their activity and the laws and regulations relating to social media were being improved.

The CHAIR thanked participants for their useful contributions to the debate, which had clearly highlighted the global reality of the various contradictions and difficulties associated with technological progress. For further inspiration on relevant good practices, he encouraged all Members to avail themselves of the newly-published IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians entitled *Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection*.

Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Committee, took the Chair.

Expert hearing on parliamentary action to combat disinformation and "fake news"

The PRESIDENT said that the present expert hearing had been organized with a view to exploring measures that parliaments might wish to consider taking in order to combat disinformation and "fake news" and thus guarantee fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression. She introduced the expert panellists who would be presenting their perspectives on the subject: Mr. T. Venturini, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France; Mr. P. Nakov, Principal Scientist, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI); and Ms. S. Joshi, Verification Specialist, PROTO, an India-based media skilling start-up, and co-founder of Khabar Lahariya, the only digital rural news network in India. The President invited Mr. T. Venturini to introduce the subject.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, said that researchers tended to agree that the term "fake news" was far too vague and that the many different facets of misinformation would be more accurately described using separate terms. Ranging from, among others, online propaganda and competitive marketing to gossip, rumour, stalking, trolling, click-bait and conspiracy theories, each of those facets should be considered and addressed individually. The risk otherwise was that legislation dealing with online misinformation would be ineffective or, in the worst-case scenario, serve as a pretext for discretionary censorship. The term "fake news" also placed too much focus on the aspects of falseness and fabrication, which were already covered by existing laws, such as those dealing with libel. Furthermore, even though most of the misinformation circulating online was explicitly identified as untrue by its originators, it was no deterrent to consumers to disseminate it for its satirical, partisan or provocative content. His preference was for the term "junk news" in view of the parallel with junk food, which was widely consumed despite the knowledge that it was unhealthy. "Junk news" was also similarly addictive and likewise a large and flourishing industry. As to fact-checking, it was no doubt important. It was not, however, the answer to stemming the tide of "junk news" recognized as misinformation but disseminated for its entertainment value.

"Junk news" had economic, technological, social, cultural and political drivers. First, it was financed by the same attention economy that supported most online services and would be unable to thrive without online advertising, especially that promoted by such giants as Google and Facebook. Second, "junk news" producers were able to monetize their production through sophisticated technologies designed to sell even the most ephemeral actions, such as clicking and scrolling. More worrying still, the data collected in the process was increasingly employed to amplify those actions through the recommendation algorithms used by online platforms. Third, "junk news" profited from the

micro-celebrities and personal trending promoted by online platforms to increase relevance to users and encourage the sharing of content. Fourth, "junk news" was the *raison d'être* of cultures that often competed for ephemeral visibility on online platforms, where they encouraged provocative and inflammatory discourse bordering on extremism and radicalization. Lastly, many political actors found it more expedient to disrupt their opponents through political trolling rather than through promoting their own viewpoints.

During election periods, the disruption of public debate through misinformation was especially problematic and called for measures aimed at preserving the quality of that debate. Traditional and amateur journalism, particularly investigative journalism, played a vital role on that score. More responsible media consumption was similarly important and should be promoted through civic education.

The PRESIDENT asked Mr. P. Nakov about the role played by technology in the dissemination of "junk news".

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that the main difficulty with "junk news" was not its fakeness but its use as a political weapon. Such news was in fact historically widespread, but the advent of social media had added two new elements. The first was the micro-targeting made possible by the constant monitoring of online activity by social media companies and mobile operators, which led to information-gathering about such matters as a person's likes, dislikes and income, which was dangerous in the light of how such information might be used to influence voters. The second was the amplification of "junk news", which required only a very small investment to reach a few thousand consumers before multiplying endlessly to reach millions. Indeed, the findings of a large study had found that "junk news" spread six times more rapidly than traditional news and also that three-quarters of individuals were unable to identify it as fake.

Through online monitoring, it was also possible to identify unspoken political leanings and, as had been demonstrated experimentally, to shape political views. Social media were also optimized to attract user attention, which was more readily heightened by extreme and polarizing views. Even those not active on social media could be tracked through such services as Google Analytics, which collected data from millions of websites.

As to the role of social media in election outcomes, research had interestingly revealed that influencing the results of the most recent United States elections had been no more than a short-term objective of the Russian trolling activities conducted in the run-up to those elections. The long-term aim had instead been to identify social problems with a view to fuelling religious and ethnic divisions and in turn instability.

Notwithstanding the importance of introducing and amending legislation in order to combat "fake news" and keep pace with technological advances, it was also critical to raise public awareness as a tool for limiting the effect of propaganda. Students must therefore be educated about "fake news", as must older persons, who were in fact the group most likely to spread such news. To that end, the QCRI had developed a news aggregator known as Tanbih, meaning "awareness" in Arabic. The aim of the tool was to identify propaganda masquerading as news and build media profiles providing trustworthy information obtained through advance fact-checking about the political hue and accuracy of various news websites. In that regard, it drew inspiration from the website www.mediabiasfactcheck.com, which was engaged in investigative journalism for such purposes.

The PRESIDENT asked Ms. S. Joshi about her work in India, where social media had been instrumental in stirring up social conflict and where elections were also impending.

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, said that many millions of rural Indians, old, young and even illiterate, were now first-generation Internet users. In recent years, misinformation and rumours about the abduction of children for their organs had spread via WhatsApp and Facebook, the two most popular platforms in India, triggering incidents of mass violence in which lives had been lost. Hate crimes had been encouraged and communities polarized, with media credibility also affected. In short, individuals had become more susceptible to misinformation as a result of the increasing Internet penetration.

Her work with Khabar Lahariya, a rural online newspaper, mainly involved training women as journalists qualified to enter a profession that was traditionally a male stronghold. The newspaper was staffed entirely by women. Most of them were from marginalized local communities. Fact-checking had always been an essential part of the production process, which included informing readers about the news-gathering methods and sources used. Technology had amplified the misinformation and rumours that had always existed, including in rural India, and Khabar Lahariya considered it important to use that same technology to provide verified information to communities.

As to resources, Khabar Lahariya had fortunately managed to sustain itself while crucially continuing to retain its independence from corporate interests. It was now financed primarily through crowdfunding, grants from independent media foundations and contributions from readers and subscribers. To scale up its work without seeking investment from agencies that might compromise the independent news process was challenging, but thus far it had not succumbed to pressures exerted on it. Without interfering, the Government could help by promoting independent media and research on misinformation, which was poorly understood especially in rural India. It could also help to counter misinformation by promoting media literacy initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding of news agendas through critical analysis and questioning based on the premise that no news on any platform should be trusted.

The PRESIDENT thanked the expert panellists for their remarks and invited comments from floor.

Ms. A.P. ZANI (Kenya) asked how the necessary objectivity could be developed towards the media, which might have hidden, clear or subtle news agendas that were liable to be interpreted differently depending on such factors as income and education levels.

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, replied that real and credible news in the Indian context was often buried in the avalanche of false information in circulation. Few individuals were in the habit of fact-checking, especially as fact-checking initiatives were accessible only in urban areas, while in rural areas the news catered to populist sentiment. It was therefore important to counter misinformation and false news by way of independent media organizations that were uninfluenced by political, corporate or other interests and transparent about their news production process.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that it was assuredly positive to question online information, bearing in mind that any individual or entity could have a voice in an unregulated environment. Media literacy was key to that end and should be included in educational curricula and form part of lifelong learning. Media literacy campaigns were furthermore best conducted by non-government bodies to prevent accusations of propaganda or bias. As to social media initiatives, Facebook operated a fact-checking system, but it was unavailable in most countries. For its part, the QCRI was building tools to facilitate the identification of implicit political bias and propaganda techniques in information disseminated through social media.

The PRESIDENT noted that the bigger social media companies employed social scientists to conduct research into the psychology of their users and that the founder of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg had called for legislation on social media. He wondered whether anything more could be done.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, said that the recent call by chief executive officers of social media companies for regulation was a sign of the public pressure they were under to take action. The answer was not, however, to hold those companies accountable for their content, as to do so could prompt them to introduce censorship, which was even more undesirable than the dissemination of "junk news". A better solution would be for the companies to increase transparency on such matters as the sources of their advertising revenue and their powerful but secret recommendation algorithms.

Ms. M.L. ALCORTA SUERO (Peru) said that all freedom of expression must be defended and that the press must remain independent of government resources, which should instead be invested in such areas as education and health care. WhatsApp was essentially a social tool while information disseminated via Twitter was more likely to be political. Twitter was perhaps therefore a candidate for regulation, although the process might prove difficult in reality. Unless certain parameters were introduced, however, all regard for information would be lost.

The PRESIDENT said that the main aim of such platforms as Twitter and Facebook was to generate advertising income by attracting more followers, which raised doubts about their independence and perhaps about regulation as a way forward.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, said that the regulation of online platforms was a complex issue but one that should be pursued. Insofar as the media industry earned its revenue largely from advertising, its business model was based on attracting the attention of users, including through the dissemination of "junk news". Regulation would therefore be better focused on that model rather than on specific contexts.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, agreed that social media companies were motivated by their financial interests, which they had shown themselves reluctant to risk by taking action on "fake news". Nor did they wish to establish themselves as the arbiters of truth in what could be seen as a legitimate democratic debate. Social media platforms were best placed, however, to limit the spread of "fake news" and were indeed doing so by deleting certain accounts. It was nonetheless difficult to ascertain the extent to which "fake news" might have influenced the outcome of elections.

The PRESIDENT asked Ms. S. Joshi about the dilemma faced by independent media in need of funding and wishing to remain free of outside influence.

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, said that no media content should be influenced by funding and that it was important for media organizations in receipt of funding to remain independent and objective in their reporting and otherwise to be explicit about any bias that they might have.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, responding to a query from Mr. M. Farshadan (Islamic Republic of Iran), said that his own institute was not currently engaged in micro-targeting research. An Oxford University research project had, however, set up the website www.whotargetsme.com, which monitored the use of social media advertising political campaigns targeted at registered users of the website. In truth, there was no one simple answer to "fake news", which was a multidimensional problem requiring multidimensional solutions.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that WhatsApp users were actual people whereas Twitter was rife with bogus accounts powered by bots spreading "fake news" and influencing minds, which were also being poisoned by those using social media to advocate terrorism and extremism. The problem was already one of such magnitude that any immunity built towards it might come too late. Concerted efforts must therefore be channelled into finding solutions for tackling it on all fronts.

The PRESIDENT wondered about the true extent of the influence exerted by "fake news".

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *expert panellist*, said that bots were ubiquitous on all platforms, including WhatsApp, and were indeed instrumental in amplifying and accelerating the spread of "junk news". It was difficult, however, to measure the influence of such news on democratic processes and on elections in particular. While there was as yet no direct evidence of that influence, it was still important to initiate measures aimed at combating "junk news" in view of its role in degrading the quality of public debate.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that, with hate speech, terrorism and extremism among the potentially adverse consequences of the direct and indirect impact of "fake news" on the human psyche, it was preferable to block such news rather than to leave the world prey to the chaos it might cause.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that, much like spam before it, "fake news" could be controlled but not entirely eliminated. In addition to legislative, educational and media literacy initiatives, the cooperation of social media companies would be required to that end and was in fact beginning to emerge. Other dangers were already looming, however, as a result of the ongoing developments in the field of artificial intelligence. Those dangers included: fake images produced by generative adversarial networks, such as those found on www.thispersondoesnotexist.com; "deep fake" videos created by algorithms that were fast being perfected; artificial news likewise generated by algorithms developed by OpenAI; and chatbots, which were able to conduct conversations. All of those fakes were already of such high-quality that it was difficult, if not impossible, for the average person to believe that they were not real.

The PRESIDENT asked Ms. S. Joshi as an educator how long it might take to build immunity to "fake news".

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, said that media literacy initiatives were a start but that much remained to be done to address the problem of "fake news", which would not be resolved through such measures as criminalizing online activity, increasing censorship or blocking Internet access. Concerted efforts on the part of all stakeholders were the key to speeding up progress.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, responding to a question from Mr. H. Bekalle Akwe (Gabon), said that national regulation clearly had its place in combating hate speech and enhancing transparency in political advertising, for example. Multinational regulation, however, would be more effective in controlling "fake news" weaponized through micro-targeting and amplified by being spread virally on

social media. Governments could play a role by working to identify the networks involved in spreading "fake news" and conveying their findings to social media companies, which were best placed to act on such information. Governments must avoid falling into the trap of believing that "fake news" was a matter of false information, as they would then be seen as arbiters of truth and lose the trust of citizens, which could provoke rises in populism. In protecting the public interest, they must therefore take care not to impose what might be construed as censorship.

Mr. H.A. AL-AQULI (Iraq) said that a balance must be struck between safeguarding the rights of individuals and ensuring the integrity and transparency of democratic processes, including elections. While States bore a responsibility on that score, there was also an onus on the international community to combat "fake news" and the dissemination of hate speech by, for instance, by imposing fines or travel bans on offenders. As to the online platforms themselves, they should be required to identify the culprits disseminating information that could lead to tragedy, including loss of life.

The PRESIDENT, recalling the deaths that had occurred in India as a result of information circulating on WhatsApp, asked Ms. S. Joshi for her views about responsibility.

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, said she agreed that online platforms should be held more accountable for their published content, especially given that it had included the live-streaming of terrorist activities and hate crimes. Any legislation introduced to control social media should not, however, prejudice such fundamental rights as freedom of speech and expression.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, said that part of the difficulty lay in the new overlap between such freedoms and radicalization, terrorism and extremism, which involved two different aspects requiring different treatment. The first was more associated with journalism and the second with intelligence, yet they were intertwined.

The PRESIDENT said that the only thing new about "fake news" was that it now reached millions as opposed to a handful of individuals. Some countries had passed important legislation requiring the swift removal of offensive social media content, but it was not always easy to identify those who were behind certain websites.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that persons who used social media to defame and radicalize, for instance, could perhaps be prosecuted under the legislation applicable to mainstream media. Again, cooperation with online platforms was key to the removal of undesirable content to prevent its amplification. Social media companies shouldered a major responsibility to act on information received about such content. Considering, however, that their algorithms were designed to maximize user engagement and hence profit, they were unlikely to act against their own financial interest without international pressure.

Mr. J. LAWLESS (Ireland) said that, in seeking to balance the regulation of social media with freedom of expression, one solution being considered in Ireland was not to limit political comment but to enforce transparency by requiring disclosure of the sources of such comment to enable informed decisions by readers. Another solution being explored was the establishment of a permanent electoral commission to monitor trends so as to keep pace and prevent obsolescence of rules. One question yet to be decided was whether the responsibility for disclosure failures lay with online platforms or advertisers. A further problem was how to deal with the bot farms operating on an industrial scale, including with the aim of falsely amplifying minority viewpoints in order to lead policymakers in a particular direction. While such action should be criminalized as a manipulation of democracy, it was difficult to know who to target.

The PRESIDENT suggested that politicians should be transparent about their use of social media.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, said that politicians should ideally rely less on social media in favour of more meaningful forums of debate. It was important for them to be transparent, but social media companies should likewise be transparent about their algorithms. It was disconcerting for so little to be known about something that had such a huge impact.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine), noting that individual solutions to the problem of "fake news" had thus far been fruitless, suggested as a way forward the establishment of an international body, perhaps under United Nations auspices, for dealing with social media issues. As to the regulation of social media, whether self-imposed or otherwise, the time had come.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that social media companies had in fact been calling for universal regulation, which should be adaptable to national priorities. In that connection, a long-term view was essential in view of the dynamism of social media and the possibility that the giant companies of the day could disappear within the space of a few years.

Lord RENNARD (United Kingdom), referring to his Government's issuance of a consultation paper on harmful online content, said that the main concern of United Kingdom parliamentarians in that connection related to child abuse and terrorism. The proposed new measures for addressing such content were aimed at making the United Kingdom the safest place in the world to be online. Content that encouraged suicide or was deemed to be disinformation or cyber-bullying would also be targeted. Social media companies would face massive fines or be blocked from the United Kingdom altogether if they failed to remove harmful or illegal content from their platforms. As part of a mandatory duty of care, they would be forced to take reasonable steps to keep users safe and tackle illegal and harmful activity on their platforms. A new regulator with enforcement tools would be empowered to impose substantial fines or, in the worst cases, to block access to sites and take action against the responsible companies. All companies would be subject to a code of practice and be required to hand over annual transparency reports on the amount of harmful content on their platforms and explain what they were doing to fix the issue. Under the code of practice, companies would be responsible for minimizing the spread of misleading and harmful content with dedicated fact-checkers, particularly during election periods. In the United Kingdom, there was major concern about false information that had circulated in particular during the Brexit referendum campaign. Representations concerning the proposed measures were invited over the coming three months.

The PRESIDENT asked how the United Kingdom proposed to deal with websites of unknown origin that were involved in spreading violent material.

Lord RENNARD (United Kingdom) said that, as he understood it, such material could be blocked by methods not currently in use, although alternative suggestions would be welcome. Harmful content originating from anonymous websites could still be investigated and access to them restricted. Such content would be less visible, however, were it not for the ability to replicate it on anonymous sites via the likes of Facebook and Twitter.

The PRESIDENT wondered whether codes of conduct or accountability requirements would hamper or strengthen media organizations in terms of their business models.

Ms. S. JOSHI, *panellist*, said that media organizations should always seek to strengthen their transparency and accountability and to provide information about their processes, albeit that to do so was time-consuming and required personnel with a different skillset.

The PRESIDENT also wondered whether regulation would help to address the "fake news" situation.

Mr. P. NAKOV, *panellist*, said that regulation was indeed useful and noted that there were two kinds of harmful content: content that was in clear breach of the law, such as hate speech and child abuse; and content that fell into more of a grey zone. When Facebook manually fact-checked content and found it to be false, it opted to reduce the visibility of that content rather than suppress freedom of speech by blocking it altogether. There was a conflict, however, between optimizing platforms for high-quality content in that manner and optimizing them for user engagement. The trend of optimizing for 'likes' had moreover affected the quality of the mainstream media, which had adopted the same model of blending entertainment with news. More perturbing and even dangerous was the fact that some politicians were starting to behave in the real world as they did on social media, labelling as purveyors of "fake news" any media outlets that were not to their liking. The impact of such attacks on the mainstream media at election times especially could affect societies for years. Quality journalism was unfortunately endangered because advertising was concentrated on online platforms.

Mr. T. VENTURINI, *panellist*, agreed that the maximization of online media for ephemeral attention or superficial distraction, rather than for quality, was part of the problem. The solution would involve shifting the maximization objective from "junk" attention or distraction to quality information, journalism and debate.

The PRESIDENT thanked the expert panellists for their excellent input to the very interesting discussion, which had brought out the fact that illegal online content was easily identifiable and straightforward to remove, whereas what constituted harmful online content was a more subjective matter. Online platforms were hesitant to judge on that score, which was a positive approach in terms of preserving freedom of speech but did not resolve the issue of harm caused to others. Favourable ideas mentioned included the sanctioning of social media platforms that published harmful content. Those platforms could perhaps also be encouraged to target their algorithms at genuine news. Revenue was seen as a prime consideration for social media but also for traditional journalism, which continued to have an important investigative role that must not be lost. The overall situation was continually evolving and she therefore urged parliamentarians to continue learning from each other through sharing information about relevant legislation and initiatives.

The sitting rose at 12.30 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 9 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

The next resolution of the Standing Committee: *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*
(C-III/140/3(b)-Inf.1)

(a) Co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Committee had appointed at its previous session two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh) and Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland), to develop a draft resolution entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*.

The President said that the IPU President had nominated Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil) as the third co-Rapporteur after the Committee had requested to consult the IPU President on that appointment.

The Committee approved the nomination.

The PRESIDENT said that Committee members were encouraged to contribute to the draft resolution at the current session or in writing before 20 April 2019.

(b) Preparatory debate on the next resolution

The PRESIDENT invited the co-Rapporteurs to introduce the topic of the draft resolution that the Standing Committee was to consider at the 141st Assembly.

Mr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh), *co-Rapporteur*, said that all human beings, without distinction, had the right to enjoy the highest attainable level of physical and mental health to a standard of living that was adequate for their and their families' health and well-being. Health was a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, sustainable development. Persistent attention was therefore vital to address ongoing global health challenges, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations. At least half of the world's population had no access to essential health services, with millions pushed into extreme poverty through paying for health care. The solution lay in universal health coverage that left no one behind.

The draft resolution on the topic must therefore be premised on the need to strengthen all aspects of health systems as a prerequisite for achieving universal health coverage and health security. Robust financing and sustainable structures were also crucial to enabling the poor to obtain essential health services and to preventing financial hardship, even among the better-off people, in the event of severe or long-term illness. Other related and important elements included good governance,

skilled health professionals, reliable systems for procuring medicines, vaccines, medical supplies and health technologies, and well-functioning health information systems. A strong legal framework was similarly essential to the promotion and protection of health. Universal health coverage implied the need for measures on equity, development, social inclusion and cohesion, in addition to a focus on vulnerable groups, including women, children and adolescents.

As part of the global commitment to achieving universal health coverage by 2030, a high-level meeting on universal health coverage would be held at the next United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, in accordance with its resolution 73/131. Parliamentarians had an indispensable role to play and could provide vital input to the opportunities and challenges relating to that important global commitment. Specific action towards universal health coverage was ultimately a political choice. A world in which people were forced to choose between health and financial hardship was intolerable.

Mr. C. LOHR (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, said that universal health coverage was a human right and must form the basis of all health policies, covering promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services. It was also essential to preventing impoverishment from costly health care, particularly for those with long-term illnesses or disabilities. Investment in universal health coverage was a valuable investment in human capital that generated economic growth and many jobs, especially for women. It was an investment in safety, as strong health systems provided the only assurance of an adequate response to dangerous epidemics and bioterrorism. It was also a cost-saving measure, given the expediency of addressing health issues early on rather than at a more acute stage.

Providing universal health coverage posed challenges for developing and developed countries alike. It was not a matter of political ideology, as the approach could vary in accordance with the system in place. Switzerland, for example, had a liberal health system in which private actors played a major role in State-supervised structures. By contrast, the United Kingdom had opted for a State system that now increasingly incorporated market elements. Any IPU resolution on the subject must send a powerful message underlining the need for all countries to ensure universal access to affordable high-quality health services, with empowerment for health as the main strategic focus. The discussion to follow would be a starting point in that vital process.

Ms. M. CARVALHO (Brazil), *co-Rapporteur*, said that universal health coverage was critical to reducing disease, particularly in regions such as her own in the Brazilian Amazon. While her country's health strategy theoretically offered basic health coverage, in practice the hospitals were overstretched, and preventive care was inadequate. The situation called for urgent attention. The level of attention given was dependent on the party in Government, with positions and approaches shifting accordingly. Considering that everyone should be entitled to universal health coverage, the draft resolution must aim to make a difference to global health. All opinions, ideas and suggestions were welcome.

The PRESIDENT thanked the *co-Rapporteurs* and invited the two guest speakers to address the Committee: Mr. Z. Mirza (Director, Health System Development, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean of the World Health Organization); and Ms. V. Dagnimisom Koutou (Regional Advisor, Save the Children Denmark).

Mr. Z. MIRZA, *guest speaker*, said that universal health coverage was mainly the realization of the fundamental human right to health enshrined in the WHO Constitution. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 (healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages) would help to advance and implement the other 16 Goals, and lead to further health benefits. Universal health coverage was a political choice that parliamentarians must urge their governments to take so as to provide access for all people and communities to promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services of sufficient quality to be effective, without exposing users to financial hardship.

In low- and middle-income countries with scant resources, of the 218 essential health services identified, 104 were of the highest priority that had to be made available at all levels for all. Health was affected not only by health services but also by risks and determinants outside the health sector for which multisectoral and intersectoral interventions were required. Those interventions related to quality of water, air and the environment, and had the highest priority in the delivery of health care at the community, primary, secondary, tertiary and population levels. Primary health care was the foundation of universal health coverage, as it provided up to 90 per cent of health services. The universal health coverage service index had recorded wide differences between and within countries. The index had been compiled from data in 16 crucial areas, including reproductive, maternal, newborn and child

health, infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases, service capacity and access. Countries must therefore develop national priority benefit packages for universal health coverage comprising health and intersectoral services of local relevance, with quality as the integral component.

Universal health coverage was nonetheless impossible without financial risk protection to prevent yet more millions sliding into poverty due to out-of-pocket health spending. To invest in universal health coverage was to invest in human capital, with high returns on economic growth and health outcomes. Moreover, it had been proved by such examples as Costa Rica, Sri Lanka and Thailand that any country, regardless of income, could move progressively towards universal health coverage.

Health security and health service provision during emergencies were also vital parts of universal health coverage. WHO had extensive experience of those areas through responding to emergency situations and preparing countries to face health challenges as part of the implementation of the International Health Regulations. One of the aims of the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (2019-2023) was to improve the health and well-being of an additional one billion people through protection from health emergencies and guaranteed universal health coverage, with a view to achieving SDG 3 by 2030. The Programme also specifically recognized the critical role of parliamentarians in using their key functions to advance the global health agenda. The Memorandum of Understanding between WHO and the IPU in support of maternal, newborn and child health had been signed in that context. It was another important sign of the global commitment to universal health coverage. It was clearly time to act and the Committee's future resolution on the subject could not be more opportune.

Ms. V. DAGNIMISOM KOUTOU, *guest speaker*, said that she was a member the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism. The mechanism was the civil society arm of UHC2030, a global movement that provided a multi-stakeholder platform for promoting collaboration on strengthening health systems, advocating increased political commitment to universal health coverage, and facilitating accountability and knowledge-sharing. Governments, international organizations, the private sector, research institutions and the media were among the many other stakeholders brought together under UHC2030. Civil society also played a key role in the support of equity-driven universal health coverage focused on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Given the similarity of their task in working for the health of their electorates, parliamentarians were well placed to act as ambassadors for UHC2030 and ensure the right to health was respected.

Positive national changes could be made to encourage the move towards universal health coverage. For instance, a law on universal health insurance had been introduced in her own country, Burkina Faso. In 2015, she had formed a civil society coalition there to lobby electoral candidates to provide free health care to pregnant women, new mothers and under-5s in order to reduce the high mortality rates among those groups. The candidates had committed to that aim, which was then realized within a year. That had not only improved maternal and infant health but had also prevented people being financially ruined through buying health services. Similar successes had been achieved in other countries—Ghana, Sri Lanka and Thailand among them—where key stakeholders had committed to ensuring access to universal health coverage for the most vulnerable groups. She had also partnered with her country's parliamentarians. They had visited health centres and involved vulnerable groups in their own health care with positive results.

She recommended that measures be taken in close partnership with parliamentarians towards universal health coverage, including: government reporting on the implementation of their legal commitment to ensure the right to health and the right of access to health services for all; parliamentary action to mobilize budgetary resources in support of universal health coverage, strengthening health systems and attaining the SDGs; progression towards the health expenditure target of at least five per cent of gross domestic product; establishing mechanisms to fund health budget increases, such as improved tax collection, or taxing consumer products that harmed health so as to deliver health services for all according to need; improved transparency and accountability to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in public health spending; establishing adequate ethical safeguards to prevent conflicts of interest, and reducing excessive profits on health services and products; robust regulation of the right to equitable and quality services; commitment to adequate remuneration for community health workers who were integral to the health workforce; institutionalizing community engagement in health governance to ensure transparent decision-making and accountability; effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for guiding strategic policy development towards universal health coverage; and developing accountability frameworks for monitoring progress towards universal health coverage, with an emphasis on poor and marginalized groups.

The PRESIDENT thanked the two guest speakers for their input and invited contributions from the floor.

Mr. V. STAROVIC (Slovenia) opened the debate and said that all Slovenians had access, through compulsory health insurance, to a comprehensive health-care system founded on the values of solidarity, equality and justice. There were also community-based activities to minimize chronic disease risk factors and to cater to the needs of vulnerable groups. Efforts were under way to synergize measures that targeted the whole population with those that focused on individuals, and to prioritize health care for the ageing population, which posed the biggest challenge of all. The overall goal was to develop a financially sustainable and high-quality health-care system that continued to deliver universal health coverage, with parliamentarians playing an important legislative role.

Mr. M. FARSHADAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the implementation of his country's plan to transform the health system had substantially reduced medical costs and ensured health insurance coverage for millions. Noticeable progress in noncommunicable disease prevention and control was furthermore expected by 2030, thanks to an affordable, novel and practical management mechanism. Improvements had already occurred through strengthening health systems on, among others, life expectancy, vaccination coverage, and infant and child mortality. No efforts were spared to provide universal health coverage for millions of refugees and others on Iranian soil. Successful policymaking for development had overcome the health delivery challenges created by the unjust unilateral sanctions against the country. The sanctions must be condemned. In legislating for access to health services, provision must be made for humanitarian assistance during environmental disasters.

Ms. M. ZHOU (China) said that life expectancy and infant and maternal mortality were expected to improve further in China owing to the country's consistent efforts to promote health. As part of the Healthy China 2030 initiative, numerous laws had been enacted to protect and promote physical and mental health for all. Laws on environmental preservation and pollution control had also been adopted. Bills presently under consideration covered such matters as basic health care and vaccine management with a view to further developing the body of health-related legislation based on the life-course approach to health issues. Given the complications associated with industrialization, urbanization and an ageing population, China would intensify its law-making on health so as to ensure equal and accessible health services and legal safeguards for high-quality universal health coverage.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) said that primary health-care services were a vital part of any universal health coverage strategy. Research clearly indicated that such services offered the best value for money in terms of health outcomes. It was essential to emphasize those services for women, children and adolescents, as the groups who most often required them were too often excluded. The need for that emphasis was also evident from SDG 3.1, (reduce global maternal mortality ratio) and SDG 3.2 (end preventable deaths of newborns and under-5s). The draft resolution must therefore specifically refer to health-care provision for women, children and adolescents, with a focus on primary health services. To omit that specific reference and assume that children in particular were included by implication could have unwanted consequences.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that the critical issue of universal health coverage remained largely unresolved: access to basic health services was severely lacking or unaffordable, and quality professional health care was elusive. Parliamentarians must therefore defend the fundamental right to health by enacting appropriate legislation, scrutinizing government policy, promoting understanding of universal health coverage, and mobilizing more resources for health care, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Her own Parliament had adopted legislation to ensure equal, unhindered and lifelong access to quality health-care services on the basis of social solidarity, justice and universality. Given the fundamental right to health, parliaments must cooperate to ensure that access to affordable, good-quality health care was no longer compromised or considered a luxury.

Ms. P. KOZOMPOLI (Greece) said that almost all Greek citizens had enjoyed access to health care until the financial crisis began in 2010. The crisis had resulted in soaring unemployment and sinking GDP. That had prevented the payment of social security contributions and created shortcomings in the country's health-care structures. Those structures had eventually been reinforced: all uninsured citizens had regained access to free health care following the boost to social security funds created by prioritizing measures to combat unemployment and undeclared work. The quality of

primary health care had also been improved, with an emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and health education. Access to health care was a fundamental right for all. Universal health coverage, however, was a political choice for governments to make in the interests of equity, solidarity and justice.

Ms. H. FOGSTAD (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health—PMNCH) said that considerable progress towards universal health coverage could be made by prioritizing and meeting the health-care and financial protection needs of women, newborns, children and adolescents, who bore the greatest burden of ill health and preventable deaths. The explicit provision of people-centred health care, including sexual and reproductive health services for those groups, was the backbone of an effective health system and critical to the survival, healthy growth and development of all individuals. National laws and policies must protect the right to health and access to health and nutrition services without discrimination, prohibition or restriction on the grounds of age, sex, ethnicity, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or other characteristics. Health-care systems must also be strengthened, with an emphasis on primary health care, task-sharing and easy access to services, through budgetary allocations sufficient to improve health-care services where that was most needed. Lastly, communities must be engaged in the development and implementation of plans and strategies that responded to their realities.

Mr. V. CHANTASATKOSOL (Thailand) said SDG 3 (good health and well-being) was very important to Thailand, as aspects of the Goal were vital to sustainable development. Notwithstanding its low gross national income per capita, Thailand had boldly decided to provide access to quality health services for all through a health insurance scheme. Its successful multi-faceted approach to universal health coverage had lowered the cost, which was partly financed by taxation, increased co-payments or direct premium collections. A new law on primary health care also provided a solid foundation for sustainable universal health coverage. The law established a country-wide supervisory mechanism for primary health care and engaged all stakeholders in its implementation. Its aims included the improvement of overall access to quality primary health-care services, notably in rural areas and especially for older persons, bearing in mind that Thailand was set to become an ageing society in 2021.

Ms. J. NIKOLOVA (North Macedonia) said that access to health care was a constitutionally guaranteed right in her country and among the strategic goals promoted by a parliamentary committee dedicated to health issues. The draft resolution should emphasize the key role of parliaments in creating people-centred national health-care systems and addressing the negative impact of social determinants of health, particularly through allocating necessary financial resources. The draft resolution should encourage active parliamentary networking to build relationships among parliaments, parliamentary bodies, governments and non-State actors concerning health-related matters. It should also call on parliaments to invite governments and international funding partners to move from rhetoric to concrete action through the full implementation of programmes designed to achieve the agreed objectives.

Ms. K. PARK (Republic of Korea) said that medical assistance to low- and middle-income countries was confined to the provision of medicines and emergency care, offering no guarantee of the right to health through prevention, treatment and management. Bearing in mind the instances of medical malpractice and the current global threat of infectious diseases, universal health coverage should be better regulated by law. The major developed countries should also increase related technological and infrastructural support to low- and middle-income countries. For their part, parliaments must reach consensus on specific principles relating to the common goal of expanding universal health coverage. Her own country was increasingly working towards that goal as part of building an innovative and inclusive nation. It was through international cooperation that the right legal and policy environment would be created to effectively deliver essential health services through universal health coverage.

Mr. S. BOULE (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) said that millions of lives had been saved through programmes supported by the Global Fund. It provided a substantial proportion of the international financing available to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Fund requested that the major role it played in helping countries move towards universal health coverage and that the attainment of SDG 3 be recognized through the following language in the draft resolution: "The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is the largest multilateral grant funder for investments to build resilient and sustainable systems for health, including improving

procurement and supply chains; strengthening data systems; training the health workforce; supporting and expanding community responses; and promoting more integrated service delivery. We affirm our strong support for a fully-funded Global Fund."

Ms. M. OHKAWARA (Japan) said that parliamentarians had a key role to play in achieving universal health coverage with no one left behind. They must continuously review their national health-care systems in light of public demands, and ensure that the systems were appropriately administered. Improved access to health services for women and children in particular must be urgently provided, including in order to achieve SDGs 3.1 and 3.2 (reducing global maternal mortality and ending preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age). Women and children were among the most vulnerable to poverty and the most affected by conflict and disaster. Guaranteeing their right to health would better their lives. Hearing more women's voices in parliament through achieving gender parity would likely benefit that cause.

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya) said that universal health coverage, expanded services and other actions had been prioritized in her country's Big Four Agenda for development. Following the Thai model, the aim was to provide public health services free of charge at all levels, with further investments to strengthen community-based primary health care. The initiative would be rolled out country-wide following the initial pilots under way. The First Lady's *Beyond Zero* campaign was a high-level advocacy platform to address the challenges of improving maternal and child health and accelerating implementation of the national plan to eliminate new HIV infections among children. Its activities included fund-raising marathons and running mobile clinics in remote areas that lacked medical facilities. The campaign's motto was that no woman should die while giving birth.

Mr. R. MAVENYENGWA (Zimbabwe) said that all citizens and residents of Zimbabwe had the right to receive basic health care (including reproductive health services) and emergency treatment. In the case of the chronically sick, the best available care would be provided. Zimbabwe was progressing towards universal health coverage. Its parliament was seeking to double the budgetary allocation for health. Treatment was already free of charge for pregnant women, the under-5s and the over-65s. The cost of essential drugs and hospital equipment was funded by a levy. It was similar to that introduced to supplement the donor funding of medication for HIV/AIDS patients and had been emulated elsewhere. Women's organizations were calling for free cervical cancer screening, especially in rural areas. Parliament would continue to promote the efficient use of health resources and oversee the procurement of medical supplies and technologies.

Ms. G.N. SAFI (Afghanistan) said that universal health coverage was but a dream for her country in the face of war and instability. Investment in the health of Afghan women and children was a pressing requirement and would bring long-term benefits. Poor health affected the ability of children to learn and of adults to work. It also affected family life, the economy and the country's future. In Afghanistan, providing affordable high-quality health care was a major challenge that could only be addressed through increased public spending on health. In addition to a focus on epidemic and pandemic prevention and control, steps must be taken to embrace innovation, mobilize for collective action, combat child marriage and domestic violence against women, and ensure protection for children.

Mr. S. ALOUINI (Tunisia) said that Tunisia was committed to universal health coverage in line with its Constitution, which enshrined the right to health for all. The Tunisian Parliament regularly discussed the subject with civil society and had recently participated in a meeting of parliamentarians from the WHO East Mediterranean Region at which a regional parliamentary forum on universal health coverage had been established. Tunisia was proud to be hosting the forum's first meeting in June 2019, which all parliamentarians from the region were invited to attend.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said that, in working towards universal health coverage, parliaments should harness their traditional functions of representation, legislation and oversight. In so doing, they should seek to raise public awareness of universal health coverage and make it a reality, enact relevant laws, secure the necessary budgetary allocations, and ensure that national development plans prioritized universal health coverage and were implemented in practice. Health insurance in the rural areas of Burundi was particularly lacking. However, the country was progressing in the right direction, providing free health care to under-5s and pregnant and lactating mothers, together with the recommended vaccines for children. Burundi was also striving to define and implement policies and mechanisms that aimed to guarantee universal health coverage and that could be further promoted worldwide through international cooperation.

Ms. B.M. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana) said that Botswana was committed to achieving universal health coverage by 2030. It had aligned its current development strategies with the health-related SDGs. Botswana had also exceeded the Abuja target for government spending on health care and had low out-of-pocket spending. As a share of total health expenditure, private sector funding had steadily increased through public-private collaboration for improving access to health care. Health-care facilities had been established throughout the country to provide convenient access for the majority of Botswanans. The Government recognized that universal health coverage involved technical and political agendas that required commitment and investment. It was therefore organizing training for several thousand community health workers so as to revitalize primary health-care services at district and local levels.

Mr. P.J. SERUKAMBA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, by the end of 2019, Tanzanians would be required by law to have compulsory health insurance as part of achieving universal health coverage. Due to ongoing investment in the Tanzanian health infrastructure, health centres and pharmacies were being established across the country, and a hospital referral system was in place. The budget for medicines had been quadrupled and medical services were free of charge for pregnant women and under-5s. Most importantly, community-based health services were being developed to promote universal health coverage and disease prevention.

Mr. A. SINMALEZA (Ecuador) said that all parliaments played a prominent role in guaranteeing access to comprehensive health care; prevention was better than cure. Domestic legislation must cover health financing and spending. It must also offer guidelines on delivering quality public health care, including in rural areas. Ecuador had made considerable progress on that score; the guaranteed right to health was linked to the exercise of other rights that sustained well-being. Health service provision was governed by the principles of equity, universality and efficiency, and also encompassed a gender and generational approach. The Ecuadorian Parliament was working on legislation to combat malnutrition, which was widespread among children and in rural areas. A new health Bill with greater emphasis on prevention was designed to achieve health for all and eliminate the persistent inequities in the existing system.

Ms. C. MIX (Chile) said that access to quality public health care was a right that was not yet fully realized in Chile, partly owing to the continuing shortage of health professionals. Many thousands died while waiting for treatment, which presaged an impending public health crisis. While almost the entire population was covered by public or private health insurance, out-of-pocket spending on health remained among the highest on record. Most citizens therefore doubted their ability to cover care costs in the event of serious illness. Achieving universal health coverage required: increased investment in health as a percentage of GDP; the pooling of State and workers' contributions into a single health fund; health systems in favour of women, children and adolescents, with an emphasis on primary care; and task-sharing, together with easy community access to services. The rule of thumb was that the interests of the majority must take priority over neoliberal economic interests.

Ms. S. ISAYAN (Armenia) said that strong health systems were the best defence against disease outbreaks that led to crisis. Universal health coverage was therefore a major health reform goal in many countries. Armenia, for example, was planning to phase in a compulsory health insurance scheme. It would initially require working citizens to contribute a very small percentage of their monthly salaries. Consideration would be given at a later stage to the coverage of pensioners, children and non-working citizens under the scheme, possibly through contributions paid by a working family member. More widely, there would also be discussion about whether developing countries and countries with social difficulties could be reasonably expected to attain SDG 3 (health and well-being) by 2030.

Mr. F. MWIJUKYE (Uganda) said that progress towards SDGs 3.1 and 3.2 (reduction of maternal mortality worldwide and ending preventable deaths of newborns and under-5s) could be achieved through prevention, treatment, education, immunization, and sexual and reproductive health care. Ugandan parliamentarians had partnered with village health teams to increase antenatal care uptake and the number of births attended by skilled professionals. There was a marked improvement in the related statistics. MPs from Uganda had also taken steps to: increase budgetary allocations; ensure the provision of neonatal health training for health workers, youth-friendly health-care services and maternity protection under labour legislation; advocate for maternal health; increase country-wide access to information on maternal and child health care; and mandate clear budget lines for maternal, neonatal and child health, and maternal death audits.

Mr. H. CHOQUE TARQUE (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that greater attention should be devoted towards global health issues (including universal health coverage) and away from arms procurement and war. Thanks to a recent new law, Bolivians now had access to universal health coverage free of charge. It was hoped that all countries would achieve the same by 2030 and so ensure health for all on a planet currently suffering from the impact of human activities.

Mr. D. MARIE (France) said that more efforts were needed to ensure that those living in pockets of extreme poverty benefited from the universal health coverage that was already available in many countries. The draft resolution must emphasize the need to combat the environmental causes of ill health, disease and death, including air pollution and pollution of the food chain. Industrialized countries bore a particular responsibility for the impact of their development-related activities. Vital pollinators such as bees were being decimated by the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides, while marine ecosystems were under threat from plastic pollution. Countries must respond to the environmental challenges to public health by moving towards renewable energy, abandoning the use of pesticides and genetically modified organisms, and adapting lifestyles and production methods to combat the effects of climate change.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that his country had formulated a long-term development strategy for the public health sector. Measures such as participatory learning and action meetings had been valuable. Parliament had enacted laws and regulations focused on protecting and promoting health as part of the International Health Regulations. All rural communities benefited from the services of health extension workers under a programme overseen by a parliamentary committee. There had been significant health-related improvements, notably with regard to service coverage and the crude death rate.

Mr. H. BEKALLE AKWE (Gabon) said that Gabon had been moving towards universal health coverage for some years after establishing a national health insurance scheme. The scheme made special provision for low-income households and covered most medical treatment costs, including medication and hospitalization. Immunization and maternity care were among the services delivered free of charge in all cases. For its part, the Gabonese Parliament was exercising its legislative and oversight functions to bring about adaptation to social and environmental change as and when necessary.

Mr. H.Y. BIN SAPARI (Malaysia) hoped that the IPU would help poorer countries to improve their health services as suggested by the guest speakers. He said that strategies for sustaining universal health coverage in Malaysia were focused on improving service delivery and enhancing data availability and quality where needed. An enhanced primary health-care programme was in place for tackling noncommunicable diseases through preventive action, patient empowerment and increased patient-doctor rapport. Public-private partnerships had enhanced service delivery in fields such as cataract surgery. Financing for improved access to health-care services was managed by a State-owned non-profit company. A free Takaful protection scheme was also in place for those in certain income groups, as was a health-screening programme for eligible workers.

Mr. Y.R. AL-KHATER (Qatar) said that universal health coverage in Qatar was provided free of charge to citizens and foreign nationals, although the latter paid a small contribution towards medication. Hospitals specializing in cardiology, cancer care, paediatrics, gynaecology and obstetrics, and rehabilitation had been built to the highest standards, in addition to hospitals catering for construction workers. However, providing health care was increasingly costly due to the rising population. The State was therefore considering the introduction of a health insurance scheme. All such efforts were in line with the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2020 relating to the physical and mental health of the country's population.

Ms. D. RATNASARI (Indonesia) said that Indonesia had embarked on an exciting journey towards universal health coverage with the introduction of a national health insurance scheme. For a rapidly growing middle-income country with such specific demographic and geographic features, universal health coverage presented a unique challenge. Drawing on Indonesian experience to date, she wanted the draft resolution to address improved access to health care, availability of medical professionals, and governance and accountability for health spending. Indonesia was also committed to implementing the International Health Regulations, in which context it was important to strengthen primary health-care provision and infection control. Lastly, universal health coverage should include mental health care. That could help to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness and address the lack of affordable access to professional help.

Ms. A.A. AL WASHAHI (Oman) said that the draft resolution should cover mechanisms for guaranteeing that displaced persons and migrants could enjoy the right to health in areas of armed conflict through the provision of primary and specialized health care in crisis-affected areas. That health care was also designed to prevent the spread of epidemics and communicable diseases to neighbouring areas and countries. It should additionally cover work to address the environmental impact on health.

Mr. S. JARA CRUZ (Mexico) said that his country had legislated for universal health coverage in accordance with its Constitution. Mexico was committed to the achievement of health coverage for all, as demonstrated by its health budget. It was the second largest budget among the countries of Latin America. Mexico's health infrastructure must be improved in order to cater better to all groups and regions. Mexico was also seeking to establish public-private partnerships that would enhance the efficiency and flexibility of health-care delivery and secure new health technologies, enabling treatment that was faster, more relevant and more effectively targeted.

Mr. H.A. AL-AQULI (Iraq) said that universal health coverage was difficult for Iraq and other Middle East countries that, in addition to experiencing instability, war and conflict, were involved in combating terrorism and extremism. The challenge was compounded by the number of war-related injuries among inhabitants. Available health budgets were invariably disproportionate to needs. The obstacles to universal health coverage were therefore virtually insurmountable. They required international support to develop and implement programmes and strategies that would contribute to saving innocent lives and realize the equal right of all human beings to health, well-being and social justice, irrespective of politics, place and religion.

The PRESIDENT thanked all those who had spoken and invited the guest speakers to make closing remarks.

Ms. V. DAGNIMISOM KOUTOU, *guest speaker*, said that the comments had indicated the many different methods that could be deployed to achieve universal health coverage. Speakers had clearly recognized the critical role of parliaments in that endeavour. At the IPU level, collaborative efforts should be pursued so as to help least developed countries to keep pace with the progress being made on universal health coverage.

Mr. Z. MIRZA, *guest speaker*, noted the richness of the experiences shared by the speakers in the debate. He said that the support expressed for universal health coverage was very encouraging. National contexts, income levels and priorities plainly differed among countries, but domestic programmes for the advancement of universal health coverage could be tailored, while still observing the key principles involved. It had also emerged from the debate that cross-learning was already taking place, with several speakers referring to the impressive advances made by some low- and middle-income countries towards universal health coverage. WHO encouraged, supported and recorded such learning, and was an ally in that process. It would consider the views expressed and work closely with the IPU to further develop its own inputs and assistance for the advancement of universal health coverage. He looked forward to the adoption of a milestone IPU resolution on the subject.

The PRESIDENT said that she too looked forward to the outcome of the work of the co-Rapporteurs and wished them every success in their task.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the nominations received to fill the vacant positions on the Bureau of the Standing Committee for an initial two-year term, renewable once, were: Ms. A. Talabani (Iraq) for the Arab Group; Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina) for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. D. Marie (France) for the Twelve Plus Group. For the African Group, Mr. H. Bekalle-Akwe (Gabon) would replace the Bureau member from the same country and complete his term of office. In addition, Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi) and Mr. S. Spengemann (Canada) were completing their first two-year mandates on the Bureau. They had indicated their wish to continue in their positions for the second two-year term, for which they were eligible.

The Committee approved those nominations to the Bureau.

The sitting rose at 12.15 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 9 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/140/A.1.rev)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 139th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2018)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT announced that the Standing Committee was required to elect two new members to its Bureau. Candidatures had been received from Mr. U. Nyam-Osor (Mongolia) for the Asia-Pacific Group and Mr. P. Akamba (Uganda) for the African Group. In the absence of any comments or objections he took it that the Committee wished to approve those candidatures.

It was so agreed.

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Standing Committee's spring meeting was intended to facilitate parliamentary engagement in efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an ambitious agenda seeking to eradicate poverty and to set the world on a sustainable course. It sent a clear message that those two objectives should be achievable in a world of plenty, and with the knowledge and technologies available. Political will was crucial, which was where parliaments had a key role. The 2030 Agenda recognized that parliaments and parliamentarians must help forge consensus on policy solutions that worked for all people in all countries, leaving no one behind. Despite the progress made since the adoption of the Agenda in 2015, no country was on course to achieve all of the SDGs. Parliaments had the power to hold governments to account, to tailor efforts to meet the SDGs to their countries' specific circumstances as part of a coherent national plan, and to legislate and adopt budgets to translate that plan into action.

The meeting would take the form of two panel discussions, the first on parliamentary follow-up on the SDGs in preparation for the 2019 session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, highlighting lessons learned and best parliamentary practices, and the second on the 2019 HLPF theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*.

Parliamentary follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in preparation for the 2019 session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

The PRESIDENT introduced the three panellists, Ms. K. Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU, who would inform the Standing Committee about a survey undertaken by the IPU to look into the institutionalization of the SDGs into the work of parliaments and Mr. K. Al Bakkar (Jordan) and Mr. A. Rozas (Argentina) would share their parliaments' experiences of engagement on the SDGs.

Ms. K. JABRE *panellist*, presented the results of a survey on the institutionalization of the SDGs in the work of national parliaments. The IPU had participated actively in negotiations establishing the ambitious 2030 Agenda, and had pushed for the role of parliaments to be included. Much remained to be done to meet the SDGs; despite an overall global reduction in extreme poverty, inequality persisted and hunger was increasing. Basic ecosystems were losing their regenerating capacity, the global

climate was changing faster than expected and key institutions of democracy were under threat. Positive developments included improved health and education, more access to electricity and less unemployment. To assess how parliaments were faring in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the extent to which they had incorporated it into their processes and mechanisms, the IPU had conducted a survey, in which 89 national parliaments had participated. The survey had focused on two main areas: parliamentary outputs; and parliamentary mechanisms.

On outputs, the survey had begun by asking whether any activities were being undertaken to raise the awareness of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff regarding the SDGs. Results had shown that 56 per cent of respondents had organized activities for parliamentarians, while few initiatives had been organized for parliamentary staff. Activities were often organized on an ad hoc basis, rather than as part of systematic advocacy. Measures to ensure the continuous engagement of parliamentarians and staff on the SDGs could therefore be improved. The survey had also looked into how often parliamentary committees discussed the SDGs, questioned governments about the Goals or published reports on related matters. In general, there was very little committee output that focussed specifically on the SDGs, and 64 per cent of respondents said that no parliamentary committee reports on the subject had been issued. Around half of the respondents had indicated that their governments had not submitted reports or provided any input to parliament on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and attainment of the SDGs. On the question of whether any parliamentary enquiries on the SDGs had been conducted, 60 per cent of respondents had held expert hearings or commissioned studies on the SDGs.

Of the parliaments that had completed the survey, 52 per cent had set up formal, permanent mechanisms to systematically follow up on the SDGs. Those mechanisms included parliamentary committees, advisory groups and focal points. Responses to questions on whether the SDGs were mainstreamed into the work of all parliamentary committees had been somewhat vague. While some parliamentary committees took up SDG-related matters on an ad hoc basis, others specified very clearly how the SDGs would be incorporated into their work. Only 25 per cent of respondents had established coordination mechanisms, which indicated that there was a high risk that while various measures related to the SDGs were being taken in parliaments, they were not being coordinated to ensure a consistent, coherent approach, which could undermine efficiency and impact. Of the respondents, 42 per cent were involved in national coordination mechanisms for the SDGs and 43 per cent of those whose governments had reported to the United Nations on SDG attainment had taken part in the voluntary national review process (VNR).

The survey had shown that the ways in which parliaments integrated the SDGs into their work varied considerably. Many struggled to identify how to set up mechanisms to engage with the SDGs more systematically. The IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had developed a self-assessment toolkit on SDGs and parliaments, which aimed to help parliaments to question themselves about their performance and identify strategies for enhancing their processes and engaging more closely with the SDGs. The IPU had provided support to around 10 parliaments in conducting the self-assessment exercise.

The key lessons learned from the survey were that parliaments had a generally much greater awareness and ownership of the SDGs than they had done with regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). More could be done with regard to institutionalization, however, to make the SDGs a systematic aspect of parliamentary work. There was no one-size-fits-all approach to institutionalizing the SDGs in parliament; a variety of approaches were being taken. The Secretariat was looking forward to hearing more about national parliaments' experiences and strategies for strengthening their engagement on the SDGs.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR *panellist*, said that Jordan had been deeply committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since its adoption in 2015. An integrated national development plan had been prepared for the period 2018–2025, which translated the SDGs into national development priorities and aligned the SDG targets with the national budget. Recent legislative reforms had aimed to secure public participation in national priority-setting and to regulate the relationship between the private and the public sectors to promote greater partnerships for national development. Efforts were being made to promote small and medium enterprises and encourage women's involvement in development; labour law had been reformed to promote women's economic activity, providing them with the necessary conditions to work and care for their families. Social security had also been reformed and allocated more public funding, with a view to ending poverty and supporting the most vulnerable. With regard to water resources, the Jordanian authorities were cooperating with neighbouring countries to safeguard the supply of clean water. Efforts were being made to increase the proportion of renewable energy, which currently represented 15 per cent of Jordan's energy mix.

Despite those efforts, more needed to be done to ensure attainment of the SDGs. Studies had been conducted to provide the evidence on which to base future measures. Jordan continued to face enduring problems of public debt, which constituted an enormous challenge and was impeding progress towards the SDGs. High levels of unemployment, the financial burden of hosting a significant number of refugees from Syria, and the security-related costs of fighting extremism, meant that Jordan severely lacked financial resources. For parliaments to uphold their responsibilities and contribute to the attainment of the SDGs, their oversight role must be recognized and they must be allowed to decide how resources were allocated within national budgets. The IPU should provide training and awareness-raising in that regard.

Mr. A. ROZAS, *panellist*, said that three years previously, the global community had adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs, pledging to put an end to poverty, protect the planet from climate change and ensure peace and prosperity for all, the world over. Despite persistent inequalities, some progress was being made towards implementing the Agenda and realizing those aspirations.

In Argentina, a national council for coordinators of social policies had been established as the body responsible for internalizing the 2030 Agenda. Parliaments had an important role in implementing the Agenda through legislating, budgeting and oversight. Both chambers of the Argentinian Parliament had bodies to identify links between legislative initiatives and the SDGs. In 2016, the Senate had established an observatory on the 2030 Agenda, to ensure that the SDGs were mainstreamed in legislation, using a similar model to a previously established observatory that had proven effective for mainstreaming human rights. A bill on incorporating the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into the national education curriculum was currently before parliament.

Regarding parliament's budgetary function, Argentina's 2019 budget included a matrix of links between the Government's priorities and the SDGs. Those links were particularly important, since sufficient resources would need to be allocated to efforts to attain the SDGs. In 2018, a budgetary office had been set up in Congress to oversee allocation of resources and activities in that regard. The Office of the Auditor General was responsible for reporting on activities to attain the SDGs; its first report had been submitted to Congress in 2017. The Office of the Ombudsman was an independent body under the aegis of the Congress, which also had a role to play in monitoring progress towards the attainment of the SDGs. A mechanism was in place to foster public participation in parliamentary activities; both the Senate and the Congress had offices for access to information, which kept the press and civil society organizations apprised of all activities.

The fact that parliaments had been involved in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the 2030 Agenda was particularly significant. Their increasing involvement in the HLPF was also important. A strong focus on surveillance and monitoring to gather data and evidence would be the key to keeping track of progress. To that end, national statistics systems were being developed in many countries. Consolidation of work within parliaments, and cooperation between parliaments were essential.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the international community continued its efforts to advance global development. While significant progress had been made to lift people out of poverty, it was increasingly understood that economic growth alone was not sufficient. Persistent income and wealth inequalities required urgent action. Universal policies focusing on the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations should be applied to empower those earning less and promote economic inclusion for all. Parliamentarians should strengthen the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encourage development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions that needed it most, and facilitate safe migration and mobility of people. The world was divided into regions that enjoyed peace, security and prosperity and others that fell into never-ending cycles of conflict and violence. Sustainable development could not be achieved without peace, stability, respect for human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law. Effective and inclusive public institutions were essential in that regard, to ensure delivery of good quality education and health care, fair economic policies and inclusive environmental protection. Governments, parliaments and civil society must work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation. Freedom of expression must also be guaranteed, and people must be able to contribute to decision-making on issues that affect their lives. Legislation and policies must be applied without any discrimination and disputes must be resolved through well-functioning political and justice systems. Parliamentarians had a crucial oversight role to play and must raise public awareness about the realities of violence and the importance of peaceful and just societies.

Mr. X. HE (China) said that China attached great importance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and had been the first country to finalize its national development plan and progress report. Under the plan, coordinated economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement would be promoted, and economic development would be boosted, lifting all people out of poverty by 2020. Through North-South and South-South cooperation, China not only pursued its own development but also actively provided support to other developing countries. The National People's Congress of China was doing its utmost to integrate the 2030 Agenda into legislation and oversight. Efforts were being made to ensure sound law-making, broad public participation, and observation of the rule of law in legislative processes. A new development philosophy had been implemented, living standards had been improved, and judicial impartiality was guaranteed. Efforts had been made to strengthen communication between members of the National People's Congress and their constituents to ensure that the people's interests and will were truly represented. Since 2016, China and the IPU had jointly organized annual interregional seminars for parliamentarians from developing countries on SDG attainment. The world's parliaments must work together to explore the sustainable development path and share knowledge and experience to build a community with a shared future for all in a world of lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Mr. D. VELKOVSKI (North Macedonia) said that in North Macedonia, the National Council for Sustainable Development comprised members of parliament, ministers, economists, academics, and representatives of civil society. The Council was an advisory body, which guided efforts towards Euro-Atlantic integration, and towards sustainable economic development that would foster job creation and improve the wellbeing of citizens. The SDGs could only be achieved by ensuring the rule of law, economic growth, good governance, access to justice, the protection of human rights and freedoms and access to independent institutions. Priority goals had been set for 2020, which were in line with government priorities, the needs of society and the partnership strategy for sustainable development developed with the United Nations Country Team. Most recently, the National Council had proposed strategies for greater public involvement in the preparation of a national action plan for sustainable development. Public debates on the priority development objectives were underway with representatives of civil society, academia and the business sector. The Council was also considering the possibility of beginning the national voluntary review process to assess progress towards meeting the SDGs.

Mr. M.M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that since the Islamic revolution in 1979, special attention had been paid to health and wellbeing, which had markedly improved life expectancy. Emphasis had also been placed on strengthening higher education, which had led to the expansion of post-graduate programmes at Iranian universities. There were now 4.2 million students in higher education, compared with 176,000 before the revolution in 1979. Particular progress had been made with regard to technological development. Measures were underway to develop a knowledge-based economy, moving away from dependence on oil revenue, with a view to leading the way in becoming fossil-fuel free. The literacy rate among women had increased to 86 per cent, with women now playing a significant role in writing and publishing. Agricultural production had also increased significantly. All of the progress made since the revolution was a demonstration of sustainable development, which had been achieved against a backdrop of unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America. On the 40th anniversary of the revolution, the authorities and people of Iran were committed to the further development of justice, knowledge and a sustainable economy, and stood ready to share experiences in that regard with the IPU.

Mr. M. BENSOUF (Tunisia) said that parliamentarians, through their parliamentary oversight function, could have a positive impact on efforts to achieve the SDGs. In Tunisia, Parliament had enacted legislation on sustainable development, adopted a national development plan, and set up a national commission for sustainable development. Democracy must be upheld if development was to be truly sustainable. Parliamentary engagement with civil society and nongovernmental organizations was also crucial. New types of investment had been developed to give incentives to young people aged under 30 to start businesses and contribute actively to economic development in Tunisia and SDG attainment.

Mr. M.A.S. MIAH (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh was a forerunner in transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs. The SDGs had been integrated into the national five-year development plan, data gap and financial needs analyses had been conducted, and a national action plan and monitoring framework for the SDGs had been drawn up. Outstanding progress had been made with respect to poverty alleviation, food security, primary school enrolment, gender parity in education, lowering infant, child and maternal mortality, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of

communicable diseases. All groundwork for SDG attainment had been done; ministries had been mapped by goals and targets, a ministerial and divisional action plan had been prepared and a sectoral strategy action plan had also been adopted.

Ms. L.T. HA (Viet Nam) said that during a regional seminar on responding to climate change, the National Assembly of Viet Nam had hosted the launch of the IPU's SDGs self-assessment toolkit for parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region. To raise awareness of the role of parliaments in attaining the SDGs, a conference had been held in December 2018, with the participation of deputies of the National Assembly, locally elected representatives, the IPU Secretary General, United Nations representatives and international parliamentarians to discuss the SDGs and share experiences in using the self-assessment toolkit. A pilot programme on promoting the role of deputies in SDG attainment, in particular poverty reduction, had been launched in the province of Son La. Parliamentarians maintained close communication with ministries to keep abreast of SDG progress. Parliamentary hearings had been conducted and executive agencies had been requested to send reports on SDG-related activities in their respective fields. A national action plan for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been drawn up. Under that plan, a voluntary national review had been prepared for presentation to the United Nations HLPF in 2018. Thus far, progress had been made with respect to several of the SDGs: there had been a substantial reduction in poverty; a decrease in under-5 mortality; and an increase in primary school enrolment and completion. Those achievements were testament to the political will to achieve the SDGs. The National Assembly would continue to monitor progress and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Resources were lacking, however, and support from the international community would be essential.

Mr. K. AL BAKKAR, *panellist*, expressed satisfaction that all parliamentarians were unanimous on the importance of parliamentary work in the attainment of the SDGs. All three parliamentary functions—legislating, budgeting and oversight—must be harnessed fully in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Parliaments needed better opportunities to monitor government activities and assess progress. Over recent years, development gaps had widened; the greater those gaps, the greater the threat of instability and conflict. Yet over the years, the trillions of dollars spent around the world on conflict could have contributed significantly to sustainable development. Those development gaps and inequalities between citizens must be reduced. The planet had limited resources; parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure that those resources were used responsibly. Countries that failed to respect the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council had a dangerous impact on others; those operating outside the remit of international law should be held to account. The Middle East was suffering from foreign interference, which hindered our autonomy and our development. Building bridges between the peoples of the world would be the only way to ensure a sustainable future.

Ms. K. JABRE, *panellist*, said that she welcomed the focus participants had placed on advocacy and outreach, which were an important first step. Oversight and budgetary allocation were key parliamentary functions that were under-utilized when it came to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While the SDGs were objectives to be met at the national level, the work done to meet the Goals could be used as an opportunity for parliaments to become stronger. She encouraged all parliamentarians to be as creative and engaged as possible. Institutionalizing the role of parliaments in attaining the SDGs would allow efforts to be streamlined and impact to be enhanced.

Mr. A. ROZAS, *panellist*, said that he felt heartened that the discussion had shown that parliaments cared about the 2030 Agenda and the principles of poverty elimination and equality for all. All parliaments must follow the same path; protecting the planet against climate change must be the top priority. Developed countries had a significant responsibility in that regard. The parliaments of the world must all work together for a better future for all.

The sitting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

**Panel discussion on the main theme of the 2019 HLPF:
*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality***

The PRESIDENT said that the theme of the second panel discussion related closely to the cluster of five SDGs under review at the 2019 session of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), including SDG 10 on inequality, and SDG 16, the so-called governance goal, both of which were of considerable concern to parliamentarians. The divide between rich and poor had grown so large that

many people felt abandoned and powerless. Trust in governments and parliaments was weakening, and in many countries the institutions of government were underperforming. Parliamentarians must rectify that and ensure the attainment of SDG 16. Consideration must therefore be given to how the question of institutional and political reform was linked to the problem of growing inequalities.

Three panellists had been invited to address the Standing Committee: Mr. C. Chauvel, Team Leader on Inclusive Political Processes, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP; Mr. N. Ahmed, Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International; and Ms. R. Wijeratne (Sri Lanka).

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, *panellist*, said that in the context of the loss of faith in and engagement with governance institutions, UNDP had been working together with the Pew Research Centre on citizen interaction with government and the social contract. The Centre's survey had been used to understand the reasons behind that dissatisfaction. The surveys of opinion, which the Centre had been conducting since 2002, had found that most people considered economic inequality to be a major challenge to be addressed by decision-makers. Many thought that in the near future, robots and computers would take over many of the jobs currently done by people, which was leading to high levels of anxiety surrounding the labour market. Most were worried that finding employment would be increasingly difficult and that inequality between the rich and the poor would increase.

When asked whether the next generation would be better off than their parents, respondents in countries with high growth rates gave positive answers, while those in developed economies thought the next generation would in fact be worse off than their parents. Somewhat worryingly, there was a growing correlation between the belief that the next generation would be worse off than their parents and the belief that representative democracy was not the best form of governance. There was, however, still a belief that ordinary citizens could influence governance, and that voting was the most important way to influence government. While most people continued to think that representative democracy was the best way of governing their country, a small number were not satisfied with the way representative democracy worked in local contexts. Those who had lost faith in representative democracy tended to also fear diversity.

The IPU and UNDP were issuing joint products to assist parliaments, such as the self-assessment toolkit on SDGs and parliaments. The Global Parliamentary Report, which had been launched at the 137th IPU Assembly, had focussed on quality of oversight and good practice for involving civil society in holding governments to account between electoral events. Parliaments were encouraged to engage with UNDP and the IPU for guidance on using the self-assessment toolkit and were encouraged to consider the examples of good practice described in the Global Parliamentary Report, particularly to enhance oversight and involve the public as a practical means of increasing faith in representative democracy.

Mr. N. AHMED, *panellist*, said that there was an eruption of popular anger around the world, manifested in terrifying new outbreaks of fascism, racism and sexism, the automatic reaction to which was to blame a new generation of demagogues. Yet those demagogues were not the cause of such discontent; they were the symptom of a much more profound problem: the dominant economic narrative of the past 40 years, which had focused on excessive returns to capital at the expense of labour. That paradigm was fuelling extreme inequality. It was a story of how success had become a race to the top on GDP and a race to the bottom on regulation on controls to capital, workers' rights, taxation and public spending. It was a story of political capture: extreme wealth buying favourable laws and impunity, silencing citizens' voices and fuelling yet more wealth. Modern economies were rigged in favour of the super-rich, at the expense of everyone else. The current concentration of wealth had not been seen for a century. Oxfam data showed that the world's 26 richest people owned as much wealth as the 3.8 million poorest. Billionaires' fortunes had been growing, while poverty reduction had been slowing down.

Millions of people around the world were paid poverty wages and worked in appalling conditions. Millions of families watched wealth rising around them yet saw no benefit themselves. Fees charged by profit-making schools in developing countries were driving families deeper into poverty and gender inequalities. Activists who stood up against global corporate power were victimized or even murdered. The global economic model was extremely unequal and was stacked against humanity's greatest challenges: the rich plundered the planet while humanity faced a climate catastrophe. It was a sexist economy in which women were exploited, an economy in which class and race intersected holding up the ruins of an imperial and colonial legacy.

To meet the ambition of the SDGs, the era of extreme wealth must be brought to an end and a human economic model must be built. The tried and tested ways of reducing inequality were well known: living wages, democratic business models. Corporate governance reform required incentives

and investment. The key to reducing inequality was to ensure good quality, universal, publicly-funded education and health care. Educating girls and ensuring access to health care for all were the foundations of a dignified and functioning society. Those services could be paid for if tax evasion was tackled and the rich paid their fair share.

The IPU had a unique role in fostering cooperation, as the antidote to harmful competition on issues such as decent wages. Parliamentarians could rally behind global tax reform. New ideas needed to be injected into politics, which spoke to the reality of people's lives and moved past the obsession with GDP. While GDP was a useful measure of the size of an economy, it did not give a full picture. It failed, for example, to take account of the 16 billion hours of unpaid care work done each day, mostly by women, without which economies would crash. A choice must be made between wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, or true democracy.

Ms. R.K. WIJERATNE, *panellist*, said that economic growth alone was not enough to reduce poverty if it was not inclusive and did not take account of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The root causes of income and wealth inequality included: wages determined by labour market forces; impact of low levels of education on wages; increased income disparity as a result of technological advancement; and gender discrimination in income. Inequality was the result of a dynamic relationship between State institutions and resources, which could be detrimental to the basic functioning of democratic institutions and could facilitate a self-perpetuating cycle of declining social cohesion and exclusion from democratic processes, economic stagnation and the erosion of accountability. Democracy and good governance could also be threatened by stagnant social mobility and discriminatory or repressive laws and traditions.

In Sri Lanka, a variety of initiatives had been taken to implement the SDG framework, with Parliament playing a central role. A parliamentary select committee had been established on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The select committee was mandated to coordinate parliamentary activities with the ministries responsible for SDG-related activities. It was also responsible for issuing recommendations on mainstreaming the SDGs into the national budget and reviewing the availability of baseline data for SDG indicators. In October 2018, the select committee had held a workshop on the role of parliamentarians in attaining the SDGs, which had included a performance assessment and the identification of strategies for future action.

The national Sustainable Development Council had been established as the national coordinating body for the SDGs, responsible for overseeing implementation of the national policy and strategy for sustainable development. All government institutions were required to align their strategies and plans with the national strategy. Sri Lanka had undertaken a voluntary national review, which had been submitted to the United Nations HPLF on Sustainable Development in 2018.

Parliamentary oversight of the budget ensured that national priorities were adequately reflected in the Government's commitments and that sufficient financial resources were allocated to activities related to the SDGs. In that regard, national priorities under the 2019 budget included expanding education opportunities, providing continuous professional development for teachers, introducing legal regulation and governance of pre-school education, and implementing programmes for rural development and micro and small enterprise development. The Sri Lankan Parliament would remain committed to taking action to promote the achievement of the SDGs in Sri Lanka.

Ms. K. AIHARA (Japan) said that in 2000, when the Millennium Declaration had been issued and the MDGs had been set, the greatest concern had been inequality between developing and developed countries. Nearly 20 years later, the focus needed to be on gaps within developed countries. Despite being a party to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), wage inequality persisted in Japan and further deregulation had resulted in larger numbers of people than ever before in non-standard employment situations. The issue of the working poor had become a significant social challenge. Polarization of wealth was reducing the vitality of society. Growing poverty among the working population would stall the economy, increase social security spending and weaken the nation as a whole. Yet taxes for high income groups were being slashed and the wealth redistribution mechanism was failing. More progressive income, inheritance and gift taxation was needed, and tax on financial gains needed to be strengthened to overcome income and asset inequalities. Fair redistribution would improve access to high quality education and health care. Politicians must create a society in which every individual was able to maximize his or her potential, by listening to the voices of the vulnerable and unheard and ensuring that no-one was left behind.

Mr. M.M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that since the revolution in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran had taken measures promote empowerment, inclusivity and equality, including: promoting higher education and training and specialized training for women, the underprivileged and those in remote areas; fostering economic empowerment, job creation and entrepreneurship; providing rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities; engaging young people in society; improving health care and sanitation; increasing immunization and screening services; providing communities in remote villages with access to the gas supply, electrical grid and telecommunications services and Internet; and converting rural paths into safe, asphalted roads. Gender parity had been achieved in certain professions. The Islamic Republic of Iran was willing to share its experiences in that regard and to learn from others. The IPU could consider establishing a forum to that end, in order to secure justice, equality and empowerment for all.

Mr. A. ALDEQBASI (Kuwait) said that Kuwait's funding of projects in more than 100 countries around the world was testament to the dedication, of the Emir in particular, to promoting development. The National Assembly of Kuwait had legislated to fight corruption and conflicts of interest. A freedom of information bill was at the final stages of discussion. At the local level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was being implemented through Kuwait's Vision 2035 plan. The world's longest sea bridge was under construction between Kuwait City and the north of the country, in an effort to diversify the economy. At the northern end of the bridge, a new city was being built, which would facilitate prosperity in the region and contribute to sustainable development. The National Assembly of Kuwait listened to the voice of the electorate. As a result, the people of Kuwait enjoyed freedom, democracy and the rule of law. The Kuwaiti authorities had faith in their development activities and were committed to charity work. That attitude was greatly supported by the Kuwaiti population and earned Kuwait respect at the international level. However, concerted efforts were needed to implement the 2030 Agenda if the SDGs were to be met.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that Oman was achieving good results with respect to progress towards SDGs 10 and 16. Much was being done to empower young people and low-income families. Funds were available to support young entrepreneurs, helping them to create opportunities to earn a decent wage. Support was also provided to those working in fisheries and farming. The SDGs were positive and aspirational, yet were being met by a brick wall of polarized national interests in many countries. Unregulated trade and shipping posed a severe threat to economic development; international trade agreements must be upheld to ensure that competition was fair and that exploitation was prevented.

Mr. M.A.S. MIAH (Bangladesh) said that the principles of equality of opportunity for all and the equitable distribution of wealth were enshrined in the Constitution of Bangladesh. In a demonstration of commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Bangladesh had decided to participate in the voluntary national review for presentation to the United Nations HLPF. Bangladesh had earned many international accolades for its achievements with regard to the MDGs. Its efforts to meet the SDGs had been inspired by the Father of the Nation, who had envisaged a prosperous Bangladesh with equal opportunities for all. Bangladesh had already transitioned to a low middle-income country and the Government envisioned becoming a middle-income country by 2021 by focusing on access to health care, education, communication and job creation, and ensuring the rise of democracy, transparency and accountability. Use of technology would be fostered to improve the lifestyle of the people of Bangladesh and increase per capita income. A plan was in place for Bangladesh to transition to a developed country by 2041. A whole-of-society approach would be needed, to ensure broader participation of nongovernmental organizations, development partners, the private sector and the media in the preparation of an SDG action plan. An SDG implementing and monitoring committee had been set up to lead the process. Meeting the SDGs required concerted collective efforts and strong political commitment, ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable were not left behind. Challenges with regard to resource mobilization and data management would need to be overcome. Bangladesh was committed to setting an example and taking the lead in SDG attainment.

Mr. M. KARAKAYA (Turkey) said he wished to know what UNDP considered the responsibilities of the IPU Member Parliaments to be with regard to attaining the SDGs, given that the action required to enhance development must come from the executive. The multilateral economic system was facing challenges and was under protectionist pressure. Sustainable development, which required a collective response, should also be an area of focus for the international community's efforts. The

SDGs were universal and meeting them was the shared responsibility of all countries, irrespective of their level of development. Financing was a significant challenge for meeting the SDGs. Partnerships must be strengthened in that regard, especially to the benefit of least developed countries and those most in need.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, *panellist*, said that financing was crucial for development. Many generous contributions had been made to UNDP by many Member States. The amount of resources required to meet the SDGs was significant; partnerships with the private sector, development banks and civil society, among others, must be strengthened. Regarding the role of parliaments, the self-assessment toolkit compiled jointly by UNDP and the IPU provided particularly useful guidance. Several parliaments had invited UNDP to facilitate workshops with a focus on law-making, representation, budgeting and oversight, and to consider whether the parliamentary committee system in place was in line with the government's national development priorities. Those workshops would also look into the alignment of the committee system with the national development plan, and the committee's internal processes, such as whether there was provision for committees to question ministers in public on matters related to the SDGs. There was much that parliaments could do to make their functions consistent with the SDGs and ensure that their institutions were effective and inclusive, as well as to hold their governments accountable for the achievement of national development goals and to encourage the full alignment of those goals with the SDGs.

The representative of IRAQ said that Iraq was recovering from a long dictatorship, the legacy of which persisted. Measures were being taken to improve access to education for women, and considerable investment was being made to create job opportunities for all as a means of strengthening sustainable development. Having successfully eliminated terrorist organizations from the territory, attentions were being turned to the need to rehabilitate severely troubled children who had grown up under Daesh and integrate them in society. Considerable challenges remained in that regard; international support and cooperation would be essential to overcome them.

The representative of QATAR said that a national statistics body had been established in Qatar, which worked in close cooperation with the Shura Council, collecting data on sustainable development. Over the past 20 years, there had been an acceleration of job creation for men and women alike, and an authority for integrity and transparency had been established for that purpose. In Qatar, education and development were considered to go hand in hand; education opportunities had been expanded, and literacy was at nearly 100 per cent. Qatar stood ready to share its experiences in sustainable development with Member Parliaments of the IPU.

Ms. A. HUSIN (Malaysia) said to achieve the SDGs particular attention should be paid to fostering sustainable economic competition among countries as a means of guaranteeing a sustainable economic environment. In 2015, Malaysia had formulated a new economic model, which had provided the basis for the five-year national development plan for the period 2015–2020. Measures to foster implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attain the SDGs had thus far included: two national symposiums to promote the participation of all stakeholders in SDG-related activities; studies on data readiness and analysis of data gaps; the establishment of a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure; a mapping exercise to align initiatives under the national development plan with the SDGs; and the preparation of a national SDG roadmap.

The 2019 budget focused on equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. A sustainable development financing fund of RM 1 billion had been set up by the National Bank of Malaysia to fund initiatives under the 2030 Agenda. The Bank had also provided RM 1 million in micro-grants to implement programmes in cooperation with UNDP to protect indigenous communities and their environment. Parliamentary reforms were currently under way to ensure that Parliament was a credible and respected institution.

Mr. I.L. AUMUA (Samoa) said that to achieve sustainable development, the three branches of governance—executive, legislative and judiciary—must be strengthened. In Samoa, parliamentary reform had been undertaken, with the support of partner countries, to ensure equal rights for all parliamentarians and a more sustainable paperless, electronic system. New legislation had been enacted to promote sustainable development and attain the SDGs by the 2030 deadline.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that Namibia, like many African countries, had a huge development deficit, having emerged from a colonial rule in which inequality had been promoted systematically as a form of exploitation. The Government and Parliament of Namibia had embarked on efforts to redress those imbalances and meet the challenges of underdevelopment and poverty.

Addressing inequality was the key to securing peace and ensuring inclusivity. Progress would take time, but would be guided by Namibia's national development roadmap. Gender parity must be ensured at all levels of society.

The representative of SUDAN said that to achieve SDGs 10 and 16, the rule of law must be upheld and the work of government monitored. Equality for all must be guaranteed, and gender equality must be a particular focus. In Sudan, a microfinance project had been set up to boost employment and help people out of poverty. Unilateral sanctions imposed against Sudan by major superpowers were, however, undermining the provision of essential education and health care services, and were having a detrimental effect on employment.

Ms. S. MANSINGH (India) said that India had a population of 1.3 billion, many of whom lived in rural and remote areas. Efforts had been made to expand development activities into rural areas under the slogan, "collective effort; inclusive growth". Free health care was being provided and people below a certain economic line were able to open bank accounts with zero balance. A large financial and economic inclusion programme had been launched. With such a vast population, India had vast problems, but development efforts were beginning to bear fruit.

Mr. F. MARCHAND (France) said that achieving SDG 10 was a matter of priority for France; 14 per cent of the population of France was recognized as living in poverty. A national poverty eradication strategy had therefore been adopted. Measures to promote youth employment were being introduced, including a new vocational education scheme. France stood ready to engage with other countries to share experiences with regard to poverty reduction.

Mr. R. MAVENYENGWA (Zimbabwe) said that the Parliament of Zimbabwe had established a thematic committee on the attainment of the SDGs to oversee the work of the Government in that regard. Measures taken thus far to implement the 2030 Agenda included the introduction of free primary education for all. The five per cent levy introduced on airtime and broadband would be used to fund universal health coverage. Legislation on public security had been brought into line with the Constitution to ensure that every person had the right to join organizations and participate in peaceful demonstrations. An economic blueprint, entitled Vision 2030, had been introduced, which aimed to increase income per capita and transition to middle-income status by 2030. Economic power had been devolved to the provincial level, allowing local authorities the responsibility to determine how their resources would be used. Women and youth banks had also been introduced.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco) said that Morocco had adopted a plan of action for attaining the SDGs. A new Constitution had been adopted which guaranteed the right to sustainable development and to live in security. A framework law on sustainable development and a national development strategy had also been adopted. Objectives had been set for increasing the percentage of clean energy used. Morocco already had the world's largest solar energy complex and increased focus was being placed on energy production from wind and water. Efforts were being made to reduce inequalities, eliminate all forms of discrimination, and ensure education and health for all. At the environmental level, a national programme for waste management had been instituted which sought solutions to industrial pollution and air pollution. A parliamentary seminar had been held to consider alignment between legislation and the SDGs, which had culminated in the production of a parliamentary guide on the matter.

Mr. N. AHMED, *panellist*, said that Namibia had been successful in reducing inequality constantly since 1993. Such progress could be attributed to high spending on education, progressive taxation and an increased minimum wage. It showed that poverty and inequality could be reduced. Regarding the need to secure sufficient financing for development activities, the power of taxation should be celebrated as a force for equality, prosperity, dignity and for achieving the SDGs. There should be less reliance on regressive taxation, which placed the financial burden disproportionately on the poor, and on poor women in particular. Getting the richest 1 per cent of the world's population to pay 0.5 per cent extra tax on their wealth would generate enough revenue to educate 262 million children who were out of school and provide health care that would save the lives of over 3 million people. Tax avoidance must also be tackled. US\$ 7.6 trillion of personal wealth was in tax havens, depriving developing countries alone of US\$ 170 billion in tax revenue. Parliaments must support tax reform; SDG attainment and lack of willingness to transition to progressive taxation were mutually exclusive. In closing, he drew attention to Oxfam's online inequality index, which ranked 160 countries

on their commitment to reducing inequality using a series of indicators based on labour rights, progressive taxation and social spending. The index could be used as a tool for accountability and to usher in a new race to the top on reducing inequality.

Ms. R.K. WIJERATNE, *panellist*, said that Sri Lanka was the first country to set up a Ministry for Sustainable Development and to appoint a parliamentary select committee on the SDGs. While those examples were positive, each country must make its own choices with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda. The world's parliamentarians must commit to making a better world for all and ensuring a safe, secure and prosperous environment for generations to come.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, *panellist*, said that UNDP had striven to promote the links between democratic governance and sustainable human development. Development must be demanded by people and must be monitored by their representatives. Evidence and data were particularly important, and currently gave a picture of representative democracy in crisis. While parliaments were not responsible for determining national development agendas, they had a key role in holding their governments to account and ensuring that government policies were in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That oversight function was particularly crucial for the attainment of SDG 16. Parliaments must be fit for purpose, and must be gender equal, and should take full advantage of the assistance and tools made available to them by the IPU and other international partners. UNDP remained at the disposal of parliaments for the provision of guidance.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations) recalled that each year the IPU Office in New York worked to establish opportunities for parliamentary participation in the United Nations HLPF on Sustainable Development. In July 2019, 50 countries would be submitting voluntary national reviews to the HLPF. Any parliamentarians included in ministerial delegations to the Forum would be invited to participate in a variety of special activities, including a special parliamentary session on 15 July 2019. Other side events would be organized, including one on the self-assessment toolkit and one on statelessness.

The sitting rose at 1 p.m.

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

SITTING OF SATURDAY 6 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10.55 a.m. with Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

Election of the President of the 29th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (FEM/29/1-Inf.1)

The CHAIR said that Ms. R.B.M. Al-Mansoori (Qatar) had been nominated as the President of the 29th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

The nomination was approved.

Ms. R.B.M. AL-MANSOORI (Qatar) welcomed all participants of the 140th IPU Assembly in Doha and wished them every success during deliberations. The Assembly was an indication of the trust that the international community had placed in Qatar. The Emir of Qatar was doing a great deal to promote education, sustainable development, peace, youth empowerment and job creation. He was working particularly hard to elevate the status of women. So far, a total of four women had been appointed to the Shura Council of Qatar. Qatari women were active in economic life, including in business. They had access to education, healthcare and the job market. Overall, they were competing on a level playing field with men. Her country had put in place legislation which banned discrimination against women and promoted gender equality. It had also signed many regional and international agreements on the status of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). She thanked the Forum for giving her the honour of chairing the session.

Ms. R.B.M. Al-Mansoori (Qatar) took the Chair.

Welcome remarks

Mr. A. AL-MAHMOUD, *Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar*, thanked the IPU for having accepted his invitation to hold the 140th IPU Assembly in Qatar. Delegates would have the opportunity to witness the renaissance taking place in Qatar, including the achievements by Qatari women.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON, *President of the IPU*, said that it was the duty of the IPU to improve the lives of women worldwide. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians was working hard to make equality a reality. However, statistics showed that between 2016 and 2018, the number of women parliamentarians had increased only by one per cent globally. That was unacceptable. If the situation continued as it was, it would take as long as 50 years to achieve gender parity in parliaments. It was vital to find a better strategy to create equal conditions for men and women. The countries with the highest percentage of women in parliaments tended to take affirmative action, for instance, through gender quotas. Doing so helped women, and especially underprivileged women, to gain seats. She encouraged parliamentarians to legislate in favour of women. More women must also be involved in making decisions for their countries.

A total of 85 per cent of women parliamentarians had experienced gender-based violence or harassment according to an IPU survey. It was therefore clear that parliaments were not a safe space for women. Parliaments must establish clear rules and accessible procedures to prevent and punish disrespectful behaviour towards women. The rules should protect all women working in parliament regardless of their job title. Education was a powerful tool to fight sexism and discrimination. Rather than promote misogyny, education should teach equality and inclusiveness.

Adoption of the agenda (FEM/29/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Activities to advance gender equality

(a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Ms. K. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that she would present a report on the recent work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. In October 2018, the Bureau had agreed on the need to discuss gender equality at work, including ways to protect women workers from harassment, violence and exploitation. A debate on the topic would therefore take place at the present session.

The co-Rapporteurs of the 2018 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* had incorporated all the amendments proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. At the present session, the Forum would have the chance to debate two further draft resolutions entitled as follows: *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights* and *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*.

In October 2018, Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya) had left her post of first Vice-President to become President of the Bureau. She replaced Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden) who had lost her seat in elections. The Bureau had then elected Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates) for the position of first Vice-President and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) for the position of second Vice-President. The Forum would later be asked to endorse the above nominations.

The Bureau had also agreed on the need to ensure follow-up to the work of the IPU on addressing sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament. It was vital to use the IPU as a platform to share experiences, challenges and ideas on the issue. Although the issue affected women in particular, it was necessary to broaden the discussion to include men. The Bureau would meet with the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU to discuss the matter.

(b) Report of the Gender Partnership Group

The CHAIR said that the Gender Partnership Group was responsible for monitoring the participation of women and men at IPU assemblies. However, the Group had been unable to meet at the present Assembly. The Secretary of the Forum would therefore provide all the information.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that, although the statistics were still to be confirmed, as of 6 April 2019, the number of women delegates registered at the present Assembly was low at only 29.2 per cent. The number was lower than at the previous Assembly where 32.9 per cent of delegates registered had been women. It was the first time in three years that the participation of women had fallen below 30 per cent. The statistics showed that the IPU and its Member Parliaments could never take progress for granted. Furthermore, the IPU was expecting 152 delegations to attend the Assembly, of which 141 were composed of at least two delegates. Out of those 141 delegations, 18 were all-male. It was vital to improve those statistics by mobilizing men and women and fighting for gender parity. On a more positive note, a total of 32 delegations were gender-balanced with no less than 40 per cent representation from either gender.

(c) Update on recent IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality

Ms. S. KIHKA (Kenya) said that the IPU and UN Women had organized a one day parliamentary event entitled *Investing in gender equality: Parliaments ensuring social protection, public services and infrastructure deliver for women and girls*. The event had taken place on 14 March 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on the occasion of the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The event had brought together 115 parliamentarians from 35 countries of which 100 were women. Parliamentary staff, government officials, representatives of international organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations had also taken part.

A brief video of the event was played.

The CHAIR said that the event confirmed the importance of parliamentary meetings in efforts to advance gender equality.

Contribution to the work of the 140th Assembly from a gender perspective
(FEM/29/5-Inf.1)

The CHAIR said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would debate two draft resolutions submitted for consideration at the present Assembly. The aim was to provide a gender perspective and propose amendments that took into consideration the needs and interests of women. The debate would take place in two working groups. Group one would focus on the draft resolution entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights* proposed by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada) would chair the debate and Ms. M. Drame (Mali) would be the rapporteur. Group two would focus on 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* proposed by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. Ms. J.A. Gakuba (Rwanda) would chair the debate and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) would be the rapporteur. She invited the co-Rapporteurs of the draft resolutions to present the texts.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine), *co-Rapporteur*, said he would present the draft resolution entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*. The draft resolution had been prepared following a debate on the topic at the 139th IPU Assembly and with the participation of experts. The co-Rapporteurs had received a total of 129 amendments. The draft resolution did not focus solely on mercenaries but also on foreign fighters and private military and security companies. It also paid special attention to the rights of women and girls in response to the concerns raised by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. For example, the draft resolution took note of UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and expressed concern over the enslavement of women (preambular paragraphs 6 and 7). States were encouraged to consider women's rights, gender equality and the special needs of women and girls (operative paragraph 8). A reference was also included on the need for special measures to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflicts (operative paragraph 14). One of the amendments received suggested substituting the word "girls" with the word "children". He asked the Forum to provide advice on whether to accept the amendment.

Ms. S. RASKOVIC IVIC (Serbia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she would present 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 draft resolution recognized that it would only be possible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) if trade was free and fair. It also recognized that parliaments must play a key role in establishing free and fair trade. The aim of the draft resolution was to promote free trade that benefited all countries: developed countries, developing countries and least developed countries. It sought to prevent free trade from turning into a type of colonization. The co-Rapporteurs had paid special attention to the environment as well as to innovation and industrialization. There were two paragraphs that directly referred to women. Preambular paragraph 10 noted the value of trade for the social and economic empowerment of women. Operative paragraph 20 urged parliaments to use legislation and policy frameworks to ensure that the interests of women, youth and vulnerable communities were mainstreamed in the development and implementation of trade and industrial policies. A number of other paragraphs referenced issues that would also be conducive to women's empowerment. For example, operative paragraph 18 on delivering effective digital communication would support women who were active in the field of information communication technology (ICT). The co-Rapporteurs had received 96 amendments from more than 20 countries.

The Forum split into two working groups.

The sitting rose at 12.55 p.m. and resumed at 2.45 p.m.

Panel discussion: Equality at work
(FEM/29/6-Inf.1)

The CHAIR said that the global labour force was made up of 76 per cent men and only half of women worldwide. Women were overrepresented in the informal economy and bore the burden of most unpaid care and domestic work. Furthermore, they were often paid less than men for work of the

same value and faced gender-based discrimination, violence and harassment in the workplace. Change was therefore necessary. The panel discussion on equality at work was an opportunity to share good practices, policies and legislation on the topic. She introduced the panellists: Ms. F. Khan (Gender Specialist, International Labour Organization—ILO), Mr. R. Uttamchandani (President of the Humanity. Education. Rights. Academy—H.E.R. Academy), Ms. A.A. Sigurbjörnsdóttir (MP, Iceland) and Ms. K. Dharmaraj (Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership).

Ms. F. KHAN, *panellist*, said that her presentation would focus on the gender pay gap, which was often misunderstood. There was a difference between the gender pay gap and gender discrimination. Gender discrimination referred to a situation whereby women were paid less than men for the same job. The gender pay gap was the difference between the average or median wages of men and the average or median wages of women. It could be calculated for a labour market, an economy, a firm, an industry or any other structure. The gender pay gap existed as a result of explained and unexplained factors. Explained factors included fewer years of work experience, occupational segregation, lower levels of education, and a lack of trade union membership. Unexplained factors included wage discrimination and gender stereotyping. Explained factors were equally as unacceptable as unexplained factors. Discrimination and stereotyping were also at the root of many explained factors.

She provided examples of the gender pay gap manifesting in practice. In one garment factory in Pakistan, the gender pay gap occurred as a result of work interruptions. The factory employed many female workers aged 18 to 24 and aged 36 and over, but few female workers aged between 25 and 35. It turned out that the latter age group tended to take breaks from work for reasons such as motherhood or marriage. Conversely, the male workers were of all ages and tended to stay in work throughout their entire working life without breaks. If women chose to return to work at a later date, they often missed out on increments to their pay, on the prospect of being promoted and on opportunities to train. They also ended up paying fewer social security contributions leading to a pension gap.

Another clear pattern was the general undervaluation of women's work. The sectors where women worked generally had lower wages than the sectors where men worked. That was true even if the jobs were comparable in terms of experience, qualifications and level of responsibility. For example, a cleaner often earned less than a caretaker.

The ILO had been working with different countries to address the above issues. For example, it had been looking at ways to make childcare a shared responsibility of the household and of the State, rather than of mothers alone. Examples of initiatives included tax incentives for employers to establish childcare facilities at work, and public subsidies for childcare. Some countries had also introduced different parental leave policies, including paternity leave and combined leave. Changing workplace practices was also important. For instance, it was helpful for men and women to have the option for flexible work. Furthermore, the ILO had done a great deal on leadership and equal opportunities at work, including on neutral job descriptions, gender parity quotas and access to safe transport. It was vital to address all the above issues in an interconnected way.

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI, *panellist*, said that the H.E.R. Academy was a small, family-funded non-profit organization which focused primarily on educating refugee women and girls. It was also involved in addressing gender-based violence, such as human trafficking and sexual assault. Gender-based violence had a rippling effect throughout society leading to further gender inequalities, including in the workplace. Men in positions of power tended to look down upon women who had experienced gender-based violence. Gender-based violence and inequality was exacerbated in regions of conflict.

The H.E.R. Academy was based in Los Angeles but did a great deal of work in Bangladesh and the Philippines. So far, the organization had opened two learning centres and enrolled about 300 students. The learning centres were equipped with solar panels, laptops and television screens. One of the centres focused specifically on Rohingya women who had experienced gender-based violence. Among the actions introduced within the centre was a virtual education programme consisting of online courses created by teachers from all over the world. Many courses centred on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Employment pathways were another priority for the centre.

Women were also encouraged to get involved in local political dialogue particularly in the refugee camps themselves. It was important to take a bottom-up approach to the problem by involving women who had experienced gender-based violence in the making of laws and policies.

Ms. A.A. SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR, *panellist*, said that Iceland had topped the Global Gender Gap Index for 10 years in a row with 80 per cent women active in the labour market. However, the country could still do better on gender equality and so could other countries. Iceland had taken several instrumental steps towards advancing gender equality. A key condition for gender equality in Iceland was universal and affordable childcare, offering kindergarten to children aged between two and five years. The country was also currently working on ways to bridge the gap between parental leave and kindergarten both by prolonging parental leave and offering childcare earlier. Another significant milestone to advancing gender equality was individual and non-transferable paid paternity leave introduced almost 20 years ago. Three months of parental leave was granted only to the father and three months only to the mother. The parents then had three extra months to divide between themselves, giving them nine months in total. Statistics had shown that 75 to 90 per cent of fathers had taken the three months leave to which they were entitled, resulting in more equal sharing of caretaking and household responsibilities. However, challenges remained with too few fathers taking the parental leave that they could share with mothers. The Government was looking to prolong parental leave to 12 months. The latest gender equality legislation in Iceland was on equal pay certification. The legislation had introduced an equal pay standard designed to eliminate the gender pay gap with mandatory implementation for companies with 25 employees or more. It was the responsibility of the employer, not the employees, to ensure that gender was an irrelevant factor in the workplace. It was vital for men to join women in their fight towards gender equality.

Ms. K. DHARMARAJ, *panellist*, said that the Center for Women's Global Leadership was a global organization that worked at the intersection of economic policy, human rights and gender. The organization believed that the workplace was the starting point for achieving equality. Only if there was equality at work could women influence their lives at home and participate more fully at national, regional and international levels.

In June 2019, the ILO was likely to pass an instrument on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work. The instrument brought together five major pillars of human wellbeing: economic policy, trade, governance, climate change and human rights. It provided a broad definition of "violence and harassment" to encompass all the realities facing women. There was also a broad definition of "the world of work", which incorporated concepts such as transportation, after-work meetings and places of rest. Other topics addressed in the instrument included domestic violence, which often seeped into the workplace, and the role of unpaid care workers.

Violence and harassment were a manifestation of gender-based discrimination. It would therefore perpetuate itself unless gender-based discrimination was addressed. Examples of best practices included policies in Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Sweden which offered fully paid maternity leave to women with a guaranteed position upon return. Similarly, Netflix offered a full year's paid leave to its female staff. In addition to Iceland, Poland offered paternity leave to fathers. However, one challenge in that regard was encouraging men to actually take the leave. Japan and the Republic of Korea provided menstrual leave and New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States offered sick days for domestic and intimate partner violence.

Violence and harassment in the world of work could be divided into three categories. First, violence and harassment in sectors where women were the majority workforce. Second, violence and harassment against women who worked in non-traditional sectors, such as the military. Third, violence and harassment against women playing an influential role in society, including in the judiciary, in journalism and in politics. The third category tended to be the most affected. She encouraged parliamentarians to get involved in the campaign entitled *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* which was soon to address workplace violence, including in politics. The campaign was also pushing for the abovementioned ILO instrument to be legally binding rather than advisory.

Ms. S. ALHASHIM (Kuwait) said that it was high time to put pressure on governments to implement gender legislation. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were key to the empowerment of women. Microfinancing was therefore an effective policy. Countries must increase the participation of women in both the public and private sectors. Women should be an alternative to the foreign labour force. It was also important to make the private sector more attractive to women as well as to allow women to specialize in any field.

Ms. G. MAMMEDOVA (Turkmenistan) said that her country had an effective gender policy in place which guaranteed rights and opportunities for women. It was currently implementing its national action plan for gender equality 2015-2020. Women were playing a key role in socioeconomic activities. They were particularly active in the public sector thanks to initiatives that encouraged their

participation in regulatory authorities, representative bodies and local government. The State offered material incentives to large families and prioritized equal access to education. It was constantly improving its gender legislation on the basis of the principles of justice and humanity. Turkmenistan had signed many international instruments on women's rights. The protection of women's rights was an important condition for sustainable development.

Ms. M. ZHOU (China) said that her country had established a well-developed legal system that safeguarded gender equality. The Constitution of China enshrined equal rights for men and women. The law on the protection of women's rights and interests recognized labour and social security rights. The labour law had a special provision for the protection of female workers. The employment promotion law had a chapter on fair employment. The rural land contract law granted women the same rights as men on contracting rural land. There were also laws on marriage and domestic violence. Women accounted for 44 per cent of the total workforce in China. They also represented 24.9 per cent of parliamentarians in the newly elected National People's Congress of China.

Ms. P. BOUPHA (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that her Government attached great importance to promoting women's rights. It did so by raising awareness, capacity building and ensuring the visibility of CEDAW. The Government had introduced special measures to mainstream gender in all decision-making processes from the central to the grassroots level. There was a parliamentary women's caucus responsible for exercising oversight over the implementation of gender legislation and policies, and advancing the issues of women and children. A law on gender equality was being drafted and scheduled to pass soon. Parliamentarians must monitor the implementation of laws on equitable access to education, social protection, social security and health for women.

Ms. O. NAVAAN-YUNDEN (Mongolia) said that gender equality legislation in Mongolia was based on the country's Constitution. Many national laws and regulations banned employment discrimination, including with regard to salary and social benefits. The country had also ratified many international conventions, including the Equal Remuneration Convention. Other measures taken by Mongolia included ensuring spaces for all children in kindergarten and introducing paid maternity leave for three years. The Parliament had also adopted a law on domestic violence. Women represented 17.1 per cent of the total number of parliamentarians in Mongolia. It was thanks to women parliamentarians that there had been a push for legislation and policies that were mother and child friendly. Despite progress, further improvements were necessary to promote equality and prevent discrimination.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that her Parliament had recently passed a new labour law which banned gender-based discrimination in the workplace. Under the law, employers would be fined for following discriminatory practices. Nevertheless, a gender wage gap remained in both the public and private sectors. The gap in the public sector was due to the fact that leaving bonuses were mostly dispersed to fathers and not to mothers. One of Jordan's most important achievements was introducing maternity pay, which had shifted the burden of childcare from households onto employers. Unfortunately, women were still being forced to retire at an early age. It was very important to have good education which met the needs of the labour market.

Ms. M.L. SALDAÑA PÉREZ (Mexico) said that Mexico had finished in fourth place in the IPU ranking on women's participation in national parliaments. The result was possible thanks to the country's Constitution which enshrined political parity. However, there was still a shortfall of women parliamentarians at the local level. It was important to define the type of gender equality under discussion. It was not just about legal equality but about real, substantive and effective equality. Among the laws introduced by Mexico was one which defined the concept of "gender equality" and another addressing all forms of violence. The country was about to approve a definition of "gender-based political violence", which was a form of violence that did not allow women electoral rights. It was necessary to build equality while simultaneously dismantling inequality and discrimination. Countries must work on economic parity to achieve economic empowerment.

Ms. S. BAN (Cambodia) said that Cambodia had been promoting the role of women by taking capacity building measures and increasing the numbers of women in leadership roles. Similarly, the Government had been mainstreaming gender into its development plans for all sectors and at all levels. Other policies included promoting education and training for women, and combatting violence against women and children. More women must become leaders and decision-makers in order to provide role models for girls. The whole of society, including men, industry, governments and civil society, must come together to support women in their fight for gender equality.

Mr. V. CHANTASATKOSOL (Thailand) said that gender equality at work meant ensuring equal pay for equal work, ending gender discrimination and providing equal opportunities to men and women. The Thai business sector was doing particularly well on gender equality with women representing 25.2 per cent of the workforce and 42 per cent of people in senior management positions. However, there was still room for improvement in the government sector. The Thai Parliament had passed a law that had increased maternity leave to 98 days of which 45 days were paid. In addition, men and women were paid the same amount for overtime work and holidays. The Labour Protection Act provided protection against sexual abuse and harassment. Although many of Thailand's laws protected employees, some loop holes remained.

Ms. M. GRANDE (Italy) said that, in Italy, unstable contracts were undermining families and producing uncertainties that hindered women's participation in politics. Women represented 32 per cent of parliamentarians in Italy which was one of the highest percentages in the country's history. The Parliament had recently approved a law called the Red Code which reformed rules on sexual violence. The law extended the time to report a sexual assault from 6 to 12 months, introduced the crime of revenge porn and set up a fast track service for complaints and investigations. Such reforms were necessary to show victims that they would be taken seriously. It would be beneficial for other countries to adopt similar laws.

Ms. A. KARAPETYAN (Armenia) said that, in the spring of 2018, the Armenian people had instigated a peaceful and non-violent revolution which had resulted in a snap election and a new Parliament. The election was considered as the most successful free, fair and democratic election in the country's history. Armenian women had been key to the success of the revolution. They were protesting not only for a change in government but also for their rights in a traditional, patriarchal society. The changes had led to more women applying for leadership roles in the public sector, an increased number of women parliamentarians and the first ever female mayor. However, women tended to hold lower level positions in Armenia despite the fact that the employment rate was higher for women than for men. Workplace discrimination of pregnant women was also widespread. It was necessary to introduce flexible working hours, the possibility of part-time work and parental leave. Above all, parliaments should tackle mindsets through education, awareness raising and advocacy with a view to empowering women.

Ms. V. RIOTTON (France) said that gender equality laws in France had evolved over the past 50 years. Equal pay for men and women had been introduced into law in 1972. In 1983, the Parliament had passed a law prohibiting discrimination in the workplace. Similarly, a 2014 law had guaranteed real, effective equality between women and men in the private, professional and public spheres. Currently, all companies with more than 50 employees were obliged to implement gender equality. However, changes in the law did not necessarily bring about changes in practice. Examples of policies that could create real change included: transparent pay scales, gender equality charters and equal splitting of parental leave between mothers and fathers. Countries should continue making laws that made gender equality an obligation in the workplace. There should also be punishment for non-compliance, including a name and shame policy.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom) said that women held only 32 per cent of seats in the House of Commons and 27 per cent of seats in the House of Lords. Despite the low numbers, women were very active in the House of Lords. Among the measures introduced by the United Kingdom was a requirement for employers to report annually on the gender pay gap. Her Parliament had also conducted enquiries in both houses on violence against women in politics. The Minister for Women and Equalities was soon to publish her strategy for gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Education was vital at all levels to equip women for participation in public life and to change cultural attitudes. Good legislation was important but the focus of parliamentarians should be the implementation of legislation.

Ms. J. NIKOLOVA (North Macedonia) said that equal opportunities between men and women were guaranteed in the Constitution of North Macedonia. There were also a number of other laws that promoted gender equality, such as the Labour Relations Act, which gave women equal opportunities in the workplace. The electoral code provided special measures to promote women's representation among electoral candidates with a quota of 40 per cent. Furthermore, there were strategies and plans which offered subsidies to businesses owned or managed by women and that supported female members of agricultural households. In 2017, the minimum wage had been equalized for the textiles,

leather and shoe industries of which the largest percentage of workers were women. All ministries had a coordinator and deputy coordinator for equal opportunities. Within the Parliament, there was also a committee for equal opportunities and a club for women parliamentarians.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that the position of women in labour relations should be at the centre of parliamentary action on gender equality. Unemployment, poverty, unequal pay, and insecure and illegal labour were among the perils facing women today. Women were also disproportionately affected by labour terrorism and sexual harassment in the workplace. The above factors meant that many women received lower pensions and often lived below the poverty line when they retired. Parliamentarians should be proactive in ensuring full, stable employment for all. Policies should include establishing a dignified unemployment allowance, introducing loan-freezing regulations, reducing work time and fixing a minimum salary. It was also important to object to efforts to raise the retirement age and set up a social security system that covered all the needs of workers and their families.

Ms. P. BHUSAL (Nepal) said that it was important to introduce policies and laws in favour of gender equality. Following the adoption of Nepal's new Constitution in 2015, women had filled three of the highest level positions in Nepalese politics: President, Minister of Justice and Speaker of the National Assembly. Similarly, the proportion of women parliamentarians had increased to 33 per cent in the federal parliament and to 40 per cent in local parliaments. The above developments emphasized the need for strong constitutional and legal provisions. Although Nepal had a law on violence and harassment in the workplace, it applied only to the formal sector. The law was problematic since two thirds of women in Nepal worked in the informal sector. The IPU should create a common agenda for women working in the informal sector, including policies on maternity leave and domestic violence.

Ms. M. OHKAWARA (Japan) said that it was possible to observe two kinds of inequality in Japan. First, there was inequality between men and women. For example, only 10.9 per cent of managerial positions went to women. Similarly, women were paid less and worked in more precarious jobs than men. Sexual harassment at work was also prominent. Second, there was inequality between regular and irregular workers. Two thirds of female workers and one fifth of male workers were irregular. Irregular workers tended to perform the same tasks as regular workers but were paid less. In addition, Japanese employment practices were based on long working hours which were detrimental to health, made it difficult for women to balance work and family life, and prevented men from taking up domestic responsibilities. The Government had introduced a new work style reform to address the matter but it had not yet produced sufficient results.

Ms. M.J. DENTON (Gambia) said that the Gambia had established a women's bureau to promote the development of women. It had passed a law called the Women's Act and established a new ministry for women, social welfare and children. There was also a network against gender-based violence to fight domestic violence and trafficking of women and girls. The country had ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, although it was yet to incorporate it nationally. It had also introduced a ban on child marriage and female genital mutilation. Despite the above progress, some challenges remained, including a lack of access to work for people with disabilities, especially for the visually impaired. There was also a need for more advocacy work, including through a women's caucus which could campaign for political parties to use quota systems.

Ms. S.-M. DINICĂ (Romania) said that, during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Romania had prioritized gender equality. In particular, it had been focusing on ensuring a balance between professional and family life, eliminating the gender pay gap and fighting gender-based discrimination in the business environment. Some of the country's domestic policies included programmes to develop entrepreneurship among women, budget allocations for the development of SMEs and creation of new jobs in rural areas. It was vital to address gender equality at work from a sociocultural perspective as well as an economic one. Therefore, countries must combat the gender stereotypes that led to gender disparities. Parliamentarians should revise laws that hindered women's economic empowerment, such as laws that prevented women from working in specific jobs, and then report back on progress to the IPU. Hundreds of Romanian migrant women had been used as forced labour and sexually exploited in western countries. More must be done in that regard. She welcomed the ILO initiative on violence and harassment against women in the workplace.

Ms. S. MOULENGUI MOUELE NGWAMASSANA (Gabon) said that laws were not necessarily the problem when it came to inequality at work. The biggest problem in that regard was education. Women were often the first contact that girls had with education, including in the home. They therefore had a duty to teach girls about equality at work. Girls should be encouraged to become pilots, engineers and finance workers instead of taking up traditional roles. Parliaments should push governments to draft laws and implement programmes that trained girls in non-conventional jobs. Women should also take more risks in entrepreneurship. Gabon had 36 women parliamentarians in its National Assembly who were the driving force of female solidarity in the country.

Ms. K. PARK (Republic of Korea) said that, as of 2016, women represented only two per cent of executives in the country. Similarly, the Republic of Korea had ranked low in the Glass Ceiling Index and had a median gender pay gap as high as 37 per cent. The figures indicated that the Republic of Korea was in need of an aggressive policy on gender equality. The Parliament had been pushing for a gender quota system. It had also enacted a number of gender equality laws. For example, it had introduced the Act on Equal Employment and Support for Work-Family Reconciliation and amended a law that applied disciplinary measures against entities which employed a low proportion of women. In the future, the country was hoping to establish a committee to work on removing the glass ceiling in the public sector. Efforts were also underway to amend education laws with a view to introducing severe punishments for gender-based discrimination and sexual assault in education institutions.

Ms. I. PELIGANGA (Angola) said that the Constitution of Angola was based on the principle of equality. Everybody should have the same opportunities regardless of race, colour, ethnic origin, social status, religion, political views or any other factor. Although women were able to work in Angola, they faced a number of barriers, such as domestic violence, low levels of education and limited access to resources. Therefore, women tended to work more in the informal labour market. It was up to parliament to legislate so as to safeguard the rights of women. The Angolan Parliament had introduced many laws addressing topics such as maternity leave, social protection for domestic workers, domestic violence, child development, women in rural areas and irregular workers.

Ms. R. ALI (Malaysia) said that her country had had a gender equality policy in place for 30 years. As a result, 48.7 per cent of the population were currently active on the labour market. Malaysia had also appointed the first female Deputy Prime Minister in May 2018. The situation of women in Malaysia had improved, but it was possible to do more. One policy that her country had introduced was offering unpaid homemakers similar social security benefits as the workforce.

Ms. A.D. MERGANE (Senegal) said that gender equality was guaranteed in the Constitution of Senegal as well as in other legislative texts. In Senegal, girls were missing out on school due to pre-existing traditions which confined them to secondary roles, especially to the home. Furthermore, employers tended to favour men over women despite the two genders being equally competent. Women were also subjected to sexual harassment which often led them to give up their jobs. It was possible to solve the above problems by introducing measures to enhance parity. Senegal had managed to achieve complete parity in Parliament thanks to its own measures on gender parity. She encouraged local and foreign organizations to support young girls' education at local level.

Ms. E. ANYAKUN (Uganda) said that her Parliament had amended its rules of procedure to reserve a minimum of 40 per cent of leadership positions for women. As a result, women currently occupied 43 per cent of leadership positions in the parliamentary committees. There was also a women's empowerment programme to support women in accessing financial resources. Uganda had introduced a breast feeding centre in Parliament and increased paternity leave from 4 to 10 days.

Ms. S. MAHMOUDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, despite efforts to promote equality, gender discrimination persisted around the world at the economic, political, social and cultural levels. Unemployment rates for women were increasing and women were earning less than men. By creating equal conditions, it was possible for women to reach high level positions in society on the basis of meritocracy, as had been the case in Iran. Parliamentarians should approve a comprehensive plan to support women. In particular, it was important to introduce laws and regulations that increased the number of women in employment and ensured fair employment processes.

Ms. A.P. ZANI (Kenya) said that parliamentarians must study the laws of their countries and evaluate what amendments were needed. However, the most pressing task was to reevaluate strategies for implementing laws. It was important to establish specific standards and auditing processes for concepts such as equal pay. Such measures required budgets to be in place. There was also a need for family-friendly policies that enabled all women to work. The international community,

and especially women, must tackle gender stereotypes. Women must receive more training and education. The system must be transparent and penalties should be in place for non-compliance with gender rules. Overall, it was important to tackle the problem holistically by looking at it from different angles. A macro approach was needed rather than a micro one.

Mr. B. CHAMBERS (Liberia) said that Liberia was committed to ending gender disparity. The country had previously appointed the first female President in Africa and currently had a female Vice-President. The following points were important to improve women's participation: education and capacity building for women, cultural and social adjustments, interdependency, and employment without discrimination. It was important to work together to achieve a peaceful, stable and interdependent world.

Ms. A. AL-MANNAI (Arab Parliament) said that the Arab Parliament had a committee for women, youth and children. In most parliaments, the representation of women was minimal compared to men. The problem was not rooted in laws but in practices on the ground, especially the practices and behaviour of men. She commended Mr. R. Uttamchandani for his project to help the Rohingya refugees. It was important to tackle the problems facing women worldwide, but especially in Arab countries such as Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, who were most affected by terrorism and violence.

Ms. F. KHAN *panellist*, said that many ILO conventions looked at ways to design employment policies that created jobs and combatted discrimination. For example, there were conventions on extending labour protection to the informal economy, ensuring maternity protection and upholding work-life balance. However, some countries had not ratified even the most basic conventions. Parliamentarians were ideally placed to address the above issues. It was not only about talk but also about allocating resources and expertise. It was vital that countries ratified the relevant ILO conventions, particularly those that would make a difference on gender equality. Those included: the maternity protection conventions, conventions on workers with family responsibilities and the Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (No. 111).

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI *panellist*, said that laws and policies were useful but did not always work in practice. For example, the United States had some of the most advanced laws on human trafficking, yet, in Los Angeles and San Diego alone, the human trafficking industry was worth US\$ 800 million a year. Parliamentarians must make sure that laws and policies were implemented and that they were implemented in the right way. Real grassroots efforts were also needed. Above all, it was necessary to change people's mindsets and especially those of men.

Ms. A.A. SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR *panellist*, stressed the instrumental importance of mainstreaming gender throughout all policies and decisions. It was vital to bring men to the table by demonstrating how they too could benefit from gender equality. Indeed, gender equality was beneficial for the whole of society, including men, since it was the driver of socioeconomic development and key to the peace and security agenda. Equality at work was not possible without thinking about equality for all. As a result, parliamentarians must ensure equality for women from minority groups, women with disabilities and women from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

Ms. K. DHARMARAJ *panellist*, said that economic empowerment was not possible without economic parity. The current macroeconomic policy inherently excluded women through the non-recognition of unpaid care work. Unpaid care work was a contribution to the economy and thus must be recognized. Without that recognition, it was impossible for women to work in the formal economy. Harassment and violence took place because of a lack of parity. Passing laws was not enough as they must also be implemented. Parliamentarians must implement the new ILO instrument on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work nationally and locally.

Women in Politics

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the IPU had recently published a map on women in politics in conjunction with UN Women, as well as a report on women in parliament which analysed election results from 2018. The documents had shown that the global average of women in parliament stood at 24.3 per cent, which was a 0.9 per cent increase from 2017. The number had risen

significantly since the launch of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action when it stood at 11.3 per cent. Despite the above progress, more work was needed to achieve full equality. The research had also shown that Latin America was the first region in the world to achieve 30 per cent women in lower houses. The region had achieved that result thanks to quotas aiming to reach a 40-60 gender balance. For quotas to be effective, they must be ambitious, well-designed, well-implemented and accompanied by heavy penalties for non-compliance. Evidence suggested that proportional representation systems were more favourable to the election of women than majoritarian ones. It also revealed that there were more young women and more women from ethnically diverse backgrounds in parliament, for instance, in Brazil and the United States.

Findings on women in government indicated that only one in five ministers in the world was a woman. The number of female Heads of State had also fallen to 7.2 per cent. By contrast, the share of women Speakers of Parliament had increased by 0.6 per cent since 2017. Governments were also more gender-balanced than ever with nine countries appointing women to at least 50 per cent of ministerial positions. Another positive finding was that more and more women ministers were taking on portfolios traditionally held by men, such as trade and industry, defence, finance and foreign affairs. At the same time, increasing numbers of men were becoming ministers of gender equality.

The IPU and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women had issued a joint statement to celebrate international women's day and the 40th anniversary of the CEDAW Convention. The joint statement called for 50 per cent women in leadership positions.

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (FEM/29/7-Inf.1)

The CHAIR said that it was necessary to fill two vacancies to the Bureau. One representative of the African Group must take over from Ms. A. Olufunke Adunni (Nigeria), and one representative of the Eurasia Group must take over from Ms. S. Sardaryan (Armenia).

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the African Group had nominated Ms. K. Bukar Abba Ibrahim (Nigeria). However, she had not received a nomination for the Eurasia Group.

The nomination was approved.

The CHAIR asked the Forum to approve the appointment of Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates) as first Vice President and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) as second Vice President.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that 38 delegations were present in the room. Thus, the sitting had the quorum required to proceed with the election.

The nominations were approved.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) thanked the Forum for their support and confidence. In the absence of Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates), she had been representing the Forum at other committees to ensure a gender perspective in all IPU work.

Report of the discussion group rapporteurs

Ms. M. DRAME (Mali) said that Group one had looked at the draft resolution entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*. Overall, the group had agreed that the text dealt with the interests of women and girls satisfactorily. However, more emphasis was needed on education and employment for young people. With full access to quality education and employment, young people would be better protected from marginalization and less likely to participate in activities that undermined peace and security. School curricula must include education on human rights and peace. It was crucial to define the term "mercenarism" since the resolution dealt not only with mercenaries but also with foreign fighters and private military and security companies. There was a need to introduce severe penalties for the actions committed by all the above groups. The delegate of Belgium had put forward an amendment to operative paragraph 8 stressing the need to ensure the participation of women and girls in peace and security efforts. It was particularly important to listen to women and girls from local populations

affected by conflict and terrorism. The participation of indigenous women and women living in rural areas was also important. In addition, delegates had highlighted the importance of interregional and international cooperation to protect borders, establish joint forces, engage in dialogue and work on prevention. The group expressed support for New Zealand which had shown that the best way to face up to terrorism was to respect human rights.

Ms. A. TOLLEY (New Zealand) said that the participants of Group two had highlighted the benefits of women's economic empowerment not only to women themselves but to society at large. Women's economic empowerment had immense potential to alleviate poverty and boost economies. It started with education, especially girls' education and required addressing stereotypes that confined women to certain fields. Education must be gender-responsive and focus on training in STEM subjects. Women's economic empowerment was also about ensuring equitable working conditions. It was important to address the gender pay gap, as well as gender gaps across sectors and in leadership positions. Parliaments must build the necessary infrastructure, including financial infrastructure, and ensure that innovations and investments in that area were designed to benefit women. Support to women-run business, including the start-up and technology sector, was key. Women's effective access to existing assets and opportunities was crucial, including access to capital, investors, technology and capacity building. It was particularly important to cater to the specific needs of rural women, women with disabilities and women in vulnerable situations. Group two had stressed the importance of women's access to decision making in parliaments as well as to leadership positions in all sectors. Women must not only be involved in social issues but also in finance, trade, technology and other related sectors. Parliaments must lead by example and increase the number of women in leadership roles in their own ranks.

The CHAIR said that the rapporteurs would prepare amendments to the draft resolutions and present them to the relevant Standing Committees.

Venue and date of the 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (October 2019)

The CHAIR said that the 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would take place during the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade in October 2019.

The sitting rose at 5.25 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 7 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10.15 a.m. with Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), President of the Forum, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(FYP/140/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Country updates on youth participation

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that she would present the key findings of the 2018 report on youth participation in national parliaments. The report had shown that several factors were hindering the participation of young people in politics. For example, there were gaps in many electoral laws between the voting age and the age of candidacy. Young people were also facing financial challenges as well as cultural challenges, such as the belief that they were too inexperienced to run for office. Other problems included a lack of access to elders' networks and limited interest in politics. Young women faced double discrimination because of their age and their gender.

The report had shown that only 2.2 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide were below the age of 30. Similarly, only 15.5 per cent of parliamentarians were under 40, and 28 per cent were under 45. The figures indicated that youth were underrepresented in parliaments. Women were underrepresented in each age group. However, one positive finding was that, among the youngest members, there was a 60 to 40 ratio of men to women. The report had also demonstrated that youth quotas and proportional representation made it easier for young people to be elected. Several countries had been identified as the best performers, including Nordic countries, such as Norway, Sweden and Finland, where more than 10 per cent of parliamentarians were under 30. Bhutan had also ranked high with over 80 per cent of parliamentarians under 45 in its upper chamber.

It was necessary to introduce appropriate policies to improve youth participation, including quotas, reserved seats and proportional representation. Above all, countries must rethink age restrictions and align the age of candidacy with the voting age. Special strategies were needed for under 30s as well as for young women. In addition, parliamentarians should work towards the youth targets identified by the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The targets were as follows: a minimum of 15 per cent of young parliamentarians under 30, a minimum of 35 per cent of parliamentarians under 40, and a minimum of 45 per cent of parliamentarians under 45. The aim was to achieve the targets by 2035. Each target corresponded to the proportion of people in the global population in each age group. The Forum was also keen to have gender parity inside each target. Countries must decide on their own strategies to achieve the targets based on national specificities. The IPU could support national parliaments in their work, for instance, by organizing training sessions and supporting the review of electoral laws.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that parliaments could ensure youth participation not only by passing laws but also by taking action on the ground. It was necessary to start with education. He invited Mr. Alsuwait, a young student from his country, to share his personal experience with the Forum.

Mr. ALSUWAIT said that he was a student at the faculty of political sciences at Kuwait University. Youth were the backbone of development and prosperity. Kuwait had done a great deal to empower youth in all areas, not only in politics. Education played a crucial role in empowering youth. He encouraged other parliaments to allow young people to participate in IPU forums.

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that parliamentarians were responsible for helping young people move up in society. The Russian Federation had put in place a legislative framework to support the younger generation. It had also set up a chamber of young legislators which trained youth to work in municipal, local and regional legislatures. The members of the chamber had participated in the Second Eurasian Women's Forum in 2018 where they had helped launch a project aiming to mentor young women. Similar projects should be replicated internationally. It was also important to discuss intimidation and psychological pressures put on young parliamentarians.

Mr. S. DURRANI (Pakistan) said that the proportion of young parliamentarians in Pakistan was high at almost 20 per cent. In addition, the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan was only 39 years old. It was very important to educate young people about how parliament worked. As a result, Pakistan had introduced parliamentary studies into 36 universities and organized parliamentary simulation activities, such as the Model United Nations. Young people also had the opportunity to polish their skills and talents in student unions. Under the national internship programme, fresh graduates could experience first-hand how the parliament worked by working with senators and members of the National Assembly.

Ms. S. MAHMOUDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that her country gave special attention and status to young people. The number of young parliamentarians had greatly increased in recent years. Young people under 45 currently held 14 per cent of parliamentary seats with young women doing particularly well. Although the age of candidacy was 30, there had been a proposal to reduce it. The Parliament of Iran had also reformed its retirement legislation which created opportunities for young people to enter the job market sooner. A total of 30 per cent of managerial positions in Iran were filled by women and youth. Efforts were also underway to reform electoral laws so that political parties were obliged to use youth and gender quotas.

Mr. B. TURKARA (Gambia) said that the 2016 elections in Gambia had put an end to 22 years of dictatorship and established a coalition government. Young people were now well represented in Parliament. The country was currently embarking on a reform process. The Constitution was currently under review with the aim of making the country more inclusive, including of women and young people. Gambia had been calling on political parties to embrace a quota system for candidates. It was also working on introducing a youth caucus in the National Assembly.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that Oman gave priority to young people since they were the backbone of the country. It had recently created a national committee for youth which brought together young people from different professions and educational sectors. The committee worked hand in hand with the Omani Parliament and other major public institutions to address the concerns of young citizens. The country had also set up a fund to support youth projects and included young people in the preparation of its Oman Vision 2040 initiative. The Consultative Council of Oman was one of the youngest parliaments worldwide with 80 per cent of parliamentarians aged under 45. It was vital to include young people in economic, social and political decision making.

Mr. Y. SOW (Senegal) said that the Parliament of Senegal had made considerable progress on youth participation. Young people could receive training in politics so that they could win votes in elections. As a result, they were well represented in the National Assembly. Increasing numbers of women were also represented. However, more work was needed to include young people in the work of decision making bodies.

Mr. R.K. MAHMOOD (Iraq) said that the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament was a young parliamentarian aged 38. The Parliament was currently amending a number of laws to further improve youth participation. Among them was a law that set up a youth parliament and a law allowing young people to participate in political forums and decision making processes. Iraq hoped to collaborate with other countries, especially the IPU Members, to find the necessary means to give youth a greater role in society.

Ms. V. MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA (Mexico) said that her country had introduced a new reform that would make it mandatory for political parties to have 30 per cent of youth representation among their candidates. Youth quotas would help to achieve high levels of youth participation. In Mexico, parliamentarians were considered young if they were under 35. As a result, the country strove to include young people below 35 in all areas of political life. Not only should they become deputies and senators but also mayors and governors. They should also take up high level positions in the federal, state and municipal governments.

Ms. S. PELZOM (Bhutan) said that Bhutan was a young democracy having held its first multiparty election in 2008. To support the democratic transition, the Election Commission of Bhutan had introduced democracy clubs in schools to teach students about their roles and responsibilities in a democratic society. The Commission had also introduced the Bhutan Children's Parliament which brought Bhutanese youth together twice a year to discuss issues of common concern. Children and

youth were able to submit the results of the proceedings to the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition and other senior officials. The development philosophy of Bhutan was "gross national happiness" which prioritized national happiness over economic growth. The philosophy was the basis for the country's education system as well as its youth leadership programme designed to help participants realize their potential as leaders. Although the age of candidacy was 25, Parliament had high numbers of youth representatives, including a 32-year-old minister.

Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), as the youngest member of the Board present at the session, took the Chair in the absence of the President of the Board.

Mr. D.V. CHANAKA (Sri Lanka) said that the issues, needs, demands and struggles of young people were the same everywhere. Young people represented half the population and could bring a great deal to society. It was therefore important to look at them as individuals and respect their right to be heard and empowered. It was also necessary to recognize the unspoken rights of young people, such as the right to sexual and reproductive health without discrimination, including on the basis of religion or sexual orientation.

Ms. K. YUDHISTI (Indonesia) said that her Parliament had passed a law which granted young people the right to participate in national development. Currently, 18 per cent of parliamentarians in Indonesia were under 40. The country hoped that the number would increase in the 2019 election since 21 per cent of candidates were between 21 and 35. In the run up to the 2019 election, more and more candidates had been reaching out to young voters through social media. However, it was not uncommon for the younger generation to be disinterested and sceptical about politics. Indonesia had therefore set up a youth parliament to increase participation. It was the responsibility of parliaments to educate young people about politics and thereby foster political rejuvenation.

Mr. U. NYAM-OSOR (Mongolia) said that four members of parliament under 40 had been elected during the 2016 elections in Mongolia. The country had recently adopted an independent youth law dedicated to people aged between 15 and 34. The law had led to the establishment of financially independent support centres for young people and the launch of a programme called "Student-Soldier". The programme gave students the chance to participate in the army as part of their studies.

Mr. E.L.B. WANJI (South Sudan) said that his country was making great strides towards youth empowerment after 200 years of suffering. The Parliament had set up a youth development fund aiming to nurture youth and develop their potential. The fund would be used to build three polytechnics where youth would be taught the right skillsets and attitudes.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia) said that his country had introduced several youth empowerment policies. Young people had been granted access to mineral deposits with the aim of addressing poverty and unemployment. The move had attracted entrepreneurs and generated many funds. There was also a programme entitled the Reservation Scheme which reserved industries such as block making and chicken rearing for women and young people.

Ms. S. CHAUDHARY (Nepal) said that youth were the pioneers of economic, social, political and cultural transformation. The long term vision of any national youth policy should be to create capable, creative and competent youth. In Nepal, the Ministry of Youth and Sport as well as the National Youth Council were the main institutions working towards youth empowerment. Among the key pillars of youth policy in Nepal were: equality, employment, skills development, health, social security, leadership, sport and entertainment. There were various strategies in place to provide vocational training, professional education and access to technology.

Mr. I.T. CONTEH (Sierra Leone) said that his country had been empowering youth through education. A total of 21 per cent of the national budget had been allocated to education. The Government had introduced free, quality education at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels, and offered scholarships to university students of science. Other measures included investing thousands of dollars in sports, particularly, the football industry, which employed 13 per cent of the population of young people. Recently, the Government had declared a state of emergency on sexual violence and harassment, vowing to give offenders life imprisonment. Such measures were necessary to create a stable and secure environment for youth development.

Mr. K.A. KEDI (Marshall Islands) said that the number of young parliamentarians in the Marshall Islands was growing. Many people referred to youth as future leaders. However, it was necessary to consider youth as both present and future leaders. Young people were already instigating change, for instance, in their protests against climate change and against gun violence. It was important to assist youth in becoming parliamentarians. The IPU should focus more on youth, particularly in disadvantaged countries, such as the Marshall Islands.

Mr. F. FOUTI (Gabon) said that young people were committed to politics in his country despite logistical and financial problems. The number of young people in Parliament was healthy thanks to efforts undertaken by the authorities to encourage youth participation. It was vital to implement mechanisms that ensured that young people were elected.

Mr. J. ARENG (Bangladesh) said that the Bangladesh Parliament had seen an increase of young parliamentarians, including young women parliamentarians. The Government was making an effort to connect with young people and put them on the right track. It was important to work towards prosperity, development and peace for the benefit of future generations.

Mr. R. AL SHAMSI (Arab Parliament), in his capacity as observer, said that more than two thirds of the Arab population was made up of young people. The Arab Parliament had designed a legislative model for youth empowerment, which it would be willing to share with other countries.

Contribution to the work of the 140th Assembly

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI, President of the Humanity. Education. Rights. Academy (H.E.R. Academy) and keynote speaker said that, although laws and policies were valuable, the real work was in the field with the people who were suffering. The H.E.R. Academy was a family-funded charity which sought to educate marginalized populations, such as women and children who had experienced atrocities. The charity was based in Los Angeles but did a great deal of work in the Philippines and Bangladesh. It had already set up two schools in Bangladesh for 200 refugee youth. The people most equipped to talk about peace were those who had known nothing but war and strife. Parliaments should engage in dialogue with victims of atrocities. Without interacting with the victims themselves, it would be difficult to know how to help them.

A short clip was played from the video series on the displaced.

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI *keynote speaker*, said that the emphasis of the video was on education. Indeed, hundreds of thousands of children who were living in refugee camps did not have access to education. The United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other non-profit organizations were doing their best to help but were usually only able to offer primary education. As a result, older children did not have a good future. It was very important to help people take charge of their own communities and find the solutions themselves. Only then would it be possible to stop people falling prey to terrorist groups. Taking a pragmatic and practical approach to global issues was key.

Mr. M. DLAMINI (Eswatini) said that young people could choose whether to make the world peaceful or whether to destroy it. However, it was often the seniors who were instructing the youth to destroy the world. The youth were not the future, but the present. As a result, the suggested youth targets were the wrong way around. Parliamentarians above 80 should have no more than 15 per cent of the seats, parliamentarians above 65 should have 30 per cent and parliamentarians above 45 should have 45 per cent. The remainder of seats should be for people aged 18 to 45.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that young people were the drivers of social transformation. The time was now to instigate that transformation. Above all, it was necessary to build inclusive societies with an equal playing field. Bolivia was a plurinational State where all people were considered of value. High level positions, such as ministers and vice ministers, were occupied by young people in their twenties in Bolivia. Parliament must be an example for the rest of society by fostering youth participation within its own institutions.

Mr. A. AL AMRI (Oman) said that young people were affected by many human disasters. It was not enough to acknowledge their pain and talk about it in different forums. Action was needed or the situation would not change. Parliamentarians must make their voices heard on social media, in government and through different political parties in order to effectuate change. It was vital to prevent perpetrators from committing atrocious crimes, such as the recent attack in New Zealand. Many global disasters were a result of partisanship. Parliamentarians must work together to address violence.

Mr. A. ELTIAB OSMAN (Sudan) said that parliaments must create tailored programmes that addressed terrorism and extremism. They must take effective measures to increase youth participation. Educational curricula must include a number of key pillars that were binding on national governments. Immediate action was needed to translate words into action. It was vital to address the root causes of crises.

Ms. S. DE CROM (Belgium) said that there were not enough young people in parliament, including in Belgium. Young people did not run for office because they only had a small chance of winning. Indeed, older parliamentarians did not like to share their seats with their younger counterparts. Young people should be encouraged to vote for other young people. There would then be more young people in parliament.

Mr. A. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the Arab Parliament, said that before discussing topics such as fair and free trade, parliamentarians must address the suffering of others, especially of the Palestinians. Palestinian youth were suffering as a result of the Israeli occupation with many being killed, injured or detained. They were therefore easy prey for mercenaries and extremists. Parliamentarians must create opportunities for future generations.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the IPU had recently changed its rules to promote youth participation at its Assemblies. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians had proposed new rules to incite parliaments to include at least one young man or woman in their delegations. Parliaments could include one additional delegate in their delegations if at least one young parliamentarian was part of that delegation. Similarly, an additional MP from each delegation could address the General Debate with additional speaking time provided that that MP was a young parliamentarian. She encouraged young parliamentarians to take advantage of the new rules.

Mr. R. UTTAMCHANDANI *keynote speaker*, said that the media was a powerful tool to tell people's stories and change mind-sets. Parliamentarians should use their own connections to local media to change the dialogue from one of hatred to one of peace. It was important to remember that the world was just one small place in the whole universe. The international community must work together to build one human species striving for one human agenda. Parliamentarians should work towards a world where people did not need laws to encourage them to live in harmony, but did so of their own accord.

Election of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The CHAIR said that a new Board was to be elected by the Forum. The Board would be elected for two years until April 2021. It must be composed of one man and one woman from each geopolitical group. The new members of the Board would meet in camera on 10 April 2019 at 9 a.m. to elect the new President of the Board. In accordance with the rules on gender and geographical rotation, the next President would be a man from either the Asia-Pacific Group, the Eurasia Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) or the Twelve Plus Group.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that she had received the nominations for the Board. The Eurasia Group had nominated Ms. E. Afanasieva (Russian Federation) and Mr. B. Maken (Kazakhstan). GRULAC had nominated Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname) and Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico). The Arab Group had nominated Ms. R.S. Al Manthari (Oman) and Mr. O. Altabtabae (Kuwait). The Twelve Plus Group had nominated Ms. M. Grande (Italy) and Mr. U. Lechte (Germany). The African Group had nominated Ms. M. Tiendrébéogo (Burkina Faso) and Mr. F. Fouty (Gabon). The Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Mr. S. Durrani (Pakistan). There was no female candidate for the Asia-Pacific Group therefore the position would remain vacant until the next sitting.

The nominations were approved by acclamation.

The Board also agreed to appoint Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname) as its new President.

Update and discussion on the Forum's work plan and activities (2018-2019)

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that the report on youth-related activities in 2018-2019 was available. It included a summary of the Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in December 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The conference had brought together 130 young parliamentarians who had discussed topics such as environmental protection, production and consumption patterns, and agile education. During the conference, the IPU had also launched the 2018 report on youth participation in national parliaments.

In 2019, the IPU would be partnering with the World Future Council to present an award for the best youth policies. The award would focus on policies related to two areas in particular: the economic empowerment of young women and men in decent and sustainable jobs, and youth civic engagement and political participation in support of sustainable development and peace. She encouraged parliamentarians to nominate policies that they deemed worthy of the award. A jury of high level experts would select the best policies. There would be a ceremony at the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade to present the award to the winners. In addition, young parliamentarians should take part in the Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. Paraguay had offered to host the conference. The offer was being considered by the Executive Committee and the Governing Council.

Question and answer session on young citizens' engagement

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation, IPU) said that his presentation would focus on the ways in which parliamentarians were engaging young people. Much of the information he would share had come from the World e-Parliament Report 2018. Firstly, the report had shown that parliamentarians were using many different channels to communicate with citizens. E-mail was the first method of communication. However, young people were not so active on e-mail. Parliamentarians should consider how they could cater their communications to different audiences. Secondly, the report had shown that the primary objective of parliamentary communications was to inform citizens about the work of parliament. However, it was less of a priority to actually engage citizens in that work. Parliaments should consider whether those objectives were the right ones. When engaging citizens through online methods, parliaments should think about how they could process all the information collected. For instance, there was a need to find ways to incorporate the information into parliamentary work and demonstrate to citizens that their contribution was valued. Overall, the report had shown that parliaments were experimenting with many new ways to engage citizens online.

A short video was played about the ways in which the Parliament of Chile was engaging citizens.

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation, IPU) said that the Parliament of Chile had introduced an initiative allowing citizens to propose subjects for new legislation. It had so far received 108 proposals. It would be useful to evaluate whether 108 was a large number or a small number considering the population of the country. It was also important to gauge whether citizens were indeed engaging with politicians and whether they were satisfied with the responses from parliament. Delegates should share the experiences of their own countries both in terms of the actions taken and their impact.

In December 2018, the IPU had launched a Centre for Innovation in Parliament. It was a virtual centre seeking to foster cooperation between the IPU and parliaments on using technology to enhance the work of parliaments. The Centre was organized in a series of hubs where parliaments could come together on a regional or thematic basis. One of the products being prepared within the Centre was a social media guide for parliamentarians. Therefore, the IPU was keen to collect case studies on the ways in which parliamentarians had incorporated social media networks into their activities.

Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda) re-took the Chair.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (President of the IPU), said that the thoughts, ideas and dreams of young parliamentarians were needed within the IPU and within national parliaments. However, a great deal of work remained to be done to make sure that parliaments were more inclusive of young people. Statistics showed that three out of four countries did not allow people under 30 to become parliamentarians. It was important to pursue the Not Too Young To Run campaign in which the IPU was a partner. Age should not be an obstacle to become a member of parliament, especially because half of the world's population was under 30.

The IPU was hoping to publish a book to celebrate its 130th anniversary. Ms. M. Osoru, President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, had suggested that the book be published in physical form so that those places without Internet could have access to it. She had also suggested that the book contain a chapter on young parliamentarians. It was vital that young parliamentarians participated in celebrations for the anniversary on 30 June 2019. The date also coincided with the international day of parliamentarism. Parliaments should take the celebrations to their own countries.

She would continue working closely with young parliamentarians. The voices of young people must be heard in all important decisions in areas such as budget allocation, law making, oversight and representation. Although the present generation of young people had suffered a great deal in terms of inclusiveness and opportunities, it was imperative to make sure that future generations did not.

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation, IPU), returning to his presentation, said that parliamentarians should indicate the different channels they used to reach out to constituents, and especially young people. They should also specify how they made the connection between their online and offline engagements with citizens. He requested information on parliamentary initiatives that opened up new avenues for citizen participation in the work of parliament.

Mr. E.L.B. WANJI (South Sudan) said that his country had set up a youth parliamentary caucus so that the mainstream youth had a platform to engage with parliamentarians. The country had been able to achieve a great deal by giving young people a voice in public hearings. For example, it was thanks to the contributions of young people that a parliamentarian under 40 would be appointed as the minister of youth, culture and sport. It was also expected that the Parliament of South Sudan would soon pass a law introducing a new youth development policy.

Ms. B. UWINEZA (Rwanda) said that 50 per cent of Rwandan members of parliament were under 45. Furthermore, her country had set up the Cornerstone Leadership Academy where high school and university students were taught ethical values, including through the use of information communication technology. The Academy also encouraged young people to participate in politics and decision making. Parliamentarians must exercise their legislative and oversight functions to ensure that youth development programmes were implemented. Parliamentary caucuses were a good way to interact with youth.

Mr. I.T. CONTEH (Sierra Leone) said that his Parliament had reserved 23 safe seats for women, most of which would go to young women. The initiative would increase the representation of women and youth in Parliament.

Mr. U. LECHTE (Germany) said that the best way to reach young people was through Internet and social media. In Germany, Internet and social media were a big part of campaigning. His party, for example, used half of its budget on social media campaigns.

Ms. C.I. LÓPEZ CASTRO (Mexico) said that a policy had been introduced in Mexico City which ensured that 30 per cent of candidacies were from young people. Her Government aimed to roll out the same policy across the entire country. Mexico was hoping to create a youth quota for national electoral lists but also for parliamentary committees. Indeed, the chairmanships of committees were rarely given to young parliamentarians. Initiatives taken by Mexico included organizing guided school visits to parliament and setting up youth parliaments within universities. Above all, it was necessary to establish a digital platform through which young people could communicate their own ideas.

Ms. M. GRISOUL (Monaco) said that her Parliament placed an emphasis on communicating with young people to ensure that they were involved in debates. It communicated primarily via social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. In addition, school groups were often invited to visit Parliament as a means of raising awareness about parliamentary work. Quotas were needed in Monaco since there were very few women and young people in Parliament. Her political party also organized small discussion groups, which included participation from young people.

Mr. K. VAN-DÚNEM (Angola) said that his country encouraged all of its parliamentarians to formulate laws that protected and engaged youth. There were also plans to work directly with communities with the aim of fostering dialogue on issues such as environmental protection, economic equality, sustainability and innovation. A total of 80 per cent of the main cities in Angola had Internet coverage. Internet gave young people access to information and social media, while also promoting family business and entrepreneurship.

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation, IPU) said that it was clear that youth participation in politics was a big issue on the agenda of all countries. Parliamentarians should continue the conversation in other meetings. As the IPU researched the guide on social media, it would be keen to hear success stories on how parliamentarians were using social media to become more effective at their job.

Preparations for the 141st Assembly (October 2019)

The PRESIDENT said that a draft resolution entitled *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health* would be debated at the 141st IPU Assembly. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians must appoint a rapporteur to prepare a youth overview report for the draft resolution. The Board had decided to nominate Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia).

The nomination was approved.

The PRESIDENT encouraged delegates to propose amendments to the draft resolution from a youth perspective.

Any other business

The PRESIDENT said that Paraguay had offered to host the Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. Although the offer had not yet been officially approved, she invited the representative of Paraguay to say a few words on the topic.

Mr. B. LLANO (Paraguay) said that he invited all young parliamentarians to the Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be held in September 2019 in Asunción, Paraguay. It would be the first time that Paraguay would hold an IPU event of that nature.

The PRESIDENT said that, on behalf of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, she wished to commemorate those who had died during the Rwandan genocide. She also wished to commemorate the victims of the recent cyclone in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Mr. T. MACHAKARIKA (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi had been affected by a catastrophic natural disaster in the form of Cyclone Idai. He called on all young parliamentarians to take urgent international action to help the above countries in the wake of the cyclone. Over 1.5 million people had been internally displaced, many had died and whole villages had been wiped out.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, said that he wished to thank the outgoing president, Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda) for her work and leadership.

The PRESIDENT said that she would be there to guide those who had been newly elected to the Board. All members of the Forum were fighting for one cause, namely that of youth.

The sitting rose at 1.15 p.m.

Speakers' Dialogue – *Low trust in democracy: An urgent call to rethink our governance models*

MONDAY, 8 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The first Speakers' Dialogue to be held at an IPU Assembly considered the question of low trust in democracy. The IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, who chaired the meeting, gave a presentation on the root causes of the crisis and its consequences for parliaments and society at large. The Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, co-hosted the event. Mr. N. Ahmed (Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International) added a civil society perspective that focused on the problem of growing inequalities. Over 30 Speakers of Parliament participated in the discussion.

The content of the presentations and remarks from participants revealed a convergence of views. The crisis of democracy today stemmed fundamentally from an economic model that favoured shareholders and special interests at the expense of the vast majority of people, leading to increasing inequalities of income, wealth and knowledge, as well as a pervasive sense of economic insecurity. Governments had been captured by moneyed elites that had little interest in the common good. There was a direct correlation between growing inequalities and disenchantment in democracy.

Parliaments and parliamentarians had to accept their share of responsibility for the crisis. At the same time, however, they were often victims of external forces such as fake news propagated on social media or the rise of populist movements whose divisive rhetoric undermined political dialogue as the core function of democratic institutions.

Parliaments needed to become more relevant and open to the people they were meant to represent. That included fairer representation of all groups but also a proactive effort to listen to the people, which might require more personal contact between MPs and their constituents. Parliaments had to work to safeguard the integrity of elections so that people could trust the results of polls. More importantly, parliaments needed to reclaim the ground they had lost to overbearing executive branches that had every interest in disempowering parliaments and eroding their oversight prerogatives. Several Speakers noted that parliaments needed to do much more to include women and young people. Making parliament a workplace more accessible to women and adopting gender-sensitive budgeting were two key steps that needed to be scaled up considerably.

While working to reform the political system in which they operated, parliamentarians also had to work to tackle inequality through progressive tax reforms, the provision of public goods such as universal, affordable and quality education and health care, and a big push to facilitate girls' access to education. Restoring peoples' faith in politics had to begin by showing that politics could deliver for the people.

In bringing the session to a close, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron pledged to make the Speakers' Dialogue a permanent fixture of Assemblies. More time would be allocated to the Dialogue to allow for in-depth discussions and greater interaction among participants. A more creative format might also be introduced to include more input from civil society and citizens.

Meeting with the heads of regional and other parliamentary organizations

SATURDAY, 6 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said in her opening remarks that the number of international parliamentary structures had increased significantly in recent years. Those parliamentary institutions responded to an existing need for parliamentary cooperation and, as such, they fulfilled important functions. However, it was undeniable that the existence of so many institutions with similar mandates and membership generated competition, duplication of work and overlap. Many parliaments might also find it difficult to manage growing demands to host meetings, authorize members to travel and bear the costs of the corresponding expenses.

Parliamentary organizations were facing the same challenges and by working together as a team it would be possible to find common solutions to common problems. She hoped that the meeting would help raise awareness about the importance of building greater coherence and effectiveness in global parliamentary cooperation, facilitate the identification of opportunities for cooperation, provide a networking opportunity for parliamentary organizations and contribute to the development of a road map for improved and harmonized parliamentary action at regional and global levels. She then invited the participants to introduce themselves and the parliamentary organizations they represented. She also asked the participants to share ideas about how the IPU and other parliamentary organizations could better work together while achieving greater coherence and effectiveness.

Ms. A. BOURAN (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean - PAM) thanked the IPU for convening the meeting. She agreed with the IPU President that there was some duplication of work. PAM was focusing its work on political security, economic cooperation and countering violent terrorism. It was extremely important to reflect together on relevant issues such as combating radicalization, in link with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She suggested organizing more specialized thematic meetings on topics of common interest for regional organizations that were high on their respective agendas such as migration, combating violent extremism and climate change.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN, (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly - OSCE PA) read a message from the Secretary General of the OSCE PA reaffirming its commitment to greater cooperation with the IPU. She acknowledged that the IPU was championing the promotion of gender equality. She invited participants to make further use of the publications produced by the IPU in that area. Ensuring the implementation of UN Security Council [resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#) should be a priority for the parliamentary community as it called for the inclusion of women in peace and reconciliation processes. She regretted the fact that the resolution was not fully applied worldwide. She added that the situation in eastern Ukraine was regrettable and stressed the need for greater cooperation between the OSCE PA and the IPU to put an end to the conflict. Another item in which inter-parliamentary cooperation should play a greater role was fighting sanctions and reprisals against parliamentarians. The OSCE PA could provide assistance to other parliamentary organizations in that domain, as well as in electoral observation missions and the drafting of electoral laws, two pillars of democracy and the rule of law.

Ms. R. ANASTASE, (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – PABSEC) outlined PABSEC and its objectives. She acknowledged that acquiring the status of Associate Member of the IPU was a significant milestone for PABSEC. It offered an opportunity for greater cooperation with the IPU and also with other parliamentary organizations. She thanked the IPU for taking the lead in promoting better cooperation among regional parliamentary organizations. Such meetings were essential to discuss and identify common objectives and agree on future joint actions. She added that a future joint meeting should focus on a specific subject item of common interest. The topic should be circulated in advance so that the different parliamentary organizations could debate among their members and bring solid institutional perspectives and contributions.

Mr. B. IDI GADO (African Parliamentary Union – APU) said that the APU had been working closely with the IPU, as it ensured the coordination of the African Group. Common challenges such as security, migration and poverty should be taken very seriously. The APU was aligned with the IPU in

its treatment of those issues. He acknowledged that the IPU was a point of reference and that IPU resolutions were very relevant for the APU and African countries in general. He stressed the need for more capacity-building activities in the African region, and reiterated the willingness of the APU to continue fostering synergies with the IPU.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI, (Asian Parliamentary Assembly – APA) said that new parliamentarians needed more education to help them improve how they carried out their work. To better achieve the SDGs, one fundamental question regarding the work of regional and other organizations was education. He added that improving the role of people in the respective countries was essential for better democracies. Parliamentary organizations should have more joint meetings, not only on the side lines of IPU Assemblies but also in the context of the work of regional organizations.

Mr. E. MAURY, (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – APF) outlined the work of the organization and its distinctive feature of not being a regional institution but an organization that represented 300 million French speakers worldwide. The APF promoted dialogue and parliamentary cooperation to enable parliaments to acquire the tools to improve their work, especially for democracy and human rights. Among its many priorities, the APF promoted a different approach for human civilization. In a world dominated by the hegemony of the English language, it was fundamental to tackle a predominant approach based on materialism, consumerism and individualism. Other values such as humanism and civic spirit, which must transcend a purely economic vision, should not be underestimated. He cited two APF priorities: the defence of multilingualism, to promote multiculturalism and plurality of opinions; and the registration of children without identity, as 250 million children around the world were not registered at birth, preventing them from accessing basic rights. He invited participants to work with the APF if they shared its vision.

Mr. D. MAMAR MAHAMAT, (Pan-African Parliament – PAP) said that PAP's purpose was to ensure the full participation of African peoples in the development and economic integration of the African continent. PAP was created as a platform for people from all African states to debate the problems and challenges of the continent. It worked towards having one vision for one Africa. It also worked to promote parliamentary diplomacy, and stood ready to further cooperate with the IPU and other regional parliamentary organizations to find solutions for the good of the people.

Ms. A. FILIP, IPU Secretariat, said that during IPU Assemblies and different meetings and events it was rare to have the opportunity to listen to each other and better understand the commonalities of our work. There was much potential in terms of addressing the big challenges that various communities were facing. She invited participants to make suggestions on how to improve communication among parliamentary organizations, to share good practices and build the capacities of national parliaments and of regional and other parliamentary organizations to better deliver on those challenges.

Mr. I. SUNTHORNVUT, (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly - AIPA) acknowledged that the greatest problem the AIPA was facing was the enormous gap between national parliaments and the people, and another gap in that gap for that regional institution. That led to indifference from the people towards democratic institutions, including regional institutions. All politics were local; in every election in Asian countries politicians spoke about "local". In his view, it was fundamental to work on local solutions to combat indifference. It was important to make all meetings and efforts more issue-based because it would better gather people around common, specific and realistic issues.

Mr. A.T. CORREIA, (Parliamentary Assembly of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries – AP-CPLP), stressed the need for more capacity-building activities on topics like gender equality and women's participation in politics. He reiterated the willingness of the AP-CPLP to continue fostering synergies with the IPU.

Mr. A. MAMAIUSUPOV, (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries – TURKPA), thanked the IPU for organizing the meeting. He said that TURKPA was providing assistance to foster political dialogue through parliamentary diplomacy. It contributed to the harmonization of legislation and the preservation and transfer to future generations of cultural heritage and values of history, art, literature and other areas that were important to Turkic-speaking countries. He acknowledged that the main challenges were promoting gender equality, countering terrorism, protecting human rights and fighting climate change. TURKPA was keen to cooperate with the IPU and other organizations to address those challenges. Specifically, cooperation with the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians would be very welcome. He suggested that more joint meetings should be organized for regional parliamentary organizations, and not only during IPU Assemblies.

Mr. O. KAKOBA, (Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – FP- ICGLR), said that the FP-ICGLR was working to bring stability, peace and development to the area of the Great Lakes through five thematic areas: peace and security; democracy and good governance; economic development and regional integration; social and humanitarian issues; and gender equality. He recalled that the IPU and the FP-ICGLR had a track record of fruitful cooperation on matters such as promoting peace and security and gender equality in the region. He added that the forum had vast experience in electoral observation and in conducting research. The FP-ICGLR stood ready to share its expertise and knowledge with other parliamentary organizations. He agreed that more coordination was needed to avoid duplication of work and to better tackle the existing gap between the people and its representatives.

Mr. R. AL SHAMSI, (Arab Parliament) said that it was in the interests of parliamentary organizations to reinforce cooperation and exchange experiences and good practices. It was important to create new mechanisms and reinforce the existing ones to enhance cooperation and communication among regional parliaments. One solution could be to create a new structure under the umbrella of the IPU to gather representatives from regional parliaments. That body could meet during IPU Assemblies and contribute to building consensus around sensitive topics while promoting parliamentary diplomacy. He offered to share a note supporting his proposal.

Mr. F. AL SHAWABKEH, (Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union – AIPU), thanking the IPU for organizing the meeting, invited the IPU to continue fostering its cooperation with regional organizations, and reiterated the AIPU's willingness to continue working together with the IPU.

Ms. B. SEKGOMA, (Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum – SADC PF), welcomed the invitation for a joint meeting with regional parliamentary organizations. She said that the SADC PF was composed of 14 national parliaments. It had convening power and looked into topics of common concern for the region. They had been working on setting standards and creating model laws for the region. The SADC PF helped its members to domesticate international and regional standards and translate them into national legislation. For example, they had produced model laws to eradicate child marriage and protect children already married. They had also developed model laws on electoral observation and on the digital economy. They would like to have greater collaboration with the IPU, given that both organizations shared the same strategic objectives, included the same parliaments at the subregional level and to some extent had similar donors. In that regard, she considered that it was fundamental to optimize the use of existing resources and look at a sustainable way to work together. The SADC PF was involved in a huge advocacy campaign, as it wished to become a regional parliament, and would like to learn more from existing regional parliaments in terms of processes and legislation and so forth.

The PRESIDENT thanked participants for their remarks and asked them to share their views on how the IPU and parliamentary organizations could contribute to rethinking global governance models.

Ms. A. BOURAN (PAM) said that the strength of parliamentary cooperation resided in their commonalities, on which it was important to capitalize. Another relevant point was to ensure that good practices and lessons learned were shared in order to learn from each other.

Mr. I. SUNTHORNVUT (AIPA) said that it was fundamental to form an alliance or coalition of regional parliaments around a topic of common interest that was not controversial. He suggested starting with marine pollution or the regulation of single-use plastics. An issue that was not highly politically sensitive could be an easier starting point for legislators to find common ground and take joint action on a specific topic.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (OSCE PA) pointed out three topics that should be addressed by joint action at regional and international levels: the importance of parliamentary oversight; fighting corruption; and ensuring an effective transparency of sources of financing for electoral campaigns and referendums.

The PRESIDENT closed the meeting after inviting participants to:

1. Stay in touch and ensure regular and fluid communication;
2. Send their input to the IPU Secretariat on how parliamentary organizations could contribute to rethinking global governance models and tackle the growing trend of disenchantment with democracy and governance structures, including parliaments in place;
3. Organize thematic sessions in their respective parliamentary organizations; and
4. Identify and disseminate good practices and lessons learned.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.45 p.m. with Mr. A. Al-Mahmoud, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the theme *Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law* (A/140/3-DR)

The PRESIDENT said that the outcome document of the General Debate was the Doha Declaration, which brought together the key messages of the debate relating to education for peace, security and the rule of law. He invited the representatives of France and Mexico to present the Doha Declaration.

Mr. P. DALLIER (France) said that, through the Doha Declaration, parliamentarians would express their determination to promote education for peace, security and the rule of law in line with the SDGs. They would do so through a number of commitments. The first commitment was to provide equitable access to education for all. Action required included the adoption of national laws that guaranteed education as a universal right delivered through accessible and inclusive public and private services. By 2030, it would be necessary to guarantee early childhood, primary and secondary education to all children and adolescents. There was also a requirement to put in place educational facilities with adequate financing at all levels to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged people. The second commitment was to facilitate access to and provide quality education, which would involve ensuring that education was integrated into a comprehensive national development plan, expanding adult learning opportunities and increasing the availability of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation. In addition, curricula must teach social tolerance, gender equality and mutual understanding rather than violence.

Ms. C.I. LÓPEZ CASTRO (Mexico) said that the third commitment of the Doha Declaration was to promote productive, civic engagement through global citizenship education. Parliamentarians must design and implement programmes that provided children, young people, adults and persons from disadvantaged groups with the opportunity to obtain instruction in the classroom and through community service. Educational institutions must teach subjects such as human rights, gender equality and government, while rejecting hate and discrimination. Inter-parliamentary cooperation was needed to support global citizenship education programmes. The fourth commitment was to support non-formal education, for instance by expanding the number of scholarships, eliminating gender disparities and increasing the supply of qualified vocational training professionals. The fifth commitment was to protect education systems in situations of conflict or insecurity. In those contexts, parliamentarians should ensure national legal frameworks and comprehensive policies for the protection of education facilities.

By adopting the Doha Declaration, parliamentarians were acknowledging the need to tackle intolerance, marginalization and exclusion in all societies. Accessible and quality education for all was crucial in achieving peace. Not only would it help people find employment but would also give them life skills that fostered civic engagement and prevented violence. Parliaments must exercise their legislative, oversight and budgetary prerogatives to ensure that education was well placed to meet societal challenges.

The Assembly endorsed the Doha Declaration.

Item 4 of the agenda

Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
(A/140/4-DR)

Mr. J.I. ECHÁNIZ (Spain), *President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, said that the Standing Committee had considered a draft resolution, entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*, during a lively debate with 30 speakers taking the floor. The debate had been followed by a drafting session in which 131 amendments had been considered. After taking on board one quarter of those amendments, the Committee had adopted the text as a whole by vote. However, several delegations had expressed reservations, including the Czech Republic, Romania and Sweden, about the draft resolution because it did not focus on mercenaries alone but also on private military and security companies and foreign fighters. The provisions of the draft resolution included a call for action to prevent and punish activities related to mercenaries and foreign fighters. Furthermore, the Committee had decided to change the title of the draft resolution to *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights* to reflect the many references to foreign fighters in the text.

Other activities had included a presentation from Mr. V. Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). Members had also approved the 2019 work plan, which included a field visit to Jordan and Palestine.

Lastly, the title of the next resolution had been decided upon as *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

Ms. C. WIDEGREN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of Armenia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Romania and Sweden, said that the aforementioned delegations wished to express a reservation on the entire text. Their suggestion was to focus on mercenaries alone rather than extending the mandate to other actors. Doing so would be in line with the position adopted by the EU and Norway on the topic at 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. In addition, only 36 UN Member States had ratified the 1989 UN International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. It was therefore important to respect the sensitivities of individual Member States with regard to the Convention.

The representative of the CZECH REPUBLIC said that her delegation wished to express a reservation on the text of the entire resolution for the same reasons highlighted by the representative of Sweden.

The PRESIDENT said that the reservations had been duly noted.

Item 5 of the agenda

The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation

(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
(A/140/5-DR)

Ms. V.T. MUZENDA (Zimbabwe), *President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, said that the Standing Committee had focused on discussing its draft resolution. At the start of its session, the co-Rapporteurs had given a presentation on the text, which was followed by a debate during which 20 delegates had taken the floor. The Committee had considered 96 amendments from 21 members of parliament and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians in two subsequent plenary sittings. The draft resolution had been adopted as a whole by acclamation. The Committee had also approved its work plan for the 141st IPU Assembly, which included a discussion on the theme of the next resolution, entitled *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*

as well as a discussion on the follow-up to the 2014 resolution entitled *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*. There would also be a segment to discuss preparations for the parliamentary meeting at the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committees

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands), *Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that the Standing Committee had started its activities with a discussion on the follow-up to previous IPU resolutions, followed by a successful debate on fake news. It had also held a preliminary debate on achieving universal health coverage by 2030, with inputs from two experts and 33 countries. A Bureau meeting had also taken place to discuss the next resolution, which would be on universal health coverage, the SDGs relevant to the Committee and other subjects of interest. The delegations of Armenia, Burundi, Canada, the Netherlands and Qatar had been present at the Bureau meeting.

Mr. J.C. ROMERO (Argentina), *President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, said that the Committee had held a number of meetings throughout the 140th Assembly. The first meeting had examined parliamentary initiatives towards achieving the SDGs. Although there was evidence of some promising action, there were also many shortcomings. According to an IPU survey involving more than 89 parliaments, only 50 per cent had adopted measures to incorporate the SDGs formally into their work. There was a need for specialized parliamentary bodies, coordination mechanisms or central contact points within parliaments dedicated to the SDGs. It was vital to tackle issues that inhibited sustainable development, such as unemployment and natural disasters.

During the second meeting, delegates had discussed the themes of the 2019 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, namely SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities which were growing and, as a result, people were losing faith in politics. There was a disconnect between the people and their governments. It was possible to reverse inequalities with a progressive policy that boosted income, set up fairer tax systems and created better opportunities. Above all, it was necessary to rethink the economic model so that it was more effective in improving human well-being.

The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committees.

Item 7 of the agenda

Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 142nd IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs (A/140/7-R.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had proposed the following subject item for its next one-year cycle: *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*. One of the co-Rapporteurs would be Ms. C. Roth (Germany). The IPU President would hold consultations with a view to identifying a second co-Rapporteur.

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade had proposed the following subject item for its next one-year cycle: *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*. The co-Rapporteurs would be Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium), Mr. P. Mariru (Kenya) and Ms. S.-M. Dinică (Romania).

The subject items and Rapporteurs were approved.

Presentation by the host of the 141st IPU Assembly

Mr. M. GRUJIC (Serbia), taking the floor on behalf of the Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly, said that his country would host the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade in October 2019. The 141st Assembly would be of historical significance because it would be held on the 130th anniversary of the IPU, of which Serbia had been a Member since its establishment in 1889. In addition, it would mark 56 years since Belgrade had first hosted an IPU Assembly, and the first time in 20 years that an IPU Assembly would take place in a Twelve Plus Group country.

A video to promote the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade was shown.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT invited the representatives of the Geopolitical Groups to address the Assembly.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed his group's gratitude to the IPU for adopting an emergency item that called for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe following the cyclone. The item showed the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement and establishing renewable energy programmes to mitigate the effects of climate change. What remained was for parliaments to take action by providing humanitarian aid to the cyclone-affected countries.

The African Group was committed to advancing the role of education for peace, security and the rule of law. It endorsed the resolutions of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. However, he emphasized the need to implement the resolutions through follow-up programmes. The African Group supported the new initiatives introduced at the 140th Assembly, particularly the Speakers' dialogue and the workshops on specialized areas of interest. It was also worth mentioning that the African Union had declared 2019 as the year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced people; the concept coincided with the overarching theme of the 138th IPU Assembly, which had addressed the global regime for migrants and refugees. He supported plans to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the IPU in style.

Mr. A.S. ALI (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, said that it was the first time that the Parliament of Pakistan had chaired the group. During its session, his group had considered nominations for the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, and had tried to ensure that candidates had adequate knowledge and expertise to formulate comprehensive policies. Members had also spent time combining related proposals for the emergency item. He thanked the State of Qatar and the Shura Council for the excellent organization of the Assembly.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that numerous issues had been raised in the group's meetings, including the need for parliaments to implement the resolutions that they adopted by exercising influence over governments. They must address the suffering of people, including those facing occupation, injustice, terrorism and extremism. Some rich and powerful countries had been investing in wars rather than in development. As a result, people were unable to live in peace, dignity, stability or security. If countries continued to disregard international resolutions, there would be a complete loss of trust in international diplomacy. It was vital to hold countries to account for violations of international law. The international community must find a fair and just solution for Palestine that guaranteed the rights of Palestinians and put an end to the Israeli occupation. Otherwise, the Middle East would remain a hotspot of tension.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, said that members of her group were very active at the IPU, despite being a relatively recently formed group, often proposing resolutions, making amendments, sitting on executive bodies and holding events. Indeed, the Eurasia Group had proposed the establishment of the international day of parliamentarism. In 2022, it would also be hosting a world conference on interreligious and inter-ethnic dialogue. The group was always open for dialogue and cooperation within the IPU.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), said that the 140th Assembly had led to the signing of a cooperation agreement between her group and the Shura Council of Qatar, which would strengthen bilateral relations. The world was facing many complex problems. As a result, it was vital for countries to foster understanding and cooperation, including through the IPU. Countries must take action on the commitments that they had made at the Assembly.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that his group were pleased with the outcome of the 140th IPU Assembly. The group had participated actively in the General Debate as well as in the sessions of the Standing Committees and working groups. Twelve Plus Group countries had also proposed the theme of the emergency item and collaborated in the drafting of the text. Other initiatives included organizing a side event to show solidarity for Venezuela and strengthening voluntary contributions to support the IPU. The Twelve Plus Group countries were committed to the Organization and its principles of democracy, the rule of law and dialogue.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), President of the IPU, expressed her gratitude to the Shura Council and the State of Qatar for their warm hospitality and strong support for the work of the IPU. Participation at the 140th IPU Assembly had been among the highest in the Organization's history. A total of 1,600 delegates had attended from some 160 national parliaments and two dozen regional parliamentary organizations. She welcomed the membership of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and looked forward to new memberships from other countries in the future.

Delegates had held rich deliberations at the 140th IPU Assembly, which had ended in the adoption of several important resolutions. They included: a resolution calling for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai; a resolution on the non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights; and a resolution on the role of free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation. The Doha Declaration was also very encouraging. The Declaration set out a comprehensive inventory of good parliamentary practices in the area of education, including ways to facilitate access to quality education and promote productive civic engagement. In general, it underscored the need to teach children love before others taught them hate. Dynamic and substantive sessions had also taken place on many other issues, including child and maternal health, energy poverty, terrorism and extremism. For the first time, there was a Speakers' dialogue on rethinking governance.

Overall, the IPU had aimed to foster political dialogue throughout the Assembly. The Organization believed strongly in parliamentary diplomacy, cooperation and communication. It was therefore regrettable that some parliaments had refused to attend the Assembly in Doha. The IPU had issued a presidential statement on parliamentary diplomacy in which it underscored that it was unacceptable to use political sanctions against parliamentarians who were representatives of the people. The IPU was also on record as expressing its rejection of all action that was not in compliance with international law. Such action included unilateral measures, including sanctions, embargos and blockades that had not been mandated by the international community and, in particular, the United Nations. The IPU welcomed the recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and further hoped that the parties concerned would resolve outstanding issues, such as complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, through dialogue based on the agreements of the leaders at the Inter-Korean and Pyongyang-Washington Summits. For its part, the IPU would continue relentlessly to foster parliamentary dialogue between the two Koreas as part of overall efforts to bring about lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

One of the most important challenges that the IPU was facing was how to create dialogue in complex situations. Parliamentarians represented plurality, which was a great opportunity for peace and dialogue. Members had committed to education for peace, democracy and human rights. They must now return to their home parliaments and implement education policies that transformed realities. The only way to create an inclusive, peaceful and tolerant world was through inclusive education that taught peace, respect and love. Countries must work together to create real opportunities for all.

The PRESIDENT said that the Shura Council of Qatar had organized a very successful Assembly at very short notice, despite the blockade on the country. Participation was at a record high, with attendance from some 160 delegations headed by 80 Speakers of Parliament and 40 Deputy Speakers of Parliament, as well as seven Associate Members, 30 observers and many other distinguished guests. The high levels of participation indicated a rejection of the unjust and illegitimate blockade on Qatar. Throughout the Assembly, delegates had been able to express their views freely and engage in constructive dialogue, while the eyes of the world had watched. All meetings had been held in the Doha spirit, which embraced constructive dialogue, tolerance, freedom, respect for others and the greater good of humanity. In the opening ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, had shown his commitment to solidarity and human values, which should be the foundation of international relations. His participation was also an indication of the importance of the IPU. The 140th IPU Assembly in Doha was the beginning of a long and constructive process of cooperation between Qatar, the IPU and the parliaments of the world.

Thanking all those who had attended, he declared closed the 140th IPU Assembly.

The sitting rose at 6.25 p.m.

Doha Declaration

Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law

*Endorsed by the 140th IPU Assembly
(Doha, 10 April 2019)*

We, Members of Parliament from 160 countries and over two dozen regional parliamentary organizations, meeting in Doha, Qatar, at the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, recognize the importance of education as a platform for enhancing peace, security and the rule of law.

Peace, security and the rule of law are enduring objectives of the international community. They are the preconditions for people to pursue happy and meaningful lives and maximize their socioeconomic potential as individuals, as family and community members, and as engaged citizens. Despite persistent efforts to develop robust national and international institutions and mechanisms that enable the non-violent settlement of disputes and disagreements, many forms of conflict continue to plague almost all our societies. Unilateral measures taken by States against other States without authorization of the international community can also have a negative impact on security, stability and people's livelihoods. We appreciate that sustaining peace, providing security and ensuring the rule of law remain goals that require our undivided attention.

Different forms of violence characterize the 21st century. Military interventions, terrorism, transnational organized crime, cyberattacks, civil wars, armed insurgencies and gang violence all seem to indicate a world of ever-greater danger and insecurity. Contrary to popular belief, however, most lethal violence does not occur in conflict zones. According to the Small Arms Survey's *Global Violent Deaths 2017*, at least 560,000 people died violently in 2016, but only about 99,000 (18%) were killed in war zones. Such statistics highlight that we need to rethink the way we conceive of peace, security and the rule of law internationally.

Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reminds us of the link between **education** and **peace**. Moreover, education is recognized as a fundamental human right. It reinforces the idea that education is about more than turning individuals into active agents of the productive system: it also creates a sense of citizenship and community belonging. Education is about helping people to understand the world, participate in public life, and ultimately guarantee social cohesion based on common values. Education is also the common denominator that helps level the field for women and men, rural and urban dwellers, and that ensures equal opportunities for all in society.

As Parliamentarians, we are committed to supporting mechanisms and financing measures that work towards promoting education as a platform for enhancing peace, security and the rule of law, in line with the SDGs, and in particular SDG 4. This support includes:

Enabling equitable access to education for all. We recognize that access to education is limited by significant social barriers and are therefore committed to:

- Adopting national legislation that guarantees education as a universal right delivered through accessible and inclusive public and private services, in line with **the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments;
- Encouraging the adoption of legislative measures to achieve the full realization of the right to education, individually and through international assistance and cooperation;
- Ensuring that by 2030, all children and adolescents complete a full cycle of early childhood development, primary and secondary education, in line with [SDG 4, target 4.1](#);
- Putting in place educational facilities, with adequate funding at all levels (pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary) to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged children, young people, adults, migrants, refugees and internally displaced communities;

- Making vocational and higher education more accessible, including by expanding the number of scholarships and affordable loans available to individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Building and upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-responsive, and that provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all;
- Eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education for women, girls, men, boys and vulnerable sectors of the population, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, refugees, economic migrants and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, including by addressing the root causes of their underrepresentation in education, such as stigma, discrimination, violence and lack of resources or adequate infrastructure;
- Ensuring that education is also made available to prisoners to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Facilitating access and providing quality education. As lawmakers, we have the means to create a legal framework and a regulatory environment that not only guarantees equitable access to education, but also ensures quality education for all. Everyone residing on a particular State's territory must be provided with quality education. This is essential for fostering greater respect for democratic values,¹ for sustaining democracy,² and for ensuring the equal participation of women and men in political life and their well-being.³ Therefore, we are committed to:

- Promoting, in line with [SDG 4, target 1](#), governmental policies and regulations guaranteeing free, equitable and quality education for all (women and girls, men and boys);
- Ensuring that education is integrated into a comprehensive national development plan;
- Expanding adult learning and education opportunities as part of an approach to lifelong learning, especially among those who have been denied access to education in the past;
- Increasing the availability of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation, especially among vulnerable or disadvantaged communities;
- Promoting the development of teaching curricula that foster social inclusion, tolerance, gender equality and a culture of peace and mutual understanding;
- Promoting governmental policies and regulations which ensure that people on the move are included in national education systems, including systems for recognition of prior learning achievements and qualifications.

Promoting productive civic engagement through global citizenship education (GCED). This creates a sense of belonging to the global community, with its members experiencing solidarity and collective identity at the local, national and global levels. In this regard, we are committed to:

- Ensuring, in line with [SDG 4, target 7](#), that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and productive civic engagement;
- Offering extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in politics through their schools and communities, and at the national level, including by encouraging those below the voting age to participate in student governments and youth parliaments;
- Designing and implementing programmes that provide children, youth, adults and those from marginalized and disadvantaged groups with the opportunity to obtain instruction—in the classroom and through community service—on civic engagement, human rights, gender equality, government, history, law and economics in ways that promote critical thinking and social responsibility, and inhibit the teaching of hate or discrimination of any kind;
- Supporting education that promotes the goals of transitional justice in post-conflict societies and is sensitive to the legacies of the past in a way that prevents atrocities from happening again;

¹ Resolution on *The implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values*, 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, New Delhi, 17 April 1993, <http://archive.ipu.org/conf-e/89-2.htm>.

² *Universal Declaration on Democracy*, 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Cairo, 16 September 1997, <http://archive.ipu.org/cnl-e/161-dem.htm>.

³ Resolution on *Education and culture as essential factors in promoting the participation of men and women in political life and as prerequisites for the development of peoples*, 105th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Havana, 6 April 2001, <http://archive.ipu.org/conf-e/105-2.htm>.

- Encouraging national consultations and awareness-raising campaigns with our constituencies to promote global citizenship, and intercultural and interfaith dialogue and respect;
- Promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation that supports global citizenship education programmes, including through student and youth union exchange and cooperation initiatives.

Supporting non-formal education (NFE). This provides an alternative avenue for lifelong learning and skills development by offering educational opportunities to all. Our commitments include:

- Ensuring, in line with [SDG 4, target 3](#), equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including at university level;
- Expanding the number of scholarships available to individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, for enrolment in vocational training, and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes;
- Eliminating gender disparities and facilitating equal access to vocational training for women, girls, men, boys and vulnerable sectors of the population;
- Building and upgrading non-formal education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-responsive, and that provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments;
- Increasing the supply of qualified vocational training professionals, including through international cooperation, especially in vulnerable or disadvantaged communities;
- Establishing, in consultation with civil society stakeholders, a coherent system of accreditation and quality monitoring for non-formal education.

Protecting education systems in situations of conflict or insecurity. According to the 2018 report *Education under Attack* by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, there were more than 12,700 attacks on schools between 2013 and 2017, harming more than 21,000 students and educators in at least 70 countries. Acknowledging the importance and urgency of this situation, we are committed to:

- Urging governments to endorse the *Safe Schools Declaration* which gives States the opportunity to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict;
- Ensuring that national legal frameworks for the protection of education facilities (schools, universities, institutes, etc.) in situations of conflict or insecurity address education-related violations;
- Providing sustainable funding for international programmes, led by organizations such as UNRWA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO, that ensure that refugee children have access to quality education;
- Raising awareness of education-related violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) by including IHL principles and the *Safe Schools Declaration* in the education of children and adults, and by emphasizing the protection of education in the training of national armed forces and associated state and non-state actors;
- Developing a comprehensive policy for protecting schools in situations of conflict or insecurity, and engaging all concerned governmental institutions, state security providers, educational and civil society organizations, at all levels, to develop and implement this policy;
- Ensuring that state security forces and non-traditional armed actors do not place checkpoints and military facilities close to schools and educational facilities;
- Engaging in dialogue with state security forces and other armed actors so that they do not use schools and educational facilities for military purposes, including the storage, possession and use of weapons in those facilities;
- Developing and implementing measures to ensure safe transportation and passage of students and educational personnel on routes leading to and from formal and non-formal educational facilities, and to ensure the physical protection of the educational premises themselves, including by using technology that could include early warning systems;
- During times of armed conflict or insecurity and where access to education facilities is limited, planning for and providing adequate resources to ensure the alternative delivery of education where appropriate and available (for example, community-based schools or distance-learning); this would help ensure continuity of and access to education during times of armed conflict or insecurity;

- Encouraging collaboration with and support from community organizations and local committees to develop school-based protection measures, including through educational protection committees.

In adopting this Declaration, we acknowledge that, to varying degrees, all of our societies are having to tackle manifestations of intolerance, marginalization and exclusion. As noted by the United Nations Secretary-General, in order to achieve peace "*we must teach our children love before others teach them hate*". As lawmakers, we recognize that the provision of accessible and quality education for all is a crucial component in this regard. Not only does education provide individuals with tangible skills that enable productive employment, but it also develops life skills that foster civic engagement and reduce the probability that people will resort to violence to resolve conflict. In a constantly changing world, we need to exercise our legislative, oversight and budgetary prerogatives to make sure that education is adaptive and well placed to meet the challenges that our societies face.

Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 140th IPU Assembly
(Doha, 10 April 2019)*

The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the inviolability of internationally recognized borders, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or threat of use of force in international relations, the non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States, and the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling the definitions of mercenaries contained in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Article 1 of the 1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries,

Also recalling that Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions is applicable in international armed conflicts and that the International Convention on Mercenaries is applicable in all armed conflicts,

Noting that there is no international legal instrument regarding foreign fighters or foreign terrorist fighters, and no commonly accepted legal definition of these terms; and that the Human Rights Council Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination uses the following definition for foreign fighters: "individuals who leave their country of origin or habitual residence and become involved in violence as part of an insurgency or non-State armed group in an armed conflict",

Considering that 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 of 17 September 2008 defines private military and security companies as private business entities, irrespective of how they define themselves, that provide military and/or security services that include, in particular, armed guarding and protection of persons and objects, such as convoys, buildings and other places; maintenance and operation of weapons systems; prisoner detention; and advice to or training of local forces and security personnel,

Also considering that the personnel, employees and managers of private military and security companies are persons employed by, through direct hire or under contract, a private military and security company,

Aware of the fact that the activities of private military and security companies are, in most cases, in keeping with relevant legal obligations and good practices,

Reaffirming that the personnel of private military and security companies are obliged, regardless of their status, to comply with applicable international humanitarian law and the State's obligations under international human rights law, and are subject to prosecution if they commit acts recognized as crimes under applicable national or international law; and furthermore, that private military and security companies have a responsibility to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, to take action to stop abuses by their personnel and to provide for or cooperate in processes to provide an effective remedy to victims,

Recalling relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, including resolution 71/182 of 19 December 2016, and Human Rights Council resolutions 15/12 of 30 September 2010, 15/26 of 1 October 2010, 18/4 of 29 September 2011, 21/8 of 27 September 2012, 24/13 of 26 September 2013, 27/10 of 25 September 2014, 30/6 of 1 October 2015, 33/4 of 29 September

* The delegations of Armenia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Romania and Sweden expressed a reservation on the entire resolution.

2016, 36/3 of 28 September 2017 and 39/5 of 27 September 2018, as well as all resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in this regard, the European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2017 on private security companies, the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (2010), and the Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa (1977),

Also recalling the United Nations Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security (1325, 1888, 1960) and, in particular, resolution 1820, which recognizes that all forms of sexual violence in armed conflicts can constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity,

Expressing grave concern at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of armed conflict, and at the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

Also expressing grave concern at the scores of human rights violations perpetrated by mercenaries and foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, against the civilian population, including extrajudicial killings, rape, enslavement of women and children, torture, enforced disappearance and abductions, as well as pillaging and arbitrary arrest and detention,

Deploring the disturbing trend of violence, including sexual violence such as rape as a weapon of war, against vulnerable groups such as women and children, and dismayed at the extremely difficult recovery facing survivors who, once they have returned to their homes, suffer harsh treatment, including stigmatization and abandonment by spouses and other relatives,

Noting with concern that children are increasingly becoming victims of mercenaries and foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, be they forcibly recruited as child soldiers or used for sexual slavery or other purposes,

Firmly believing that bringing to justice perpetrators of human rights violations, and ensuring that victims of human rights violations are being made aware of their rights and guaranteed full access to justice and remedies, are crucial to building peace,

Reaffirming that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training in armed conflicts, and of foreign fighters, including those hired by private military and security companies in armed conflicts, are causes of grave concern to all States and that they violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Condemning any State that permits, promotes or tolerates the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries and foreign fighters, and the use of the private sector and private military and security companies with the objective of violating human rights and disrupting and/or undermining the territorial integrity of sovereign States within their internationally recognized borders and their constitutional order,

Remaining concerned over state-sponsored recruitment of mercenaries with the purpose of undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and constitutional order of other States,

1. *Decides* to cooperate closely with the United Nations General Assembly with the aim of developing and adopting common legal criteria for determining the legal definition of mercenaries and foreign fighters; and in this regard, invites the Human Rights Council Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination to develop, on the basis of existing international legal documents, such criteria and to submit them for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly;
2. *Urges* all parliaments to take legislative measures to ensure that their nationals do not take part in the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries or foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, in the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and in the planning of activities designed to destabilize the situation in any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States;

3. *Calls on* parliaments to amend their existing legislation, so as to prevent and punish the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries or foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, who engage in activities designed to destabilize the situation in any State and/or violate human rights and international humanitarian law;
4. *Also calls on* parliaments to enact legislation to promote the prohibition of the recruitment, training, hiring or financing of foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, intervening in armed conflicts with a purpose of destabilizing constitutional regimes and/or violating human rights and international humanitarian law;
5. *Encourages* parliaments to establish national regulatory mechanisms for registering activities aimed at hiring former servicemen or active duty personnel on leave as imported military assistance in order to ensure that the imported services do not impede the enjoyment of human rights, do not violate human rights or international humanitarian law in the recipient State, and are not designed to undermine the constitutional order or territorial integrity of that State;
6. *Invites* the parliaments of States which have not yet done so, to consider taking the necessary action to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;
7. *Calls on* parliaments and governments to enact provisions of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries in national legislation in order to eliminate mercenary activities and to further monitor implementation of the Convention;
8. *Urges* States to take into account women's rights, gender equality and the special needs of women and girls in all peace and security efforts, and stresses the importance of the equal participation of men and women in these efforts;
9. *Stresses* the importance of the participation of women as negotiators and the contribution of women and girls from local communities for inclusive and long-lasting peace;
10. *Condemns* the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by all actors, and invites parliaments to amend respective legislation so as to criminalize such practices in national legislation;
11. *Strongly condemns* the policies aimed at instilling militant/combatative attitudes and mindsets among children;
12. *Condemns* mercenary activities in areas of ongoing armed conflicts and in future conflicts after the adoption of this Resolution, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of sovereign States, to international peace and security, and to human rights and international humanitarian law;
13. *Also condemns* violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights by foreign fighters, including those hired by private military and security companies, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of sovereign States, to international peace and security, and to human rights and international humanitarian law;
14. *Calls upon* States to hold liable those who hire private military and security companies, such as governmental officials, whether they are military commanders or civilian superiors, as well as executives of private military and security companies, for crimes under international law committed by foreign fighters hired by such companies and under their effective authority and control, as a result of their failure to properly exercise control over such foreign fighters in accordance with international law;
15. *Also calls upon* States to introduce measures enabling them to monitor the activities of private military and security companies that are carried out not only on their territory but, with respect to their national companies, activities that are carried out in other countries;

16. *Further calls upon* States to take special measures to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, and address accountability gaps and impunity as regards criminal prosecution for sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by mercenaries, foreign fighters, including private military and security company employees, and of all those that sponsor them;
17. *Condemns* any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of violations of international law as part of their mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;
18. *Also condemns* any form of impunity granted to executives of private military and security companies involved in violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;
19. *Further condemns* any form of impunity granted to foreign fighters and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of foreign fighters for their violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;
20. *Calls upon* parliaments, in accordance with international law, to cooperate closely with the objective of bringing to justice those accused of mercenary activities, as well as those who are foreign fighters, including executives of private military and security companies, who have committed violations of international humanitarian law or of human rights, of holding them accountable and having them tried by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, in compliance with international human rights standards and international humanitarian law;
21. *Also calls upon* parliaments to adopt clear and precise legislation to strengthen access to full effective legal assistance, support and remedies for victims of violations of international law committed by mercenaries, foreign fighters and private military and security company employees;
22. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 140th IPU Assembly (Doha, 10 April 2019)

The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Noting that in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/L.1) and that the Agenda includes 17 ambitious goals and 169 accompanying targets integrating economic, social and environmental imperatives into a framework designed to guide government action through to 2030,

Recognizing that the rules and forms of trade and investment will influence the successful pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that conducting trade on a fair and free basis in a predictable and congenial business environment will deliver sustainable and equitable outcomes, it follows that parliaments should play a key role in working to that end, and in measuring and communicating that progress,

Acknowledging the work of the IPU in examining the role trade and investment can play in sustainable development, including at the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005) which noted "the role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and, more recently, the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) which called on "parliamentarians and the IPU to play a pivotal role in advocating for fair trade as a means of ensuring sustainable development",

Also acknowledging the resolution adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 2017) stressing the importance of women's financial inclusion for the achievement of the SDGs,

Taking into account the specific trade-related targets within the SDGs, namely: Target 17.10, "Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda"; Target 17.11, "Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020"; and Target 17.12, "Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access",

Referring to rules and standards for responsible business conduct, such as the OECD *Guidelines for multinational enterprises* and the UN *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011,

Being mindful that, in addition to the specifically trade-related targets, there is an array of results of other targets that will be influenced by international trade and investment, including: Target 8.2, "Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour intensive sectors"; Target 8.A, "Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries"; Target 9.3, "Increase the access of small scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets"; and Target 10.A, "Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements",

Noting the ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the full implementation of which the WTO estimates could add half a percentage point to global annual Gross Domestic Product, with gains likely to accrue disproportionately to developing countries in particular, including to least developed countries,

Paying due regard to the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), especially the six-stage action plan for investing in the SDGs/2030 Agenda contained in the 2017 publication *Mobilizing investment for the Sustainable Development Goals*, and the 2015 publication *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development*,

Noting the value that trade has for increasing the social and economic empowerment and participation of women in the economy, including women's entrepreneurship,

Recognizing that, as a global community, we need to change production and consumption patterns to reduce resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental damage, with special regard to water resources, and that, on that basis, a focus on improving fair and sustainable trade does not contradict the objectives of reducing waste and preventing resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions, and does not underrate the benefits of circular economies,

Noting that, while negotiating, signing and consenting to trade and investment arrangements is often the prerogative of the executive, parliaments have an important role to play in ensuring that trade liberalization leads to inclusive domestic growth and poverty reduction through policies that promote market access for all and the broad sharing of the benefits of trade,

Mindful that global trade might replicate and even reinforce the developmental status quo and existing inequalities, including gender inequalities, and recognizing that the vertical integration of manufacturing and supply chains by multinational corporations might reduce competition and consign less developed nations to lower value-added and primary production activities,

Acknowledging the concerns that communities have about the impact of globalization in terms of workforce displacement and other harmful distortionary effects, especially in subsistence industries like agriculture, and noting the potential for such concerns, if unaddressed, to create political pressure that has the tendency to lead to the unhelpful practice of isolationism, chauvinism and nativism,

1. *Reaffirms* the vital importance of a rules-based, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral approach to trade and investment centred on the WTO and arbitration mechanisms that seek to deliver fair and sustainable development outcomes, especially as outlined in the broad goals and specific targets contained within the SDGs/2030 Agenda;
2. *Also reaffirms* the contribution that fair, free and sustainable trade, and properly regulated foreign investment, can lead to reducing poverty, inequality, instability and conflict, to building economic capacity, self-sufficiency, international cooperation and peace, and to fighting global warming;
3. *Underlines* the importance of integrating sustainable consumption and production into trade and investment legal frameworks, policies and regulations as a means to make progress towards sustainable development;
4. *Calls on* parliaments to address women's underrepresentation in the economy, especially in the technology, finance and trade sectors, through the education of girls, gender-responsive education and training, and affirmative action policies, and to ensure women's participation in decision-making in these sectors;
5. *Supports* the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) as a partnership between least developed countries, international agencies, donors and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), especially the work to create a framework for mainstreaming trade into national development strategies at the three principal levels of policy, institutions and resourcing;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to ensure that Aid for Trade funding is provided and applied to support genuine economic development and trade in developing nations, especially for least developed countries, through various channels including the EIF, and that such funding has regard to the initiatives within the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) approach adopted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG);

7. *Urges* the inclusion within trade arrangements of standards for responsible business conduct in general and, more specifically, in relation to workers' rights and workplace health and safety matters, and the inclusion of standards in relation to environmental protection and the fight against global warming and in favour of human rights, and calls for the wider application of such standards in future with effective compliance mechanisms and a gender-responsive focus, including on fair working conditions for women and equal pay;
8. *Underlines* that these standards for responsible business conduct should be implemented throughout the entire value chain;
9. *Calls on* parliaments to see to it that environment and climate-change aspects are duly taken into account in international trade policies, with particular focus on measures aimed at removing obstacles to market access for green products and services;
10. *Also calls on* parliaments to be particularly mindful of government programmes so as to continue to identify concrete solutions that will remove barriers to trade and investment in renewable energy;
11. *Further calls on* parliaments to task their respective governments to conduct a periodic review of existing national trade and investment arrangements, and to address any insufficient alignment in present arrangements between trade and investment, industrial policy, and sustainable development;
12. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure that trade-related domestic legal and regulatory systems are transparent, efficient and accessible to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement;
13. *Also calls on* individual members of parliament to adopt one or more SDGs and to use their adopted SDG(s) as a guideline in their parliamentary work, promoting the implementation of the goals and preventing policy incoherencies;
14. *Encourages* parliaments to take account of emerging concerns about investor-state dispute resolution clauses, whose purpose is to allow foreign companies to claim compensation for damages resulting from changes in national laws and policies, and of ongoing efforts to reform investor-state dispute resolution, safeguarding the right to regulate in the interest of public health, environmental protection and human rights, while providing effective protection for responsible foreign investment;
15. *Urges* parliaments and governments to focus on the delivery of infrastructure and digital technology that can unlock trade opportunities in developing countries, and allow existing industries to graduate towards higher value-added production, rather than simply facilitate the export of lower-value resources for incorporation into a value chain that may reinforce current disparities;
16. *Calls on* parliaments to examine the means by which infrastructure projects are planned and assessed at the national, regional and local level, in consultation with concerned communities, including women, with a view to ensuring that those projects are of sufficient quality, aligned with a set of priorities that includes formal reference to the SDGs, and are of benefit to everyone, particularly rural women;
17. *Underscores* the need to allocate more resources for quality education in order to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, as a means of fostering industrial development and innovation;
18. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure an enabling legislative framework and the necessary support for government programmes to deliver effective digital communication and finance infrastructure, noting that e-commerce and access to finance and internationally competitive communication technology is just as important as traditional forms of "hard" infrastructure, and is key to unlocking development potential in least developed countries and to addressing gender gaps in access to digital communication and financial services;

19. *Also calls on* parliaments to stimulate relevant parties to take a key interest in sector-specific foreign direct investment allocation, especially in sectors that have the propensity to reduce poverty and economic hardship, as enshrined in the SDGs/2030 Agenda;
20. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that legislative and policy frameworks recognize and seek to alleviate the barriers that women, youth and vulnerable communities face in accessing markets and benefitting from trade liberalization, with the goal of empowering these groups and achieving fair and equitable outcomes;
21. *Also urges* parliaments to enact relevant legislation and policy frameworks to enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter the international supply chain by creating a supportive business environment for SMEs and building their human, technical and financial capacities so that they can understand policies and operations in global supply chains and respond profitably to their requirements;
22. *Calls on* parliaments to take considerable interest in the soundness of the financial systems of all countries, since effective and efficient industrialization, innovation and sustainable infrastructure are, to a large extent, premised on sound and resilient financial systems;
23. *Urges* parliaments to promote legislation and policies that comprehensively address the key drivers of export diversification, whose role is crucial in transforming economies and achieving the SDGs, particularly in developing countries in Africa and in least developed countries; and in this regard, invites parliaments to focus on building productive capacities, increasing the share of manufacturing value-added and diversifying the structure of domestic production, as well as on infrastructure development encompassing transportation, ICT and energy, particularly renewable energy.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 140th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 April 2019)*

Debate on follow-up to previous IPU resolutions

The debate took place on Monday 8 April. Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi) took the chair for the first part of the session, which focused on parliamentary action to follow up on three resolutions adopted by the IPU in recent years:

- 2015: *Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms*
- 2013: *The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*
- 2009: *Freedom of expression and the right to information.*

Fifteen delegates shared information about action taken in their parliaments, such as the adoption of new legislation. They also discussed further perspectives on how the issues have evolved since the resolutions were adopted. Delegates argued that the big Internet platforms needed to work closely with governments to prevent, or limit, misuse of those platforms. Governments, meanwhile, needed to continue to build public confidence by acting with full transparency and avoiding any suspicion of trying to manipulate digital spaces out of political interest. Mr. Niyongabo closed the first part of the session by drawing attention to the newly published IPU handbook *Freedom of expression for parliaments and their members: Importance and scope of protection*, and encouraged all delegates to take inspiration from the good practices outlined in the publication.

Committee Vice-President Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) took the chair for the second part of the session, an expert hearing on parliamentary action to combat disinformation and ‘fake news’. The experts were Mr. T. Venturini (France, Centre for Internet and Society, Centre national de la recherche scientifique), Ms. S. Joshi (India, Verification specialist at *Proto* and co-founder of *Khabar Lahariya*, India’s only digital rural news network) and Mr. P. Nakov (Principal Scientist, Qatar Computing Research Institute).

Ms. Gerken questioned the experts about the different facets of disinformation. All concurred that falsified information had existed since long before the creation of digital media. Many of the laws needed to fight disinformation were already in place, such as laws on defamation, hate speech and the traditional media. However the advent of digital media had created two significantly new dimensions. Firstly, there were the services provided by the major advertising platforms (Google, Facebook etc) to micro-target audiences based on a wide range of characteristics. That was made possible by the huge amount of data that those platforms gathered about their users. Secondly, there was the way in which social media platforms made it easy to share content at high speed and with an unlimited number of people. These developments provided the context in which disinformation could spread further and faster than ever before.

Mr. Venturini argued that ‘junk news’ was a better term than ‘fake news’. Using the analogy with ‘junk food’, junk news could be addictive. Users knew that it might not be good or accurate, but they got enjoyment and satisfaction from consuming and sharing it. Ms. Joshi described the way misinformation spread among rural communities in India, and the influence it can have. Election times were particularly sensitive. Political actors were building networks of thousands of WhatsApp groups, managed by community leaders. Those groups were a powerful way to shape public opinion in villages and communities. Steps had been taken to introduce a fact-checking service to verify information distributed via these WhatsApp groups, but the number of messages vastly exceeded the capacity to check all information for accuracy.

Mr. Nakov noted that junk news was being used as a political weapon. Powerful actors used disinformation, particularly around elections. The goal might not always be to directly influence the outcome of an election. Other possible goals included creating conflict in society by exacerbating existing tensions, such as along religious, racial or cultural lines. At the same time, the functioning of social media platforms encouraged users to adopt extreme opinions, as these were the most likely to attract attention from journalists and other users. That tended to damage the quality of dialogue overall.

Nine delegates asked questions and made observations on the dangers of disinformation and junk news. A range of potential solutions emerged from the discussion. In the long term, actions to increase media literacy among children, but also throughout peoples' lives, would improve awareness and lower the risks. In the short term, parliamentarians could increase pressure on the social media platforms to engage seriously with the problem of disinformation. Parliamentary inquiries could bring more information into the public domain. Regulation would likely become necessary, possibly at a regional or international level. Platforms had to make available for public scrutiny the algorithms they used to determine what content was shown to users, similar to the requirement for pharmaceutical companies to test new drugs before they could be released to the market. Quality journalism was part of the solution and should be encouraged.

Ultimately, it would be desirable for digital platforms to change their model, moving from maximizing user attention (and therefore advertising revenue) to maximizing quality content. The issue of disinformation was complex, and required a multi-dimensional response. Parliaments should be cautious about legislating too quickly, which could potentially generate other problems, including through legislation that placed undue limits on the freedom of expression. While the task could seem overwhelming, it had been observed in recent months that public pressure had led to increased cooperation between digital platforms and governments. It was important to keep that pressure up.

Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*

The debate took place on Tuesday 9 April with the Committee Vice-President Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) in the chair. The Committee endorsed the proposal of the IPU President to appoint Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil) as co-Rapporteur for the next resolution, alongside Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh) and Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland). The debate was introduced by the three Rapporteurs as well as Mr. Z. Mirza, Director, Health System Development (Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean, World Health Organization) and Ms. V. Dagnimisom Koutou, Regional Advocacy Advisor for the Sahel (Save the Children).

The Rapporteurs and panellists outlined that universal health coverage (UHC) was both a human right and a development issue. It was a political choice, and the smart thing to do. It enhanced human capital and socioeconomic welfare. UHC was understood as ensuring that all people and communities could access the vast array of health services they needed, and that those services were of sufficient quality to be effective, while ensuring that using such services did not expose the user to financial hardship. The issue of accessibility and leaving no one behind underpinned the concept of UHC. Financing was at the heart of the UHC debate, and something that should be a priority for parliaments on which to act. The resolution would come at an opportune time to prompt parliamentary action, as its adoption should follow the high-level meeting on UHC at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019.

During the debate, 33 delegates from all geopolitical groups spoke. Delegates highlighted the need for the provision of people-centered health services without discrimination, including for marginalized and vulnerable groups, whether they were or not they were nationals. UHC had to be comprehensive and include information and prevention. A particular focus must be placed on maternal, newborn and child health, as well as mental health and the preparedness to address sanitary and humanitarian emergencies. Achieving UHC would also require international solidarity and cooperation, while ensuring national ownership of health systems and budgets. Delegates further highlighted that UHC was interconnected with other issues such as extreme poverty and environmental degradation.

The Chair invited all Members to assist the Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution by providing written contributions by the deadline of 20 April 2019.

Elections

The Committee elected new members to its Bureau (see page 87).

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 140th IPU Assembly
(Doha, 9 April 2019)*

The President of the Committee, Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), opened the session.

The summary records of the previous session held at the 139th Assembly were adopted. The President announced the nomination of Mr. P. Akamba (Uganda) and Mr. U. Nyam-Osoz (Mongolia) to the Bureau. Absent any objection from the floor, the two members were confirmed.

The President set the stage for the session, which was dedicated to a review of the SDGs in view of the July session of the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. He noted that while some countries were showing considerable progress on some SDGs, the world as a whole was falling behind on implementation and no country was on track to achieve all the goals. It followed that parliaments needed to push harder for implementation through oversight and legislation. The President announced the two panels of the session.

Panel 1: Parliamentary follow-up on the SDGs

Mr. K. Al Bakkar (Jordan), Mr. A. Rozas (Argentina), and Ms. K. Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes (IPU), presented. Their remarks and the ensuing discussion with participants painted a picture of parliamentary engagement with the SDGs that was promising but still lacking in many important respects. Testimonials were heard from parliamentarians representing Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), North Macedonia, Tunisia, and Viet Nam.

As a recent IPU survey of 89 parliaments showed, roughly 50 per cent of parliaments had taken some steps to institutionalize the SDGs, such as setting up a dedicated parliamentary body, a coordination mechanism or a system of focal points. Forty-three per cent of parliaments had reported having mainstreamed the SDGs in the work of their committees. Where national multi-stakeholder consultative mechanisms were in place, 42 per cent of parliaments had participated in such mechanisms. Fifty six countries that had participated in the survey had submitted Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) to the HLPF since 2016, 43 per cent of which had consulted their respective parliaments in the preparation of their reports. About half of MPs and their staff had received some kind of SDG training. Overall, these results showed that parliaments were taking the SDGs more seriously than they had taken the previous generation of global goals, the MDGs. Still, within each parliament, many inconsistencies could be found.

In many cases, parliamentary oversight had helped ensure that national budgets and legislation aligned well with national plans for the SDGs. Some parliaments had supported legislative reforms to devolve responsibility for social and environmental policies to regions and municipalities, which could help with citizens' consultations and engagement. In other countries, legislation had been introduced to incentivize public-private partnerships around the SDGs, institute an ombudsman, establish a parliamentary budget office, or make government information more accessible to the public.

A recurring institutional challenge that parliaments faced with regard to SDG implementation was lack of proper data. Some participants noted that, in addition to institutional constraints, many parliaments were contending with a weak economy, growing public debt and unemployment that limited policy space for the SDGs. Conflicts, migrant movements and environmental disasters that were all becoming more frequent because of climate change were forcing policy-makers to divert resources away from the SDGs.

On the plus side, as parliaments worked to make themselves fit for purpose with regard to the SDGs, they had gained oversight capacities that would serve them well in all policy domains and for years to come.

Panel 2: Thematic discussion on *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*

There were presentations from Ms. R. Wijeratne (Sri Lanka), Mr. C. Chauvel (Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP) and Mr. N. Ahmed (Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International). The discussion anticipated the main theme of the HLPF session this year with a particular focus on governance (SDG 16) and inequality (SDG 10). Interventions were made by Bangladesh, France, Iraq, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kuwait, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Samoa, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

Growing inequalities were a leading cause of public disenchantment with politics. A solid majority of the public worldwide believed in representative democracy and in the importance of elections. In practice however, people felt alienated from their own governments. More than ever before parliaments and organizations such as the IPU and UNDP had to work to build effective, inclusive and accountable institutions that people could believe in.

Income and wealth inequality were not a natural phenomenon but the result of bad economic policies over the last forty years. Unbridled deregulation and liberalization had made it easier for the rich to get richer and, in the process, to gain political influence. From that position of power, moneyed elites had pursued self-interested policies such as reducing tax rates for the wealthy and cutting budgets for social programmes, further widening the gap between the *haves* and the *have-nots*.

The good news was that inequality could be reversed with progressive policies to raise wages and ensure the rich paid their fair share. Other ways to spread the wealth and expand opportunity included increasing investment in public goods such as health care and education, particularly for girls, as well as promoting entrepreneurship. Fundamentally, what was needed was a rethink of the economic model where the direct objective was not growth per se but human well-being for all.

Achieving gender equality in social, economic and political spheres should be a top priority for all governments. Gender equality was not just a matter of justice. It was a good policy prescription to make the economy work for everyone.

Some participants noted that inequality between developed and developing countries deserved as much attention as inequality within countries. Development cooperation (aid) had to continue to play a role in levelling the playing field for developing countries. Investment and trade rules that put developing countries at a disadvantage must be changed.

As the session drew to a close, participants were informed of the Parliamentary Forum the IPU will organize at the HLPF on 15 July. Parliamentarians were encouraged to join their national delegations to the HLPF and to respond to the IPU survey on their engagement in national reviews.

**Call for urgent international action to support
Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai**

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

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	1,011	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,160
Negative votes	149	Two-thirds majority.....	773
Abstentions	99		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Haiti	<i>Absent</i>			Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	13			Poland	15		
Angola	14			Iceland	10			Portugal	13		
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			India	20			Qatar		11	
Armenia	<i>Absent</i>			Indonesia		22		Republic of Korea	17		
Austria	10			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Republic of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Azerbaijan	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq	9		6	Romania	14		
Bangladesh			20	Ireland	7		4	Russian Federation	20		
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Italy	17			Rwanda	12		
Belgium	13			Japan	20			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	10		
Benin	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan		12		Samoa	<i>Absent</i>		
Bhutan	10			Kazakhstan	<i>Absent</i>			San Marino	10		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			10	Kenya	15			Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Botswana	11			Kuwait		11		Senegal			10
Brazil	22			Kyrgyzstan	<i>Absent</i>			Serbia	12		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Seychelles	10		
Burkina Faso	13			Latvia	11			Sierra Leone	10		
Burundi	12			Lebanon		11		Singapore	12		
Cabo Verde	10			Lesotho	11			Slovenia	11		
Cambodia	6		7	Liechtenstein	8			Somalia	13		
Cameroon	<i>Absent</i>			Luxembourg	8			South Sudan	<i>Absent</i>		
Canada	15			Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Spain	<i>Absent</i>		
Central African Republic	10			Malaysia	10			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Chile	13			Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			Sudan			15
China	23			Mali	13			Suriname	8		2
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Sweden	13		
Côte d'Ivoire	<i>Absent</i>			Marshall Islands	10			Switzerland	12		
Croatia	11			Mexico	20			Tajikistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Cuba	<i>Absent</i>			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Thailand	18		
Cyprus	3		7	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	11		
Czech Republic	13			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			Tonga	10		
Denmark	<i>Absent</i>			Morocco	13			Trinidad & Tobago	<i>Absent</i>		
Djibouti			10	Mozambique	13			Tunisia		13	
Ecuador	<i>Absent</i>			Myanmar	17			Turkey		18	
El Salvador		10		Namibia	11			Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Estonia	11			Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	15		
Eswatini	11			Netherlands	13			Ukraine	<i>Absent</i>		
Ethiopia	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand	11			United Kingdom	18		
Fiji	11			Nicaragua			8	United Republic of Tanzania	<i>Absent</i>		
Finland	12			Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Uruguay	<i>Absent</i>		
France	18			Nigeria	20			Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Gabon	<i>Absent</i>			North Macedonia	<i>Absent</i>			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Gambia (The)	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	12			Viet Nam	19		
Georgia	<i>Absent</i>			Oman		11		Zambia	13		
Germany	19			Pakistan	<i>Absent</i>			Zimbabwe	13		
Ghana	10			Palestine		11					
Greece	13			Panama	<i>Absent</i>						
Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>						
Guinea-Bissau	11			Peru	<i>Absent</i>						

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

**Ensuring international protection of Palestinian people,
rejecting Israeli authority over the occupied Golan Heights, promoting the values of peaceful
coexistence among people and religions and combatting all forms of racism and intolerance**

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of
Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco and Turkey for the inclusion of an emergency item**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	491	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	869
Negative votes	378	Two-thirds majority.....	579
Abstentions	390		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Haiti		Absent		Philippines		Absent	
Albania		Absent		Hungary		13		Poland	5		10
Angola		14		Iceland			10	Portugal		6	7
Argentina		Absent		India			20	Qatar	11		
Armenia		Absent		Indonesia	22			Republic of Korea			17
Austria		10		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Republic of Moldova		Absent	
Azerbaijan		Absent		Iraq	15			Romania			14
Bangladesh	20			Ireland	11			Russian Federation	20		
Belarus		Absent		Italy		17		Rwanda			12
Belgium		13		Japan		20		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			10
Benin		Absent		Jordan	12			Samoa		Absent	
Bhutan			10	Kazakhstan		Absent		San Marino		10	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10			Kenya			15	Sao Tome and Principe	3	7	
Botswana			11	Kuwait	11			Senegal	10		
Brazil			22	Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Serbia			12
Bulgaria		Absent		Lao People's Dem. Republic	6		6	Seychelles		10	
Burkina Faso			13	Latvia		11		Sierra Leone	10		
Burundi	12			Lebanon	11			Singapore	6		6
Cabo Verde			10	Lesotho			11	Slovenia		11	
Cambodia			13	Liechtenstein		8		Somalia	13		
Cameroon		Absent		Luxembourg		8		South Sudan		Absent	
Canada		15		Malawi		Absent		Spain		Absent	
Central African Republic	10			Malaysia	10			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	8		5	Maldives		Absent		Sudan	15		
China	23			Mali			13	Suriname	5		5
Costa Rica		Absent		Malta		Absent		Sweden		13	
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Marshall Islands		10		Switzerland		12	
Croatia		11		Mexico	20			Tajikistan		Absent	
Cuba		Absent		Micronesia (Fed. States of)		8		Thailand	9		9
Cyprus	6		4	Monaco		Absent		Timor-Leste			11
Czech Republic		13		Mongolia		Absent		Tonga			10
Denmark		Absent		Morocco	13			Trinidad & Tobago		Absent	
Djibouti	10			Mozambique			13	Tunisia	13		
Ecuador		Absent		Myanmar			17	Turkey	18		
El Salvador	10			Namibia		11		Turkmenistan		Absent	
Estonia		11		Nepal		Absent		Uganda			15
Eswatini			11	Netherlands		13		Ukraine		Absent	
Ethiopia		Absent		New Zealand			11	United Kingdom		18	
Fiji	11			Nicaragua	8			United Republic of Tanzania		Absent	
Finland		12		Niger		Absent		Uruguay		Absent	
France		18		Nigeria	20			Uzbekistan		Absent	
Gabon		Absent		North Macedonia		Absent		Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	5		10
Gambia (The)		Absent		Norway		12		Viet Nam	19		
Georgia		Absent		Oman	11			Zambia			13
Germany		19		Pakistan		Absent		Zimbabwe		13	
Ghana			10	Palestine	11						
Greece	9		4	Panama		Absent					
Guatemala		Absent		Paraguay		Absent					
Guinea-Bissau		11		Peru		Absent					

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes.

Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 140th IPU Assembly (Doha, 9 April 2019)*

The 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Deeply concerned about the humanitarian catastrophe in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe since Cyclone Idai hit these countries causing widespread flooding through the region, killing many people, leaving thousands missing or injured, destroying homes, affecting more than a million lives, displacing hundreds of thousands of people and causing a rising death toll,

Considering that it is too early to gauge the magnitude of the devastation, that the number of victims is expected to rise, and that the World Health Organization has warned of a "second disaster" if potentially lethal waterborne diseases like cholera spread in the devastated region,

Noting that few countries could adequately respond to a disaster of this magnitude (the World Meteorological Organization projects that Idai will be among the worst weather-related disasters in the southern hemisphere), and certainly not three of the world's poorest countries, let alone Mozambique, which are in the midst of a debt crisis and whose annual GDP is around US\$ 12 billion,

Acknowledging that these countries were already vulnerable to disaster because of long lasting droughts and failed rains, due to changing weather conditions linked to global warming that has led to extreme rainfall and rising sea-levels and triggered deadly storms, such as Cyclone Idai,

Welcoming the measures and efforts taken by countries and aid organizations providing relief, food, temporary shelters, water-treatment devices and medicines, and knowing that widespread devastation and poor infrastructure hamper rescue and humanitarian operations from reaching all affected people,

Referring to the UN Secretary-General's request for a quick response from the international community to the UN flash appeal issued on 25 March 2019 for US\$ 282 million of emergency aid to Mozambique for a three-month period, and to the revised appeals for Zimbabwe and Malawi,

Noting the vulnerability of women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly in this situation, and also noting the risks of children in the aftermath of the cyclone being sold into slavery by human traffickers or forced into early marriage by families struggling to survive,

Acknowledging that extreme weather events are most likely to become more frequent, severe, devastating and widespread and could be prevented or moderated by actions from the international community today,

Recalling the Paris Agreement that entered into force on 4 November 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), which provide the foundation for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development under a changing climate,

Looking forward to the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 as an important opportunity to raise ambition and establish plans for achieving the Paris Agreement goals,

Referring to the IPU's own commitments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (Hanoi Declaration 2015), to ensure parliaments hold governments to account in implementing effective measures to achieve these goals while leaving no one behind, in particular Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, and Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, and acknowledging that these disasters further disadvantage the affected countries' abilities to achieve the SDGs,

* The delegation of Turkey expressed a reservation on preambular paragraph 10 and operative paragraph 3.

1. *Calls on* parliamentarians to urge their governments that have not already done so to support the UN flash appeals for Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, according to the values of the United Nations, and to contribute in an appropriate manner by ensuring that adequate human and financial resources are dedicated to the countries concerned;
2. *Also calls on* the United Nations, aid organizations and the international community to remain focused on the most vulnerable in the flood-ravaged areas without clean water, especially women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, to support them in rebuilding their livelihoods and strengthening their capacity to care for their families, and to pay special attention to the needs of children, girls, women and other vulnerable groups at risk of kidnapping, trafficking and sexual exploitation;
3. *Urges* all parties, whether or not they have signed the Paris Agreement, to do their utmost to achieve its goals and to present their progress and future ambitions at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 as well as their long-term climate changes to the United Nations in the course of 2020, and particularly urges parties to invest in mitigation and adaptation across vulnerable countries;
4. *Also urges* high-income economies to provide more finance, technical and capacity-building assistance to middle and low-income economies to help them better cope with climate change;
5. *Calls upon* national parliaments to urge their governments to take a leading role and effective measures to counter global warming, raise awareness about the effects of climate change and adopt a more sustainable way of living;
6. *Urges* the global community, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to support the affected countries in developing comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, strengthening disaster risk reduction and prevention, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses, and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and calls on the governments of the countries concerned to also invest in risk-reduction measures and societal resilience;
7. *Also urges* the global community, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and together with governments and the private sector in disaster-prone countries, to invest in climate-resilient development programmes related to key livelihood security topics of people living in high-risk areas, with a focus on SDGs 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (food security), 3 (health), 5 (gender equality), 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (access to affordable energy), 8 (good jobs), 11 (resilient communities) and 13 (climate action);
8. *Calls on* IPU parliamentarians to work with government in partnership with the private sector to gradually move towards clean and renewable energy.

IPU Presidential Statement on the Golan Heights

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 204th session
(Doha, 10 April 2019)*

The IPU stands for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The IPU was founded 130 years ago on the values of peace and non-use of force in international relations.

We condemn the recent US recognition of the Golan Heights as part of Israel. We are convinced that the US announcement moves the world further away from achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The US recognition of the Golan Heights runs counter to UN Security Council resolution 497, which, inter alia, discourages strongly any attempt by Israel to "impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights" and considers such attempts as "null and void and without international legal effect".

On behalf of the IPU, I launch a strong appeal for all parties to the conflict in the Middle East to refrain from any unilateral action that would fan the flames of conflict. We, as parliaments or parliamentarians, should resolve to work ever more robustly to contribute to peace through genuine dialogue.

IPU Presidential Statement on Parliamentary Diplomacy

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 204th session
(Doha, 10 April 2019)*

The IPU was founded on the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue. Parliamentary diplomacy is an essential part of international cooperation, helping to build bridges between countries and peoples, and seeking to contribute a parliamentary perspective to global governance as well as to the promotion of peace.

The use of political sanctions against parliamentarians legally representing their national parliaments and their people is unacceptable.

We believe in the value of open and unrestricted dialogue between parliamentarians from all over the world. IPU Assemblies and official meetings are essential forums to resolve differences through meaningful exchange. All parliamentarians from IPU Member Parliaments should be allowed to attend IPU Assemblies and other inter-parliamentary forums, unhindered by any restrictions or sanctions. The ultimate goal of the IPU is to achieve peace.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS **LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

Mr./M. Ahmad Bin Abdullah Bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud

Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar
Président du Conseil consultative du Qatar

President of the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de la 140^e Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire

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**

BABA, Lutfullah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Elders
SAFI, Gulalai Noor (Ms.)	Member of the House of Elders
AHMADI, Mirwais (Mr.)	Executive Manager for Upper House Committees, House of Elders

ALBANIA – ALBANIE

RUÇI, Gramoz (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament (<i>PS</i>)
BALLA, Taulant (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Committee on European Integration (<i>PS</i>)
BELLO, Vilma (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament (<i>PS</i>)
ULQINI, Musa (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on European Integration (<i>PS</i>)
GJONCAJ, Genci (Mr.)	Secretary General of Parliament
BARJABA, Kosta (Mr.)	Chief of the Cabinet of the Speaker
KRAJA, Albana (Ms.) Interpreter	Head of the Translation Unit
LLESHI, Agim (Mr.) Security Officer to the Speaker	
XHANI, Kujtim (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
VESHI, Erald (Mr.) Press	
HAXHIAJ, Mimoza (Mrs.) Press	

(PS: Socialist Party of Albania / Parti socialiste albanais)

ANGOLA

OLIVEIRA VALENTE, Idalina (Mrs.) 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>)
PELIGANGA, Isabel (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MPLA</i>)
TITO, Lindo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>Casa-CE</i>)
VAN-DÚNEM, Kilamba (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>MPLA</i>)
DOMINGOS, Dilizia (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation	National Assembly
VICENTE, Lázaro (Mr.) Adviser	National Assembly
SOARES, Sebastião (Mr.)	Adviser
BETE, Vanda (Ms.) 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**

URTUBEY, Rodolfo (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Chair of the Agreements Committee Budget and Finance Committee (<i>PJ</i>)
CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Mrs.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and Worship General Legislation Committee Administrative and Municipal Affairs Committee (<i>MPN</i>)
ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr.) President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the Senate Committee on National Economy and Investment (<i>PJ</i>)

ROZAS, Angel (Mr.)

Member of the Senate
Constitutional Affairs Committee
Budget and Finance Committee (*BUCR*)
Parliamentary Secretary, SenateTUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)
(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)
(BUCR: Bloque Unión Cívica Radical)**ARMENIA – ARMÉNIE**

MIRZOYAN, Ararat (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (*CC*)Leader of the Delegation
GRIGORYAN, Srбуhi (Ms.)Member of the National Assembly
Standing Committee on Healthcare and Social Affairs
(*BA*)

BOSHYAN, Arman (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Standing Committee on Healthcare and Social Affairs
(*CC*)

HOVHANNISYAN, Hovhannes (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture,
Diaspora, Youth and Sport (*CC*)

KARAPETYAN, Anna (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly
Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs (*CC*)

MELKUMYAN, Mikayel (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Chairman of the Committee on Regional and Eurasian
Integration (*PAP*)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

MAKUNTS, Lilit (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (*CC*)ISAYAN, Shake (Ms.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human RightsMember of the National Assembly
Standing Committee on the Protection of Human Rights
and Public Affairs (*PAP*)

GALSTYAN, Tigran (Mr.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

ISRAELIAN, Arman (Mr.)

Head of the Foreign Relations Department, National
Assembly

HOVHANNISYAN, Artak (Mr.)

Head of the Protocol Department, National Assembly

GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms.)

Chief Specialist of the Foreign Relations Department,
National Assembly

Secretary to the delegation

KOSTANYAN, Vahan (Mr.)

Assistant to the President, National Assembly

KARAPETYAN, Edvard (Mr.)

Assistant to the President, National Assembly

VARDANYAN, Armen (Mr.)

Assistant, National Assembly

KOCHARYAN, Araksya (Ms.)

Press

(CC: Civil Contract / Contrat civil)

(BA: Bright Armenia)

(PAP: Prosperous Armenia Party / Parti arménien de la prospérité)

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr.)

Member of the National Council (*ÖVP*)

Leader of the Delegation

BURES, Doris (Ms.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Council (*SPÖ*)

SCHERAK, Nikolaus (Mr.)

Member of the National Council (*NEOS*)

VELBERG, Sophie (Ms.)

International Relations Officer, National Council

Secretary of the Group

PAPPACENA, Patrizia (Ms.)

Press Secretary to the Deputy Speaker, National

Adviser to the Deputy Speaker

Council

(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / Parti populaire)

(SPÖ: Austrian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate autrichien)

(NEOS: Austrian Liberal Party / Parti libéral autrichien)

AZERBAIJAN – AZERBAÏDJAN

ALASGAROV, Valeh (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources,
Energy and Ecology

ALIYEVA, Sona (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly (*YA*)

BAYRAMOV, Kamran (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly

Regional Affairs Committee (*YA*)

ISMAYILOV, Shahin (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly

Youth and Sport Committee (*YA*)

NABIZADE, Kamran (Mr.) Member of the National Assembly
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources,
Energy and Ecology
Youth and Sport Committee

MAMEDOVA, Zahra (Mrs.) Head Advisor of the International Relations Department,
Secretary of the Group National Assembly

(YA: New Azerbaijan Party / Nouveau parti de l'Azerbaïdjan)

BANGLADESH

CHAUDHURY, Shirin Sharmin (Ms.) Speaker of Parliament
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee
Chairman of the Committee on Petitions
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Privileges (AL)

GINI, Mahabub Ara Begum (Ms.) Member of Parliament
House Committee
Standing Committee on Ministry of Youth and Sports (AL)

CHOWDHURY, Saber Hossain (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

GOPAL, Manoranjan Shill (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Land
Standing Committee on Ministry of Religious Affairs (AL)

LATIF, M Abdul (Mr.) Member of Parliament, Parliament
MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr.) Member of Parliament
President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Standing Committee on Ministry of Science and Technology (AL)

MURSHEDY, Abdus Salam (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Standing Committee on Ministry of Youth and Sports (AL)

MIAH, Mohammed Abdus Sobhan (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Education (AL)

ARENG, Jewel (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (AL)

TONMOY, SK (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (AL)

AHAMED, Panir Uddin (Mr.) Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration (JP)

SARKAR, Md. Aftab Uddin (Mr.) Member of Parliament, Parliament
Adviser

KHAN, Zafar Ahmed (Mr.) Senior Secretary, Parliament
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

PERVIN, Farida (Ms.) Additional Secretary, Parliament
Director, Parliament

MANZOOR, S.M. (Mr.) Deputy Secretary, Parliament

ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr.) Deputy Secretary, Parliament

ARA, Ferdous Rowshan (Ms.) Deputy Secretary, Parliament

CHOWDHURY, Md. Toufiq E Leahi (Mr.) Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker, Parliament

HOSSAIN, Md. Wares (Mr.) Senior Assistant Secretary, Parliament

HOSSAIN, Md. Kamal (Mr.) Assistant Director, Parliament

RAHMAN, Mohammad Mizanur (Mr.) Assistant Secretary, Parliament

AHMED, Ashud (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

RAHMAN, Mahbur (Mr.)

Diplomat

CHOUDHURY, A.K.M. Muniruzzaman (Mr.)

Diplomat

ZALIL, Abdul (Mr.)

Interpreter

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)
(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

BELARUS - BÉLARUS

RAKHMANOV, Sergey (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Council of the Republic Chairman of the Standing Committee for International Affairs and National Security
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BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

BRACKE, Siegfried (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives President of the Committee for Parliamentary Follow-up of the Permanent Control Committee for the Police Services and the Permanent Control Committee for the Intelligence Services President of the Accountability Committee (<i>N-VA</i>)
VAN DEN DRIESSE, Pol (Mr.) President of the Group, Facilitator for Cyprus	Member of the Senate President of the Committee on Transversal Matters - Powers of the Communities European Affairs Committee (<i>N-VA</i>)
GROUWELS, Brigitte (Mrs.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the Senate Institutional Affairs Committee Committee on Transversal Matters - Powers of the Communities European Affairs Committee (<i>CD&V</i>)
GRYFFROY, Andries (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Transversal Matters - Powers of the Regions (<i>N-VA</i>)
DE CROM, Sandrine (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Home Affairs, General Matters and Civil Service Committee Infrastructure, Transport and Public Companies Committee (<i>ELDR</i>) Secretary General, Senate
VAN DER BIESEN, Gert (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
DEBOUTTE, Reinhilde (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Spokesperson to the Speaker of the House of Representatives
DE SMET, Emmy (Ms.)	Senior Adviser, Senate
VERCAMMEN, Peter (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Deputy Director, House of Representatives
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr.) Deputy Secretary of the Group	
DE GROOF, Bart (Mr.) Ambassador	

(*N-VA*: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)
(*CD&V*: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands)
(*ELDR*: Liberals and Democrats - Libéraux et démocrates)

BENIN - BÉNIN

HOUNGBEDJI, Adrien (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PRD</i>)
AGOKAN, Gildas (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
DAGNIHO, Rosine (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
BAKO-ARIFARI, Nassirou (M.) Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des Relations extérieures
LEGBA, Myriane (Mme)	Chef du Service du protocole, Assemblée nationale
DJAHUNTO, Gildas (M.) Aide de Camp du Président	Assemblée nationale

(*PRD*: Party for Democratic Renewal / Parti du Renouveau Démocratique)

BHUTAN – BHOUTAN

NAMGYEL, Wangchuk (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>DPT</i>)
KHANDU, Dorji (Mr.)	Member of the National Council Natural Resources and Environment Committee
PELZOM, Sonam (Ms.)	Member of the National Council Social and Cultural Affairs Committee
RAPTEN, Phuntsho (Mr.)	Member of the National Council Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee Legislative Committee

RAI, Dil Maya (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee Economic and Finance Committee (<i>DPT</i>)
RAI, Tek Bahadur (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Environment and Climate Change Committee Women Children and Youth Committee Economic and Finance Committee (<i>DPT</i>)
TSHERING, Gyambo (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Environment and Climate Change Committee Economic and Finance Committee (<i>DPT</i>) Secretary General, National Assembly
DUBA, Sangay (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
DELEK, Sonam (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Legislative Officer, National Assembly
WANGDI, Tashi (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Administration Assistant, National Assembly

(DPT: Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) – BOLIVIE (ÉTAT PLURINATIONAL DE)

CHOQUE TARQUE, Hebert (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>MAS-IPSP</i>)
MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ, Edith (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>MAS-IPSP</i>)
MORENO CUELLAR, Alberto (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>MAS-IPSP</i>)
ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Mrs.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>UD</i>)

(MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)

(UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique)

BOTSWANA

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile Mogogi (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Women's Caucus (<i>BDP</i>)
BOKO, Duma Gideon (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Labour and Home Affairs Committee (<i>UDC</i>)
GAOLATHE, Ndaba (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee (<i>AP</i>)
MAELE, Mooketsi Prince (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee (<i>BDP</i>) Clerk of the National Assembly, National Assembly
DITHAPO, Barbara Ntheeleng (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	
KEEKAE, Lesedi (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Assistant Clerk, Parliamentary Committees, National Assembly
MOKGOSI, Merapelo (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Parliamentary Counsel, National Assembly

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

(AP: Alliance for Progressives / Alliance des progressistes)

BRAZIL – BRÉSIL

LINS, Átila (Mr.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Education Commission (<i>PP</i>)
ANASTASIA, Antonio (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Federal Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and National Defence Committee on Constitution, Justice and Citizenship (<i>PSDB</i>)
CUNHA, Sergio (Mr.)	Member of the Federal Senate
BRAGA, Eduardo (Mr.)	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on Economic Affairs Committee for Education, Culture and Sport (<i>MDB</i>)
SILVESTRE, Irajá (Mr.)	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on Economic Affairs Commission for Education, Culture and Sport (<i>SDP</i>)
VASCONCELOS, Jarbas (Mr.)	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on the Environment Committee on Foreign Relations and National Defence (<i>MDB</i>)

BACELAR, João Carlos (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Mines and Energy
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Foreign Relations and National Defence (PP)
PELLEGRINO, Nelson (Mr.) CARVALHO, Mariana (Mrs.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRB) Member of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Human Rights and Minorities (PP)
SILVA NETO, Antonio (Mr.) Member of the ASGP ARAÚJO, Sílvia (Ms.) Secretary of the Group SILVA, Bruno (Mr.)	Director, Chamber of Deputies Adviser, Federal Senate Adviser
MARTINS, Victor (Mr.) Diplomat	

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)
(PSDB: Brazilian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate brésilien)
(MDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique brésilien)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(PRB: Brazilian Republican Party / Parti républicain brésilien)

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

DZHAFER, Nigyar (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation KARASLAVOVA, Stefana (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Mrs.) Administrative Secretary to the delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Healthcare Committee (DPS) Secretary General, National Assembly State Expert, International Relations, Protocol and Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU Directorate, National Assembly
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(DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés)

BURKINA FASO

SAKANDE, Bala Alassane (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation ILBOUDO/THIOMBIANO, Foniamia Elise (Mme) DIALLO, Ahmed Aziz (M.) ABGA, Armand (M.) BAKYONO, Bienvenue (M.) NOMBRE, Alphonse (M.) OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (M.) OUATTARA, Lassina (M.) TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (M.) ZOROME, Rakièta (Mme) Membre de l'ASGP PARE, Noufou (M.) MOGMENGA, Oumarou (M.) TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (M.) Secrétaire du Groupe BAGUIAN, Mikail (M.) Conseiller politique BAMOGO, Benjamin (M.) Presse	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP) Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDS/METBA) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP) Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale Directeur du protocole, Assemblée nationale Directeur général des Médias, Assemblée nationale Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée nationale Conseiller technique, Assemblée nationale
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(MPP: People's Movement for Progress / Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès)
(PDS/METBA: Party for Democracy and Socialism-Builders' Party / Parti pour la démocratie et le Socialisme-Parti des Bâtisseurs)
(UPC: Union for Progress and Change / Union pour le progrès et le changement)
(CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress / Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès)

BURUNDI

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights NIRAGIRA, Felix (Mr.) NZEYIMANA, Zainabu (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Assembly Deputy Speaker of the Senate Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Assembly
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TUYAGA, Anicet (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP	
NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
NGABIRE, Melyse (Mrs.)	Adviser, National Assembly
NDAYISENGA, Richard (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
MINANI, Pelagie (Mrs.)	Adviser, National Assembly
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr.)	Chief Protocol, National Assembly
NIMUBONA, Jean Claude (Mr.)	Adviser, Senate
NIYONZIMA, Dieudonne (Mr.)	Adviser, National Assembly
NTAMBUKA, Issa (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

CABO VERDE

CORREIA, Austelino Tavares (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>MPD</i>)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
LOPES CORREIA, Francisco Marcelino (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Special Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights, Security and State Reform (<i>MPD</i>)
DIAS SANTOS, Ana Paula (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Special Committee on Education, Culture, Health, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs (<i>PAICV</i>)
GRAÇA, Francisco Assis (Mr.)	Technician, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group	

(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

YANG, Sem (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Leader of the Delegation	
CHHIT, Kimyeat (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
MUTH, Khieu (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
BAN, Sreymom (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly
SOK, Sokan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
SRUN, Dara (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP	
HEANG, Thul (Mr.)	Director of International Relations Department, National Assembly
SOK, Pisey (Mr.)	Chief of Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly
Secretary to the delegation	
KIM YEAT, Dararith (Mr.)	Director of PIC, Senate
HOK, Bunly (Mr.)	Deputy Director of International Relations Department, National Assembly
OUM, Sarith (Mr.)	Adviser, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
KIM, Sochetra (Mr.)	Assistant, Senate
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr.)	Assistant, Senate
KOY, Malayvireak (Mr.)	Assistant, Senate
TRY, Chanvichka (Mr.)	Assistant, National Assembly
PHAV, Chanmatin (Mrs.)	Staff, National Assembly

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

NIAT NJIFENJI, Marcel (M.)	Président du Sénat (<i>RDPC</i>)
Chef de la délégation	
CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (M.)	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RDPC</i>)
Chef de délégation	
TABETANDO, Ndieb Nso (M.)	Vice-Président du Sénat
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent De Paul (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RDPC</i>)
KEGNE MAFONG FOTSO, Joséphine (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RDPC</i>)
KOULTCHOUMI AHIDJO, Oumoul (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>UNDP</i>)
OUMAROU ISSA, Paul (M.)	Sénateur
DIWALA MONY, Hilarion (M.)	Sénateur
AFANE BIDJANG, Gisèle Solange (Mme)	Sénatrice
Conseillère	
NGABAYA, Tchef Tchef (M.)	Sénateur
Conseiller	

MBOCK, Désiré Geoffroy (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
MEVA'A M'EBOUTOU, Michel (M.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général du Sénat
INDJECK, Daniel (M.) Conseiller	Représentant de la Présidence de la République, Assemblée nationale
MVONDO, Médard (M.) Secrétaire administratif	Directeur de l'Administration générale, Assemblée nationale
NJOMATCHOUA, Justin (M.)	Directeur de Cabinet du Président du Sénat
HAMIDOU, Jean Paul (M.)	Assemblée nationale
(RDP: 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

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms.) Vice-President of the Group, President of the Committee on Middle East Questions Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (<i>CPC</i>)
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Deputy Chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications (<i>IL</i>)
RAVALIA, Mohamed-Iqbal (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (<i>ISG</i>)
SAINT-GERMAIN, Raymonde (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Standing Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade Standing Senate Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration (<i>ISG</i>)
MATHYSSEN, Irene (Ms.)	Member of the House of Commons Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women (<i>NDP</i>)
AZOULAY, Karine (Ms.) Advisor of the Group	
ETHIER, Céline (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	
MCTAGGART, Scott (Mr.) Advisor of the Group	
(CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)	
(IL: Independent Liberal / Libéral indépendant)	
(ISG: Independent Senators Group / Groupe des Sénateurs indépendants)	
(NDP: New Democratic Party of Canada / Nouveau parti démocratique canadien)	

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

NGON-BABA, Laurent (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPS</i>)
ANDIBA, Daguerre (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire général adjoint
LEI KOYANGOUMOUN, Hermann Achille S. (M.)	Protocole
KOMBO-YAYA, Dieudonne (M.)	Conseiller diplomatique

CHILE – CHILI

FLORES, Iván (Mr.) Second Vice-President of GRULAC Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies President of the Citizens' Security Committee Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Committee (<i>PDC</i>)
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr.)	Member of the Senate President of the Treasury Committee (<i>PS</i>)
COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee Constitution, Legislation, Justice and Regulations Committee (<i>UDI</i>)

GARCIA, Rene Manuel (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Housing and Urban Development Committee Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee (RN)
ILABACA, Marcos (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies President of the Sports and Recreation Committee Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications Committee (PS)
MIX, Claudia (Mrs.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Health Committee Women and Gender Equity Committee Sciences and Technology Committee (P-PEV)
PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Mrs.)	Director of International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
ROJAS, Luis (Mr.)	Pro Secretary, Chamber of Deputies
Secretary, Member of the ASGP	
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	
(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / Union démocratique indépendante)	
(RN: National Renovation / Rénovation nationale)	
(P-PEV: Power, Green Ecologist / Pouvoir, Parti écologiste vert)	

CHINA – CHINE

SHEN, Yueyue (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National People's Congress
CHEN, Guomin (Mr.) Member of the Executive Committee	Member of the National People's Congress Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
HE, Xin (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress
LIU, Xinhua (Mr.)	Member of the National People's Congress Vice-Chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee
ZHOU, Min (Ms.)	Member of the National People's Congress Ethnic Affairs Committee
LIU, Rui (Mr.)	Deputy Director-General, National People's Congress
HUANG, Wuliang (Mr.)	Deputy Director, National People's Congress
YUAN, Quan (Mr.)	Deputy Director, National People's Congress
WANG, Aihua (Ms.)	Director, National People's Congress
LI, Jijuan (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	
HU, Luyao (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	
HOU, Dong (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	
LIU, Jinglei (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	
TIAN, Zhen (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	
ZHENG, Yi (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	
YANG, Yang (Ms.) Interpreter	
ZHU, Zhiqiang (Mr.) Interpreter	
LI, Chen (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
ZHOU, Qiao (Ms.) Diplomat	
YANG, Bin (Mr.) Diplomat	
CHEN, Chang (Mr.) Diplomat	

CONGO

EPOLA, Julien (M.) Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Membre du Sénat (PCT)
IKOUROU YOKA ANGANDI, Pauline (Mme)	Membre du Sénat Commission de la santé, des affaires sociales, de la famille, du genre et du développement durable (PCT)

GOMA, Léandre (M.)
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe
OKELE, Gaspard (M.)
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe
OYANDZA, François (M.)

Conseiller juridique du Premier Secrétaire du Sénat,
Sénat
Assemblée nationale
Conseiller du Président du Sénat

(PCT: Congolese Workers Party / Parti congolais du travail)

COSTA RICA

NINO GUTIERREZ, Karine (Ms.)
Leader of the delegation
PENA FLORES, Rodolfo (Mr.)
VARGAS VIQUEZ, Otto Roberto (Mr.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Head, Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Member of the Legislative Assembly

COTE D'IVOIRE

SOUMAHORO, Amadou (M.)
Chef de la délégation
YACE DE MEL, Laurette Andrée (Mme)
Présidente du Groupe

Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*PDCI/RDA*)
Rapporteur de la Commission de la sécurité et de la
défense

OUATTARA, Siaka (M.)
Vice-Président du Groupe

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
(*RHDP*)

KOUAKOU, Kouassi Jean Marie (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*PDCI/RDA*)
Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles

COULIBALY, Yaya (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Commission de la recherche, de la science, de la
technologie et de l'environnement (*RHDP*)

KOUASSI, Koffi Kra Paulin (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
(*RHDP*)

DOUMBIA, Yaya (M.)
FREGBO, Guété Basile Mesmin (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire du Bureau
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la
Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles

SIDIBE, Abdoulaye (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la
Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

LIKANE YAGUI, Jean (M.)
Conseiller
ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure (M.)
Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

KONE, Dotémé André (M.)
Conseiller

Chargé de mission du Président

(PDCI/RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire / Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)

(RHDP: Rally of Houphouëtists for Democracy and Peace / Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix)

CROATIA – CROATIE

DUJIC, Sasa (Mr.)
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Committee on the Economy, Labour, Retirement System
and Social Partnership Programme (*SDP*)

MAKSIMČUK, Ljubica (Ms.)

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Gender Equality Committee, Committee on Maritime
Affairs and Infrastructure (*HDZ*)

CELIC, Ivan (Mr.)

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Deputy Chairperson of the Health and Social Policy
Committee (*HDZ*)

VUJASINOVIC, Katja (Mrs.)
Adviser to the delegation
VUKAS, Stjepan (Mr.)
Secretary to the delegation

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

CUBA

FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms.)
Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau of
Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

NUÑEZ BETANCOURT, Alberto (Mr.)
MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesús Rafael (Mr.)
Secretary of the Group
CABALLERO RODRIGUEZ, Eumelio (Mr.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
ECHENIQUE PAZ, Yadirys (Ms.)
Diplomat

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Officer, National Assembly of the People's Power

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

SYLLOURIS, Demetris (Mr.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Mrs.)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

President of the House of Representatives (*AM*)

MAVRIDES, Marios (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on
Refugees-Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected
Persons (*AKEL*)

ORPHANIDES, Christos (Mr.)

Member of the House of Representatives
House Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary
Affairs (*DISY*)

THEOLOGOU, Anna (Mrs.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Member of the House of Representatives
House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources (*DIKO*)

SOCRATOUS, Socrates (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
VARNAVA, Georgios (Mr.)
Adviser

Member of the House of Representatives
House Standing Committee on Development Plans and
Public Expenditure Control (*Ind*)
Acting Secretary General, House of Representatives

Former Member of Parliament

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group
PERSIANI, Elena (Mrs.)
Secretary to the delegation

International Relations Officer A'

International Relations Officer

(AM: Allileggii (Solidarity) Movement)
(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)
(DISY: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)
(DIKO: Democratic Party / Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

CZECH REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

POLANSKY, Ondrej (Mr.)
Leader of the Delegation
BÁREK, Ivo (Mr.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Committee on Economic Affairs (*Piráti*)

KOLIBA, Peter (Mr.)

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Mandate and Immunity Committee (*CSSD*)
Member of the Senate
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Health and Social Policy
(*ANO 2011*)

LEVOVÁ, Jana (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal
Affairs (*SPD*)

MAJEROVA ZAHRADNIKOVA, Zuzana (Mrs.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Member Committee on Education, Science, Culture,
Human Rights and Petitions (*ODS*)

OBORNÁ, Monika (Ms.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Committee on Economic Affairs
Committee on Agriculture (*ANO 2011*)

KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms.)
Secretary of the Group
TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group

(Piráti: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)
(CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(ANO 2011: ANO 2011)
(SPD: Freedom and Direct Democracy / Liberté et démocratie directe)
(ODS: Civic Democratic Party / Parti démocrate civique)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Danish Parliament Transport, Building and Housing Committee (<i>DPP</i>)
CALLESEN, Jan Rytkaer (Mr.)	Member of the Danish Parliament Business, Growth and Export Committee Fiscal Affairs Committee (<i>DPP</i>)
DUE, Karina (Ms.)	Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Gender Equality Committee (<i>DPP</i>)
SCHNOOR, Pernille (Ms.)	Member of the Danish Parliament Education Committee (<i>A</i>)
SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr.)	Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Defence Committee (<i>RGA</i>)
RIIS, Peter (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	International Counselor, Danish Parliament
LARSON, Claudius (Mr.) Assistant Secretary of the Group	Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament

(DPP: Danish People's Party / Parti populaire danois)
(A: The Alternative)
(RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)

DJIBOUTI

ALI HOUMED, Mohamed (M.) Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale
BOULHAN HOUSSEIN, Niimo (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
OMAR MOHAMED, Hassan (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des finances
ROBLEH ABDILLAHIEH, Ahmed (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
MOHAMED AHMED, Idriss (M.)	Directeur de Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
MOUSSA HASSAN, Ilmi (M.)	Conseiller du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
ABDOU, Ali Amdan (M.)	Conseiller du Président de l'Assemblée nationale

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing 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 (<i>PRD</i>)
SUAREZ DIAZ, Victor Valdemar (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Standing Committee of Foreign Relations (<i>PLD</i>)

(PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)
(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party / Parti de la libération dominicaine)

ECUADOR – ÉQUATEUR

ARREGUI, Marcia (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly
SOLIZ, Doris (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Assembly (<i>BRC</i>)
SINMALEZA, Angel (Mr.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the National Assembly

(BRC: Bancada de la Revolución Ciudadana)

EL SALVADOR

MERINO, José Francisco (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Legislative Assembly
HANDAL, Jorge Schafik (Mr.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

MOHABA MESU, Gaudencio (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (<i>PDGE</i>)
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OBONO EDJANG, Silvia-Paloma (Ms.)	Senator
EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr.)	Economy and Foreign Affairs Committee (<i>PDGE</i>)
Secretary of the Group	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
MAYE OBIANG, Victorino-Nka (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
NVE MBA, José-María (Mr.)	
Press	

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÜTT, Helmen (Ms.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee (<i>SDP</i>)
KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament
	Deputy Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee (<i>ERP</i>)
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Ms.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament
	Social Affairs Committee (<i>ECeP</i>)
TAMP, Marju (Ms.)	Adviser, Estonian Parliament
Secretary of the Group	

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

(EceP: Estonian Centre Party / Parti estonien du centre)

ESWATINI

MAVIMBELA, Petros (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Assembly
Leader of the Delegation	
MDLULI, Ndumiso (Mr.)	Vice-President of the Senate
KHUMALO, Marwick T. (Mr.)	Member of Parliament
DLAMINI, Mkhululi (Mr.)	Senator
SHABANGU, Treasure S. (Mr.)	
Secretary to the Delegation	

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

ALLI IBRAHIM, Keria (Mrs.)	Speaker of the House of the Federation (<i>EPRDF</i>)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
AYENEW, Worku (Mr.)	Member of the House of the Federation (<i>EPRDF</i>)
GONDA, Hailu (Mr.)	Member of the House of the Federation (<i>EPRDF</i>)
MELES, Freweini (Mrs.)	Member of the House of the Federation (<i>EPRDF</i>)
ARGENAI, Chali Lemmi (Mr.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
HAILU, Abeba Yosef (Mrs.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives (<i>EPRDF</i>)
HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives (<i>EPRDF</i>)
MERAE, Gebru Geberselasie (Mr.)	House of the Federation
Advisor	
SHOA, Kebede (Mr.)	Secretary, House of the Federation
YETNEBERK, Misrake (Mrs.)	House of Peoples' Representatives
Member of the ASGP	
GELAW, Haymanot (Mr.)	Secretary

(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

FIJI – FIDJI

NAILATIKAU EPELI, Ratu (Mr.)	Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the Delegation	
KUMAR, Premila (Ms.)	Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development
KEPA TEIMUMU, Ro (Ms.)	Member of the Opposition
TIKODUADUA, Pio (Mr.)	Member of the Opposition
NAMOSIMALUA, Viniana (Ms.)	Secretary General to Parliament
TUDONU, Sefanaia (Ms.)	Executive Adviser to the Speaker
WAINIU, Seniteli (Mr.)	Manager Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol
Secretary to the delegation	

(FF: Fiji First / Les Fidji d'abord)

FINLAND – FINLANDE

MYLLER, Riitta (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament (<i>SDP</i>)
UOTILA, Kari (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>Vas</i>)
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Secretary for the International Affairs, Parliament

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(Vas: Left Alliance / Alliance de gauche)

FRANCE

JULIEN-LAFERRIERE, Hubert (M.) Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires étrangères (<i>REM</i>)
DALLIER, Philippe (M.)	Premier Vice-Président du Sénat Commission des finances (<i>R</i>)
JOURDA, Gisèle (Mme)	Sénateur Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (<i>PS</i>)
MARIE, Didier (M.)	Sénateur Commission des lois (<i>PS</i>)
MARCHAND, Frédéric (Mr.)	Sénateur Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et du développement durable (<i>REM</i>)
GOSSELIN, Philippe (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Président de la commission des lois (<i>R</i>)
LARIVE, Michel (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'éducation (<i>FI</i>)
RIOTTON, Véronique (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission du développement durable et de l'aménagement du territoire (<i>REM</i>)
EIFERMANN, Didier (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
PREUVOT, Perrine (Mme) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale
VANCE, Loïc (M.) Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Conseiller, Sénat
VELASCO, Karine (Mme) Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Conseillère, Assemblée nationale
GELLET, Franck (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	

(REM: The Republic on the Move / La République en Marche)
(R: The Republicans / Les Républicains)
(PS: Socialist / Socialiste)
(FI: La France insoumise)

GABON

BOUKOUBI, Faustin (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Président de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>PDG</i>)
MOULENGUI MOUELE NGWAMASSANA, Sophie (Mme)	Membre du Sénat Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>PDG</i>)
EBINDA BESSACQUE, Henri Hugues (M.)	Membre du Sénat Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>PDG</i>)
BEKALLE AKWE, Henry (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>PDG</i>)

FOUTI, Frately (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>DEM</i>)
SAKOUSSOU, Eugénie Félicité (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des lois, des affaires administratives et des droits de l'homme Commission des finances, du budget et de la comptabilité publique (<i>PDG</i>)
NZE BEKALE, Emmanuel (Mr.)	Sénateur
KENGUEL, Michel Edouard (M.)	Secrétaire général du Sénat
Membre de l'ASGP	
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (M.)	Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale
Secrétaire du Groupe	
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Mme)	Directrice des relations interparlementaires, Sénat
ODEMBE, Julda Flore (M.)	
Presse	
BOULENGUE, Thim (M.)	
Presse	
(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais)	
(DEM: The democrats / Les démocrates)	

GAMBIA – GAMBIE

DENTON, Mariam Jack (Ms.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
Leader of the Delegation	
SANNEH, Momoudou L.K. (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
SISE, Mamodou (Mr.)	Clerk
JANNEH, Gibairu (Mr.)	Senior Assistant Clerk
BAH, Musa Muhamad (Mr.)	Adviser

GEORGIA – GÉORGIE

KOBAKHIDZE, Irakli (Mr.)	Speaker of Parliament (<i>GD-DG</i>)
Leader of the Delegation	
KHATIDZE, George (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Foreign Relations Committee (<i>GD-DG</i>)
BAKRADZE, David (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>EG</i>)
MATIKASHVILI, David (Mr.)	Member of Parliament (<i>GD-DG</i>)
MDINARADZE, Mamuka (Mr.)	Member of Parliament First Deputy Chair of the Legal Issues Committee (<i>GD-DG</i>)
TSULAIA, Ivliane (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Procedural Issues and Rules Committee (<i>GD-DG</i>) Secretary General, Parliament
MIKANADZE, Givi (Mr.)	Adviser to the Speaker
Member of the ASGP	
ANIKASHVILI, Magda (Ms.)	Chief Specialist, International Relations Department
BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr.)	
Secretary to the delegation	
KOLBAIA, Tamar (Ms.)	Head, International Relations Department, Parliament
SAMKHARADZE, Nikoloz (Mr.)	Head, Chairman's Cabinet
VARDOSANIDZE, Nino (Ms.)	Deputy Head of the Speaker's Cabinet
TSIKARISHVILI, Archil (Mr.)	Cameraman, PR and Information Department
Press	
SONGULASHVILI, Natia (Ms.)	
Press	
KHUKHUNASHVILI, Guram (Mr.)	
Press	
KASHAKASHVILI, Ketevan (Ms.)	
Press	
GAPRINDASHVILI, Besarion (Mr.)	
Press	

(GD-DG: Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia / Rêve géorgien - Géorgie démocratique)
(EG: European Georgia / Georgie européenne)

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

ROTH, Claudia (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag (<i>Bündnis90/Die Grünen</i>) Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Vice-President of the Council of Elders
BEYER, Peter (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>CDU/CSU</i>) Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organisations and Globalisation Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
RADWAN, Alexander (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>CDU/CSU</i>) Committee on Foreign Affairs Finance Committee
FREITAG, Dagmar (Ms.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>SPD</i>) Chairwoman of the Sports Committee Committee on Foreign Affairs NATO Parliamentary Assembly
ZIEGLER, Dagmar (Ms.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>SPD</i>) Council of Elders Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
HERDT, Waldemar (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>AfD</i>) Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention and Networked Security
LECHTE, Ulrich (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>FDP</i>) Chairman of the Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organisations and Globalisation Committee on Foreign Affairs
ULRICH, Alexander (Mr.)	Member of the German Bundestag (<i>Die Linke</i>) Council of Elders Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy Committee on the Affairs of the European Union
MÜLLER, (Dr.) Lorenz Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General for International Affairs and Director-General for Research and External Relations, German Bundestag Deputy Secretary General German Bundesrat
KLEEMANN, Georg (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms.) Secretary to the Delegation	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag
BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms.) Assistant to the Delegation	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag
GRIMM, Thomas (Mr.) Adviser to the Delegation	German Bundestag
MAHDJOUBI, Ali (Mr.)	
MUZEL, Hans-Udo (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag
SCHEMSKE, Daniel (Mr.) Diplomat	

(Bündnis90/Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)
(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)
(AfD: Alternative for Germany / Alternative pour l'Allemagne)
(FDP: Free Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)
(Die Linke: Left Party / La gauche)

GHANA

IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr.) Co-Rapporteur, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Vice Chairperson of the Special Budget Committee Business Committee Appointment Committee (<i>NDC</i>)
IBRAHIM, Ahmed (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Local Government Committee / Business Committee Communication Committee (<i>NDC</i>)
NYINDAM, Matthew (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Finance Committee Food and Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs Committee Business Committee (<i>NPP</i>)

OWUSU AFRIYIEH, Nana Akua (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament Special Budget Committee Standing Orders Committee Environment, Science and Technology Committee (<i>NPP</i>)
KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Special Budget Committee Chairman of the House Committee Chairman of the Business Committee (<i>NPP</i>)
ABREFA TWAIAH, Matthew (Mr.)	Head, Speaker's Secretariat
GOMBILLA, Abdulai Ibrahim (Mr.)	Deputy Clerk, Committee, Parliamentary Relations & Protocol & Public Affairs, Parliament
Member of the ASGP	
PARRY, Grace Asaah (Mr.)	Deputy Director, Speaker's Secretariat, Parliament
AL HASSAN, Gamal Abdulrazak (Mr.)	Adviser

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)
(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

GREECE – GRÈCE

VAREMENOS, Georgios (Mr.)	Second Vice-President of the Hellenic Parliament
TRIANAFYLLOU, Maria (Mrs.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Head of the Delegation	Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs, Committee on European Affairs (<i>SYRIZA</i>)
KOZOMPOLI, Panagiota (Mrs.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice (<i>SYRIZA</i>)
PANTZAS, Georgios (Mr.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs (<i>SYRIZA</i>)
KARAOGLOU, Theodoros (Mr.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Social Affairs Standing Committee on Economic Affairs (<i>ND</i>) Secretary General of the Hellenic Parliament
ATHANASSIOU, Konstantinos (Mr.)	
Member of the ASGP	
KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Mrs.)	Head of the International Organization Section Hellenic Parliament
TSOUNI, Foteini (Mrs.)	Secretary, Hellenic Parliament
ORPHANIDES, Constantinos (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
ZELOMOSIDIS, Ioannis (Mr.)	Staff

(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale)
(ND: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie)

GUATEMALA

ESCRIBÁ MORALES, Oscar Armando (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic
Leader of the Delegation	Communications Committee Foreign Affairs Committee Health and Social Assistance Committee (<i>AC</i>)
GIORDANO GRAJEDA, Juan Manuel (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic Tourism Committee Youth Committee National Defence Committee (<i>FCN</i>)
CARRILLO DE LEÓN, Mayra Alejandra (Mrs.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic Work Committee Economy Committee Finance Committee (<i>Ind</i>)
GARCÍA GUDIÉL, Hugo Fernando (Mr.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic Governance Committee Finance Committee (<i>Ind</i>)

(AC: Alianza Ciudadana)
(FCN: Frente de Convergencia Nacional)
(Ind: Independent)

GUINEA – GUINÉE

FOFANA, Luceny (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>RPG</i>)
Chef de la délégation	Vice-Président du Bureau
KEITA, Abdoulaye Bernard (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

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)

GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINÉE-BISSAU

CASSAMÁ, Cipriano (M.)
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mrs.)

Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAICG)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAICG)
Commission de la femme

SANHÁ, Ansumane (M.)
Secrétaire du Groupe
SALDANHA ARAÚJO, Edson João (M.)
MANGA, Negado (M.)
Agent de sécurité du Président

Directeur du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée,
Assemblée nationale populaire
Protocole du Président

(PAICG: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert)

HAITI - HAÏTI

FOURCAND, Richard (M.)
DIVERS MICHENET, Pascale (Mme)
CADET, Rosny (M.)
Membre de l'ASGP

Sénateur
Assistante
Assistant du Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

BARTOS, Mónika (Ms.)
Leader of the Delegation

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Legislation
Committee on Foreign Affairs (FIDESz)

KOCSIS-CAKE, Olivio (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Immunity (P)

SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly
Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable
Development (LMP)

VADAI, Ágnes (Ms.)
Committee to Promote Respect for International
Humanitarian Law
STEINMETZ, Ádám (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Vice Chair of the Committee on Defence and Law
Enforcement (DK)

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Legislation, Committee on Agriculture
(Jobbik)

SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group
SUCH, György (Mr.)
Advisor to the Group, Member of the ASGP
FODOR, Barnabás (Mr.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations,
National Assembly
Director General, National Assembly

(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)

(P: Párbeszéd)

(LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)

(DK: Democratic Coalition / Coalition démocratique)

(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)

ICELAND – ISLANDE

SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR, Áslaug Arna (Mr.)
Leader of the Delegation
GUNNALAUGSSON, Sigmundur Davíð (Mr.)

Member of Parliament
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (IP)
Member of Parliament
Economic Affairs and Trade Committee (CP)

HELGADÓTTIR, Helga Vala (Mrs.)
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP

Member of Parliament (SDA)
Secretary General, Parliament

BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms.)
Secretary of 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

SINGH, Harivansh Narayan (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of States
MANSINGH, Sonal (Mrs.)	Member of the Council of States
SHRIVASTAVA, Snehlata (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of the People
RAMACHARYULU, P.P.K. (Mr.) Advisor to the Delegation	Secretary, Council of States
KOUL, P.C. (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
JASON, S. (Mr.) Advisor to the Delegation	Director, Council of States
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr.)	Additional Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, House of the People
KUMAR, Goutam (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary, Council of States
RAMANAND (Mr.) Advisor to the Delegation	Senior Private Secretary to the Deputy Chairman, Council of States

INDONESIA – INDONÉSIE

ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Mrs.) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (PD)
LATIFA, Dwi Ria (Mrs.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (PDI-P)
RUDANA, Putu Supadma (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (PD)
RATNASARI, Desy (Mrs.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (PAN)
YUDHISTI, Kartika (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (PPP)
ISKANDAR, Indra (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the House, House of Representatives
HARRIS, Damayanti (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
BUDIAJI, Rahmad (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives
PATRIA, Chairil (Mr.)	Head of Division, House of Representatives
ASTUTI, Endang Dwi (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Parliamentary Staff, House of Representatives
WIDIANI, Miranti (Ms.)	Parliamentary Staff, House of Representatives
RIDWAN (Mr.)	TV Parliament
RAMADHANI, Masyithoh Annisa (Ms.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
AKBAR, Rochmy Hamdani (Mr.)	Expert Staff, House of Representatives
DIPUTRA, Yadi Surya (Mr.) Adviser	House of Representatives
KURNIAWAN, Endy Junaedy (Mr.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms.) Interpreter	House of Representatives
SIDEHABI, Muhammad Basri (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
AL FAQIH, Muhammad Hakim (Mr.) Diplomat	
GAWI, Ali Imron (Mr.) Diplomat	
ROFID, Zaenur (Mr.) Diplomat	

(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)
(PAN: National Mandate Party / Parti du mandat national)
(PPP: United Development Party / Parti du développement uni)

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

ARDESHIR LARIJANI, Ali (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
JAMALI NOBANDEGANI, Mohammad Javad (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

JALALI, Kazem (Mr.)
Member of the Executive Committee
MAHMOUDI, Somayeh (Mrs.)
KAVAKEBIAN, Mostafa (Mr.)
ZAHEDI, Mohammad Mehdi (Mr.)
FARSHADAN, Mehdi (Mr.)
PAPIZADEH, Abass (Mr.)
HOSSEINI, Fatemeh (Mrs.)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
ZARABADI, Hamideh (Ms.)
Adviser
ZOLGHADR, Mostafa (Mr.)
Adviser

NOURI, Gholamreza (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
AZAR, Hossein Panahi (Mr.)
JAFARI, Mohammad (Mr.)
AMIRABDOLLAHIAN, Hossein (Mr.)
DASTGHEIB, Ahmadreza (Mr.)
YASREBI, Mohammad (Mr.)
BANIASADZADEH, Motjaba (Mr.)
TARKASHVAND, Zahra (Ms.)
Executive Secretary of the Group
ABOLHASSANI CHIMEH, Jalal (Mr.)
SEYEDI, Seyed Mohammad Ali (Mr.)
RANJBAR, Mohammedi (Mrs.)
SHARIFI, Seyed Mostafa (Mr.)
IMANI, Davoud (Mr.)
PAYEDARFAR, Amir (Mr.)
HOSSEINI, Amirhossein (Mr.)
ABDOLLAHI, Mahmoud (Mr.)
AGHAMOHAMMADI, Zahra (Mrs.)
SHARIFI, Hamid (Mr.)
Interpreter
SOBHANI, Mohannad Ali (Mr.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
SOLEYMANI, Majid (Mr.)
Diplomat
NEKOU EI, Seyed Ahmad (Mr.)
Diplomat

AL-HALBOUSI, Mohamed (Mr.)
Leader of the delegation
MAHMOOD, Rebwar Karim (Mr.)
ABED, Ahmed Abdullah (Mr.)
ABBAS, Aliah Falih (Ms.)
AL-ASADI, Ahmed Jasim (Mr.)
AL-AQULI, Hassan Abdulla (Mr.)
HADI, Hussein Ahmed (Mr.)
SETO, Muhamad Shakir (Mr.)
TALABANI, Ala Tahsin (Ms.)
OBAID, Meqdam Mohammed (Mr.)
Adviser
AL-MAMOORI, Salah Jasim (Mr.)
SACHIT, Qasim Hasan (Mr.)
Adviser
AL-OGAILI, Salam Ali (Mr.)
KHALAF, Ahmed Hamid (Mr.)
MOHAMED, Fawzy A. (Mr.)
ESMIEL, Esam (Mr.)
AL-MASHHADANI, Fikrat Fayyadh (Mr.)
AL-TAEI, Shakir (Mr.)
ABDKLAIEEF, Adil Khamees (Mr.)
AL-JANABI, Abdulsattar (Mr.)
Chargé d'affaires

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran
Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran

Secretary General, Islamic Parliament of Iran

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Senior Advisor to the Speaker
Director General Protocol Department
Adviser
Senior Expert

Protocol Manager

Protocol

Protocol

Protocol

Protocol

Protocol

Adviser

Adviser

Adviser

IRAQ

Speaker of the Council of Representatives

Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives
Member of the Council of Representatives

Secretary General of the Council of Representatives

Director General, Public Relations Department
Secretary to the Speaker
Manager of International Relations
Protocol, Office of the President
Protocol
Adviser
Adviser

IRELAND – IRLANDE

GALLAGHER, Pat The Cope (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Member Committee on Irish Language Gaeltacht and the Islands (<i>FF</i>)
CRAUGHWELL, Gerard (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on European Union Affairs (<i>Ind</i>)
LOMBARD, Tim (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine (<i>FG</i>)
LAWLESS, James (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Action & Environment (<i>FF</i>)
O'REILLY, Louise (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Health Committee (<i>SF</i>)
CONNOLLY, Annette (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Director Parliamentary Budget Office, House of Representatives
MALONE, Peter (Mr.)	Private Secretary, House of Representatives
MATHEWS, Bernadette (Ms.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
WILSON, Louise (Ms.) Diplomat	
(FF: Fianna Fáil)	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	
(FG: Fine Gael)	
(SF: Sinn Féinn)	

ITALY – ITALIE

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee (<i>Aut-Svp-Patt-UV</i>)
GRANDE, Marta (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (<i>M5S</i>)
MIGLIORE, Gennaro (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Constitutional, Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Interior Affairs Committee (<i>PD</i>)
NAPOLI, Osvaldo (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee (<i>FI-SP</i>)
PAGANO, Alessandro (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Budget, Treasury and Planning Committee (<i>L-SP</i>) Adviser
SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group	
RADONI, Susanna (Ms.) Executive Secretary of the Group	Protocol Office, Chamber of Deputies
USIELLO, Antonella (Mrs.)	Foreign Affairs Department, Senate
CACCESE, Erminia (Mrs.) Interpreter	
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms.) Interpreter	Chamber of Deputies
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr.) Interpreter	Senate
SALZANO, Pasquale (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
PERZOLLA, Filippo (Mr.) Diplomat	
COLLI, Carlotta (Mrs.) Diplomat	
(Aut-Svp-Patt-UV: Autonomie (Svp-Patt, Uv) / Autonomies / Autonomies)	
(M5S: Movimento 5 Stelle / Five Stars Movement / Mouvement Cinq Etoiles)	
(PD: Partito Democratico / Democratic Party / Parti Démocrate)	
(FI-SP: Forza Italia - Berlusconi Presidente)	
(L-SP: Lega-Salvini Premier / League / Ligue)	

JAPAN – JAPON

SUZUKI, Shunichi (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>LDP</i>) Standing Committee on Budget
NAKANO, Masashi (Mr.)	Member of the House of Councillors (<i>LDP</i>) Committee on Land and Transport Committee on Budget Special Committee on Reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake
TANAKA, Kazunori (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>LDP</i>) Director of the Standing Committee on Budget
OHKAWARA, Masako (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>CDP</i>) Director of the Special Committee on Consumer Affairs Commission on Cabinet
AIHARA, Kumiko (Ms.)	Member of the House of Councillors (<i>CDP</i>) Director of the Committee on Cabinet Committee on Oversight of Administration Director of the Special Committee on Official Development Assistance and Related Matters Adviser, House of Representatives
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	
SAKASHITA, Shohei (Mr.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
OBA, Toshiki (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Representatives
MATSUSHITA, Kazufumi (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director, House of Councillors
TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Councillors
ITO, Akari (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, House of Councillors
OTSUKA, Seiichi (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(CDP: The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan / Parti démocrate constitutionnel du Japon)

JORDAN – JORDANIE

ALTARAWNEH, Atif (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
ABU HASSAN, Ghazi (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
AZAIZEH, Wajeeh (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
KHALAILEH, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
AKAILEH, Abdallah (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
AL BAKKAR, Khaled (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of Representatives
BANI MUSTAFA, Wafa (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	
ALQADI, Mazen (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
SALMAN, Aziz (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
ALFANATSEH, Khaled (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the House of Representatives
ADWAN, Firas (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, House of Representatives
ALTRAWNAN, Wadah (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
AL WAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
NEIMAT, Husam (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
RAWASHDEH, Mohamad (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
NAZZAL, Ala'a (Mr.) Advisor	House of Representatives
MASHAKBEH, Adnan (Mr.) Advisor	Senate

WAZAN, Ahmad (Mr.)
Advisor
AWAIDEH, Ghazi (Mr.)
Press
AQAILEH, Hamzeh (Mr.)
Press
ALZABEN, Mohamad (Mr.)
Press

House of Representatives

KAZAKHSTAN

NIGMATULIN, Nurlan (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<i>Nur Otan</i>)
SULTANOV, Yerik (Mr.)	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
KONUROV, Aikyn (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Agrarian Issues (<i>CPK</i>)
ABDRAKHMANOV, Sauytbek (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Social and Cultural Development (<i>Nur Otan</i>)
MAKEN, Baktiyar (Mr.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Economic Reform and Regional Development (<i>Nur Otan</i>)
YERMAN, Mukhtar (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<i>Nur Otan</i>)
NURKINA, Aigul (Mrs.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Social and Cultural Development (<i>Nur Otan</i>)
PERUASHEV, Azat (Mr.)	Member of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Committee on Economic Reform and Regional Development (<i>Ak Zhol</i>)
BEKBANOVA, Zhanar (Ms.)	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MAKHAYEV, Dastan (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
MEDEUBAY, Darkhan (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General, Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
BOTABAYEVA, Botagoz (Ms.)	Deputy Head of the International Relations and Protocol Department, Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr.)	Head of the International Relations and Protocol Department, Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
IBRAIMOV, Marat (Mr.)	Secretary
ISMAILOV, Madiyar (Mr.)	Secretary
SHOKYBAYEV, Askar (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" / Parti populaire et démocratique "Nur Otan")
(CPK: Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan / Parti communiste populaire du Kazakhstan)
(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 Chairperson of the Business Committee (<i>JC</i>)
KIHIKA, Susan (Ms.) President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Senate Business Committee (<i>JC</i>)
ZANI, Agnes Philomena (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Education (<i>NASA</i>)

MAOKA, Richard (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Constituencies Development Fund Committee (JC)
MARIRU, Patrick (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation (JC)
MWANGI, James (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee (JC)
ODUOL, Jacqueline (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity Committee
TUWEI, Vincent (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Defence and Foreign Relations Committee (JC)
GATHURU, Angela (Ms.)	Second Clerk Assistant, Senate
ALI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Senior Deputy Clerk, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
KAKITYA, Eunice (Ms.)	Senior Librarian, National Assembly
KINYUA, Caroline (Ms.)	Senior Clerk Assistant, Senate
NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr.)	Clerk, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
MOGERE, Zakayo (Mr.)	Deputy Director, Legislative and Procedural Services, Senate
TOO, Noah (Mr.)	Senior Clerk Assistant, National Assembly
BILLOW, Adan Abdi (Mr.)	Protocol Officer to the Speaker of the Senate
WANDABUSI, Sudi (Mr.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the Senate
Adviser to the delegation	
KISIANG'ANI NATECHO, Rose (Ms.)	Research Officer, Senate
MUTULU, Francis (Mr.)	Media Relations Officer

(JC: Jubilee Coalition / Coalition Jubilé)
(NASA: NASA Coalition / Coalition NASA)

KUWAIT – KOWEÏT

ALGHANIM, Marzouq (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	
ALDEQBASI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Public Utilities
ALHASHIM, Safaa (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	
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
Forum of Young Parliamentarians	
AL-DALAL, Mohammed (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP	
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr.)	Head Section of Protocol, National Assembly
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr.)	Head of the International Affairs Section, Speaker's Office, National Assembly
ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr.)	Political Researcher, Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department, National Assembly
ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr.)	Head of the Media Section, National Assembly
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr.)	Head of the IPU Affairs Section, National Assembly
ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr.)	Head, VIP Protocol Section
ALMONEEFI, Jamal (Mr.)	Protocol, Speaker's Office, National Assembly
ALSANAD, Muhammed (Mr.)	Protocol, National Assembly
ALSOBAIE, Meslet (Mr.)	Secretary, National Assembly
ALZAMIL, Hissa (Mrs.)	Head Section of Arab and Islamic Parliamentary Unions, National Assembly
FARDAN, Amer (Mr.)	Director, National Assembly

KYRGYZSTAN - KIRGHIZISTAN

ZULUSHEV, Kurmankul (Mr.)	Member of the Supreme Council
Leader of the Delegation	Committee on Constitutional Legislation, State Structure, Judicial Issues and Regulations
IMANALIEV, Kanybek (Mr.)	Member of the Supreme Council
	Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security

ATAKHANOV, Avazbek (Mr.)
Chargé d'affaires
EDILBEK, Baktybek (Mr.)
Diplomat

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

LEUDEMOUNSONE, Sysay (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
BOUPHA, Phonphet (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee
THEPHACHANH, Viengthavisone (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs
ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly
KEOLA, Anyphet (Ms.)	Officer of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly
THAMMAKHANH, Phakham (Ms.)	Secretary to the Vice-President, National Assembly

LATVIA – LETTONIE

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Parliamentary Inquiry Committee (ZZS)
JUDINS, Andrejs (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Migration and Social Cohesion Committee Human Rights and Public Affairs Committee (NU)
MUIZNIECE, Anita (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Education, Culture and Science Committee European Affairs Committee (NCP)
VITENBERGS, Janis (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Committee National Security Committee (KPV LV) Secretary General, Parliament
RAFELDE, Lelde (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group	Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau, Parliament

(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans)
(NU: New Unity / Nouvelle Unité)
(NCP: The New Conservative Party / Nouveau parti conservateur)
(KPV LV: Political Party 'KPV LV' / Parti 'KPV-LV')

LEBANON – LIBAN

BERRY, Nabih (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (DLB)
EL TABSH, Rola (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly Rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee Women and Child Committee (FM)
JABER, Yassine (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly President of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee (DLB)
MOUSSA, Michel (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the National Assembly President of the Human Rights Committee (DLB)
PAKRADONIAN, Agop (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Rapporteur of the Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee (FPM)
CHARARA, Bilal (Mr.)	Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, National Assembly
DAHER, Adnan (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
HAMAD, Ali (Mr.)	General Director of Presidential Affairs, National Assembly
TRAD, Mortada (Mr.) Press	
NOUR EL-DINE, Ali (Mr.) Press	

IBRAHIM, Hassan (Mr.)

Press

HAYSAM, Nabil (Mr.)

Press

BALLOUT, Mohamad (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

MONETHI, Ts'epo John (Mr.)

Vice-President of the Senate

Leader of the Delegation

LEHLOENYA, Paul Teboho (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

MAHASE, Likopo Remington (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chief Whip

MAPULUMO, Claudia (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly

MAEMA, Fine (Mr.)

Secretary General

Member of the ASGP

MOLETE, Selete (Mr.)

Clerk to the Senate

Member of the ASGP

LELIMO, Mosito Carolus John Paul (Mr.)

Secretary to the delegation

LIBYA – LIBYE

FOUZI, Salim A.R. (Mr.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives

Leader of the Delegation

ABOURAS, Rabeeha A.S. (Ms.)

Member of the House of Representatives

MUSMARI, Osama (Mr.)

Secretary

BIN HAMIL, Ahmed (Mr.)

Secretary

LIECHTENSTEIN

WOHLWEND, Mario (Mr.)

Member of the Diet (*VU*)

Leader of the Delegation

HASLER, Johannes (Mr.)

Member of the Diet (*FBP*)

WACHTER, Gabriele (Mrs.)

Secretary, Diet

Secretary of the Group

(VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)

(FBP: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)

LUXEMBOURG

BODRY, Alex (M.)

Membre, Chambre des députés (*PPOSLSAP*)

Chef de la délégation

GIBÉRYEN, Gaston (M.)

Membre, Chambre des députés (*ADR*)

BARRA, Isabelle (Mme)

Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des députés

Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

(PPOSLSAP: Socialist Workers' Party / Parti ouvrier socialiste)

(ADR: Alternative Democratic Reform Party / Parti réformiste d'alternative démocratique)

MALAWI

MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr.)

Speaker of the National Assembly (*MCP*)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

KALEMBA, Fiona (Mrs.)

Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr.)

Assistant Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

Secretary to the delegation

(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)

MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

RAJA AHMAD BAHARUDDIN SHAH,

Member of the Senate, Deputy Minister of

Raja Kamarul Bahrin (Mr.)

Housing and Local Government

Leader of the Delegation

HUSIN, Asmak (Mrs.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PAS</i>)
BIN SAPARI, Haji Yaakob (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
DATUK RABIYAH, binti Ali, (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
IBHARIM, Nurul Fadhilah (Ms.)	Assistant Secretary International Relations and Protocol Division, House of Representatives
Secretary of the Group	
BIN SABARUDIN, Mohamad Shahir (Mr.)	

(PAS: Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party / Parti islamique pan-malaisien)

MALDIVES

MANIKU, Moosa (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis
Leader of the Delegation	Petition Committee
ABDULLA, Abdul Bari (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis
	Chair of the Social Affairs
	Ethics Committee (<i>MDP</i>)
MOHAMED, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis
	Ethics Committee (<i>PPM</i>)
RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr.)	Member of the People's Majlis
Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Social Affairs Committee (<i>PPM</i>)
NIUSHA, Fathimath (Ms.)	Secretary General, People's Majlis
Member of the ASGP	
EEMAN, Aishath (Ms.)	Foreign Relations Officer, People's Majlis

(MDP: Maldivian Democratic Party / Parti démocratique des Maldives)

(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)

MALI

SIDIBE, Issaka (M.)	Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Commission des Finances (<i>RPM</i>)
TIMBINE, Moussa (M.)	Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Président délégué du Groupe	Commission des lois (<i>RPM</i>)
HAIDARA, Abdul Mansour (M.)	Neuvième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
DRAME, Maimouna (Mme)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Bureau des femmes parlementaires	Commission du travail et de l'emploi (<i>RPM</i>)
CISSE, Amadou (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
	Commission de l'énergie et des mines (<i>VRD</i>)
SIDIBE, Modibo (M.)	Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
Membre de l'ASGP	
TOURE, Ibrahim M (M.)	Chef du Service des relations internationales
Secrétaire du Groupe	Assemblée nationale
GOLOGO, Boubacar (M.)	Protocole, Assemblée nationale
Secrétaire du Groupe	

(RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali)

(VRD: Republican and Democratic Vigilance / Vigilance Républicaine et Démocratique)

MALTA – MALTE

FARRUGIA, Angelo (Mr.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Chair of the House Business Committee
CAMILLERI, Byron (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	House Business Committee (<i>PL</i>)
GALEA, Mario (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PN</i>)
VELLA, Andre (Mr.)	Research Analyst, House of Representatives
Secretary of the Group	

(PL: Partit Laburists)

(PN: Partit Nazzjonalista)

MARSHALL ISLANDS – ILES MARSHALL

KEDI, Kenneth A. (Mr.)	Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the Delegation	

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

JARA CRUZ, Salomón (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Leader of the Delegation	Secretary of the Commission of Legislative Studies
	Committee on Foreign Affairs, Latin America and the Caribbean
	Indigenous Affairs Committee (<i>Morena</i>)

MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA, Verónica (Mrs.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Economics Committee on Public Security Youth and Sports Committee (<i>PRI</i>)
GARCÍA SEPÚLVEDA, Samuel Alejandro (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Chair of the Federalism and Municipal Development Committee Committee on Justice Committee on Finance and Public Credit Committee on Constitutional Affairs (<i>CM</i>)
REYNOSO SÁNCHEZ, Alejandra Noemí (Ms.)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on Federalism and Municipal Development Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Committee on Border and Migration Issues (<i>PAN</i>)
BAÑUELOS DE LA TORRE, Geovanna del Carmen (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Member of the Senate Chair, Committee on Mining and Regional Development Committee on Administration Committee on Justice Committee on Foreign Affairs (<i>PT</i>)
ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Committee on Radio and Television Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on the Interior and Population (<i>PAN</i>)
SALDAÑA PÉREZ, María Lucero (Mrs.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary of the Committee on Human Rights Committee on the Interior and Population Committee on Federalism and Municipal Development (<i>PRI</i>)
FALOMIR SÁENZ, Alán Jesús (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Secretary of the Committee on Sports Committee on Federalism and Municipal Development Committee on Public Security (<i>CM</i>)
VILLEGAS ARREOLA, Alfredo (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Fisheries Committee on Energy Committee on Budget and Public Account (<i>PRI</i>)
LÓPEZ CASTRO, Cynthia Iliana (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
INFANTE, Paulina (Ms.)	Advisor, Senate
PADILLA, Caritina (Ms.)	Advisor

(Morena: National Regeneration Movement / Mouvement de la régénération nationale)
(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)
(CM: Citizens' Movement / Mouvement citoyen)
(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)
(PT: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONÉSIE (ETATS FÉDÉRÉS DE)

SIMINA, Wesley W. (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Congress
URUSEMAL, Joseph (Mr.)	Senator Education Committee
ARITOS, Tiwiter (Mr.)	Senator Judiciary Governmental Operations Committee Transportation and Communications Committee Legislative Counsel, Congress
DANG, Tung Lam (Mr.) Advisor	
CHOOOR, Andy P. (Mr.) Advisor, Member of the ASGP	Assistant PIO, Congress

MONACO

NOTARI, Fabrice (M.) Chef de la délégation	Membre du Conseil national (<i>PM</i>)
BERTANI, Corinne (Mme)	Membre du Conseil national (<i>PM</i>)
GRISOUL, Marine (Mme)	Membre du Conseil national (<i>PM</i>)

PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Mme)
Secrétaire de la délégation

Chargée des affaires internationales, Conseil national

(PM: Primo! Monaco as Priority / Primo ! Priorité Monaco)

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

LUVSANTSEREN, Enkh-Amgalan (Mr.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
SARANCHIMEG, Batsukh (Ms.)
Bureau of the Committee on Democracy and
Human Rights

Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural (*MPP*)

Member of the State Great Hural
Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education,
Culture and Science
Standing Committee on Environment, Food and
Agriculture (*MPP*)

SOLTAN Gombajain (Mr.)
NYAM-OSOR, Uchral (Mr.)
TSOGZOLMAA Tsedenbal (Mrs.)
NAVAAN-YUNDEN, Oyundari (Mrs.)
TSOLMON Tsedev (Mr.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Secretary General of the State Great Hural

Member of the ASGP
BAYARMAA Judag (Mrs.)
Secretary

Advisor of the Foreign Relations Department, State
Great Hural

BELEGDEMBEREL, Uuganbayar (Mr.)

Officer, Foreign Affairs Department

Secretary to the delegation

CHINTUSHIG, Zorigt (Mr.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

BILGUUN, Nyamjav (Mr.)

Diplomat

(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

BENCHAMACH, Abdelhakim (M.)
Chef de la délégation

Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (*PAM*)

TOUIZI, Ahmed (M.)

Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (*PAM*)

OMARI, Abdelaaziz (M.)

Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants (*PJD*)

BENMASSOUD, Mohamed Salem (M.)

Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (*PI*)

EL HILAA, Rahhou (M.)

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (*PAM*)

Bureau de la Commission permanente du
développement durable, du financement et
du commerce

LAZREK, Noureddine (M.)

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (*UC*)

CHEIKHI, Nabil (M.)

Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers

EL KHADI, Najib (M.)

Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants

Vice-Président de l'ASGP

DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (M.)

Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie

Secrétaire de la délégation

parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers

SATRAOUY, Said (M.)

Chef de la Division des relations internationales et

Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

de la coopération, Chambre des représentants

MOUHIB, Mohamed (M.)

Conseiller du Président de la Chambre des

Représentants

ANTRA, Mustapha (M.)

Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers

BOURFISSI, Jamal (M.)

Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers

(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)

(PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti de l'Istiqlal)

(UC: Constitutional Union / Union constitutionnelle)

MOZAMBIQUE

DHLOVO, Veronica Macamo (Mrs.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
KATUPHA, Jose Mateus (Mr.)

Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic (*FRELIMO*)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Spokesperson of the Permanent Committee (*FRELIMO*)

MACUIANE, Saimone Muhambi (Mr.)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic (*RENAMO*)

MALEMA, Lucinda Bela (Ms.)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Vice Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee
(*FRELIMO*)

CHUQUELA, José (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary General
BONIFACIO, Cesar Joao (Mr.)	Director of Committee's Supporting Division, Assembly of the Republic
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Director of Protocol
CHEMANE, Oriel (Mr.)	Executive Secretary to the Speaker, Assembly of the Republic
LISSENGA, Lucrecia (Mr.)	Diplomatic Adviser to the Speaker, Assembly of the Republic
MACARINGUE, Milagre (Mr.)	
NEVES, Simiao Pedro (Mr.)	
Interpreter	
BAYZEL, Elizabeth (Ms.)	Secretary to the Speaker
FUMO, Justin (Mr.)	
Security to the Speaker	
(FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique)	
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique)	

MYANMAR

PON, Shwe (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives
Leader of the Delegation	International Relations Committee
	Joint Committee on IPU (<i>NLD</i>)
HEIN, Zaw (Mr.)	Member of the House of Nationalities
	International Relations, Parliamentary Friendships and Cooperation Committee
	Joint Committee on IPU
	Committee on Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy (<i>NLD</i>)
HNIN THIT, Khin (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	International Relations Committee
	Joint Committee on IPU (<i>NLD</i>)
MYO MYINT, Zeyar (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
(NLD: National League for Democracy / Ligue nationale pour la démocratie)	

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter (Mr.)	Speaker of the National Assembly
President of the Group, Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs, Leader of the Delegation	Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee and Internal Arrangements Standing Committee on Privileges (<i>SWAPO</i>)
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Mrs.)	Chairperson of the National Council
President of the Group	Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee
	Chairperson of the Privileges and Immunities Committee (<i>SWAPO</i>)
KATAMELO, Phillipus Wido (Mr.)	Member of the National Council
	Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (<i>SWAPO</i>)
SHILENGA, Rosalia (Mrs.)	Member of the National Council
	Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs (<i>SWAPO</i>)
DIENDA, Elma (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly
	Committee on Human Resources and Community Development Public Accounts
	Committee on Gender Equality, Social Development and Family Affairs (<i>PDM</i>)
SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
	Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration
	Committee on Human Resources and Community Development
	Secretary, National Assembly
KANDETU, Lydia (Ms.)	
Member of the ASGP	
INDOMBO, Lydia H (Ms.)	Director, General Services, National Council
Member of the ASGP	
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam N (Ms.)	Personal Assistant to the Chairperson, National Council
DE WEE, Elizabeth (Mrs.)	Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group	

UUYUNI, Norbert (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
SANZILA, George (Mr.)	Chief Researcher, National Assembly
TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms.)	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)

NEPAL - NÉPAL

BAHADUR MAHARA, Krishna (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Representatives
CHAUDHARY, Shanta (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>NCP</i>)
SIWAKOTI, Hari Charan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>)
BHUSAL, Pushpa (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>NC</i>)
SHRIWASTAVA, Bimal Prasad (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>FSF</i>)
LAL KARN, Lakshman (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>LJP</i>)
BHATTARAI, Manohar Prasad (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Federal Parliament
YOGI, Gopal Nath (Mr.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
MALLA, Dilli (Mr.) Press Advisor	

(NCP: Nepal Communist Party / Parti communiste népalais)
(NC: Nepali Congress / Congrès népalais)
(FSF: Federal Socialist Forum / Forum fédéral socialiste)
(LJP: Rastriya Janata Party)

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

ATSMA, Joop (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate (<i>CDA</i>)
GERKENS, Arda (Mrs.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PS</i>)
Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	
MEIJER, Meta (Mrs.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PS</i>)
MULDER, Agnes (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>CDA</i>)
DE ROON, Raymond (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>PVV</i>)
NEHMELMAN, Remco (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
KIPP, Linda (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
BAKKER-DE JONG, Femmy (Mrs.) Secretary to the Delegation	House of Representatives
FONCK, Tim (Mr.)	Staff, Senate

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
(PVV: Party for Freedom / Parti de la liberté)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE

TOLLEY, Anne (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, 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>)
LUBECK, Marja (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Education and Workforce Committee (<i>L</i>)
WILLIAMS, Aaron (Mr.) Secretary	Clerk of Committee, House of Representatives

(NP: National Party / Parti national)
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

NICARAGUA

ESPINALES, Maritza (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
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(FSLN: Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional)

NIGER

TINNI, Ousseini (M.) Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (M.) Vice-Président du Groupe MAHAMADOU A., Alkassoum (M.)	Président de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PNDS</i>) Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MNSD</i>) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MPR Jamhouria</i>) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>MNSD</i>) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PNDS</i>) Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PNDS</i>) Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>FA-Lumana</i>) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>PNDS</i>) Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (<i>AMEN-AMIN</i>) Commission des finances et du budget Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
IDI MOUSSA, Issiaka (M.)	
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires MOUSSA AFMAD, Doulla (M.)	Conseiller technique de commission, Assemblée nationale
SOUMANA, Hassane (M.)	
SALEY, Mahamane (M.)	
NOUHOU, Daoudou (M.)	
TIEMOGO, Boubakar (M.) Membre de l'ASGP GANDA, Hassane (M.) Conseiller technique du Groupe	

(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme)
(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)
(FA-Lumana: MODEN/FA-Lumana – Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine)
(AMEN-AMIN: Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger / Alliance des mouvements pour l'émergence du Niger)

NIGERIA / NIGÉRIA

SARAKI, Abubakar Bukola (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation SULAIMON LASUN, Yussuff (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group GAYA, Kabiru Ibrahim (Mr.)	Speaker of the Senate (<i>APC</i>) Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives (<i>APC</i>) Member of the Senate Chairman of the Works Committee (<i>APC</i>)
RAFIU ADEBAYO, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Finance Committee (<i>PDP</i>)
FASEYI, Samuel Duro (Mr.) ADAEZE, Oduah Stella (Ms.)	Member of the Senate (<i>APC</i>) Member of the Senate 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>)
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Public Petition Committee (<i>APC</i>)
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman, member of the Young Parliamentarians Committee, Ad-hoc on Petroleum Committee, Inter- Parliamentary Affairs Committee (<i>APC</i>)
IKON, Samuel Okon (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee (<i>PDP</i>)
GOODHEAD, Boma (Ms.)	Member of the House of Representatives Young Parliamentarians Committee (<i>PDP</i>)
DASUKI, Abdussamad (Mr.) Adviser SANI OMOLORI, M. A. (Mr.) Member of the ASGP AYEWOH, Nelson Ibhaguezege (Mr.) Member of the ASGP ORU, Joseph (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Member of the House of Representatives (<i>APC</i>) Secretary General, Senate Clerk of Senate, Senate Secretary Legislative Budget, Senate

NAVATI, Iliya (Ms.)	Director General Duties, Senate
OYEENSO, Catherine (Mr.) Secretary	Executive Secretary to Senate President, Senate
OKOROH, Betty (Mrs.)	Special Administrative Assistant to the President of the Senate
BABA AHMAD, Hakeem (Mr.)	Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate
OLABISI SEGUN, Kehinde (Mr.)	Chief Detail to the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives
OLANIYONU, Yusuph (Mr.)	Special Media Assistant to the President of the Senate
SHEHU, Umar (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Director IPU Desk, Senate
YAHAYA HAMIDU, Danzaria (Mr.) Secretary of the ASGP Group	Director Public Affairs, Senate
RAFIU ADENIYI, Ogunsola (Mr.)	Special Assistant to the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives
OMISHORE, Bankole (Mr.)	Special Assistant International Relations to the Senate President
YAKUBU, Ibrahim (Mr.)	Special IT Assistant to the Senate President

(APC: All Progressive Congress / Congrès progressiste)
(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

NORTH MACEDONIA - MACÉDOINE DU NORD

XHAFERI, Talat (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Issues (<i>DUI</i>)
ALIMI, Ejup (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Budget Council Legislative Committee Committee for Supervising the Work of the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and the Intelligence Agency (<i>DUI</i>)
GASHI, Afrim (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic National European Integration Council Committee on Political System and Inter - Ethnic Relations Foreign Policy Committee (<i>A</i>)
NIKOLOVA, Juliana (Mrs.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Committee on European Issues Committee on Education, Science and Sport Foreign Policy Committee (<i>LDP</i>)
STEVANANDJIJA, Dimitar (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Deputy Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management Committee on Constitutional Issues Committee on Elections and Appointment Issues (<i>VMRO-DPME</i>)
VELKOVSKI, Dime (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Finances and Budget Committee Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management Committee on Transport, Communications and Environment (<i>SDSM</i>)
IVANOVA, Cvetanka (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Mrs.) Secretary to the Delegation	Head of Division, Assembly of the Republic
SELMANI, Ilir (Mr.)	Chief of Cabinet of the Speaker, Assembly of the Republic
DERVISHI, Atibe (Mrs.) Interpreter	
DJELADINI, Abaz (Mr.)	Assembly of the Republic
JORDANOVSKI, Dragan (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(DUI: Democratic Union for Integration / Union démocratique pour l'intégration)

(A: Alternative)

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(VMRO-DPME: VMRO-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity / VMRO-Parti démocratique pour l'unité nationale de Macédoine)

(SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia / Union social-démocrate de Macédoine)

NORWAY – NORVÈGE

LEIRSTEIN, Ulf Isak (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs (PP)
LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms.) Deputy Head of the Delegation, Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Energy and Environment (L)
AUKRUST, Åsmund (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Energy and the Environment (L)
ARNSTAD, Marit (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Education and Research (CP)
BEKKEVOLD, Geir Jørgen (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chair of the Sub-Committee on Health and Care Services (PDC)
TRELLEVIK, Ove Bernt (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Local Government and Public Administration (C)
FRASER, Thomas (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Senior Adviser, Parliament
STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	Adviser, Parliament
KRISTENSEN, Liv (Ms.) Diplomat	
(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)	
(L: Labour party / Parti du travail)	
(CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)	
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	
(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)	

OMAN

AL-MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Consultative Council
AL WASHAHI, Aisha Ahmed (Ms.)	Member of the State Council
AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah Saud (Ms.)	Member of the State Council
AL AMRI, Abdullah (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the Consultative Council
AL JABRI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL KHAROOSI, Hilal (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL RUSHEIDI, Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL OWISI, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL SIYABI, Younis (Mr.)	Member of the Consultative Council
AL SAAADI, Said (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the Consultative Council
AL WAHAIB, Said (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the Consultative Council
AL SAIDI, Khalid (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, State Council
AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of Shura Council, Consultative Council
AL HAMRAHSDI, Jalal (Mr.)	Translator in Shura Council, Consultative Council
AL BANDRI, Alia (Mr.)	Public Relations Officer at the State Council, State Council
AL HOSNI, Khalil (Mr.)	Secretary, Consultative Council
AL SHIBLI, Maiysa (Ms.)	International Relations Researcher in Shura Council, Consultative Council
AL UWAIISI, Aiman (Mr.)	Secretary, Consultative Council
ALTALIB, Abdulaziz (Mr.) Press	

PAKISTAN

QAISER, Asad (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (PTI)
LAGHARI, Sardar Muhammad Khan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PTI)
BALOCH, Agha Hassan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (BNP)

ARBAB Sher Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
RANA TANWEER, Hussan (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
JANNAT MARRI, Shazia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
DURRANI, Shahzaib (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PML-N</i>)
IQBAL, Walid (Mr.)	Member of the Senate
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	
RABBANI, Mian Raza (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PPPP</i>)
HUSSAIN, Tahir (Mr.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
PERVEZ MALIK, Amjed (Mr.)	Secretary General, Senate
Member of the ASGP	
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr.)	Joint Secretary, International Relations, National Assembly
Secretary to the delegation	
IQBAL, Waseem (Mr.)	Director General
Advisor to the Delegation	
ALI, Muhammad (Mr.)	Assistant Director, International Relations
JAVED, Shaukat (Mr.)	Joint Secretary, Senate
KHAN, Alamzeb (Mr.)	Section Officer, Senate
RAZA SHAH, Syed Ahsan (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
BASEER, Murad (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
HUSSAIN SHAR, Sarwar (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
MANZOOR, Rizwan (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
ALI, Salman (Mr.)	
Diplomat	
AMIR SIAL, Hafiz Junaid (Mr.)	
Diplomat	

(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf / Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf)
(BNP: Balochistan National Party / Parti national Balochistan)
(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais)
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz))

PALESTINE

ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
Committee on Middle East Questions	Political Affairs Committee (<i>F</i>)
Leader of the Delegation	
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Committee on Economic Affairs (<i>F</i>)
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Mrs.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Committee on Social Affairs (<i>F</i>)
MISMAR, Khalid (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Political Affairs Committee (<i>F</i>)
QASIM, Bilal (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Social Affairs Committee (<i>PLF</i>)
SANDUKA, Zuheir (Mr.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Committee on Budget and Finance (<i>Ind</i>)
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr.)	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations,
Secretary of the Group	Palestinian National Council
GHANNAM, Monir (Mr.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(*F*: Fatah)
(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique pour la libération de la Palestine)
(*PP*: People's Party / Parti du peuple)
(*PLF*: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)
(*Ind*: Independent / Indépendant)

PANAMA

CASTILLO, Elias (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly
PRADO, Crescencia (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PRD</i>)
VELARDE, Aiban (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PRD</i>)
GUTIERREZ, María Mercedes (Ms.)	Adviser
DEL RÍO SANDOVAL, Oreste (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)

PARAGUAY

LLANO, Blas (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate (<i>PLRA</i>)
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(PLRA: Partido Liberal Radical Autentico)

PERU – PÉROU

TAPIA BERNAL, Segundo (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>FP</i>)
BARTRA BARRIGA, Rosa (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>FP</i>)
ALCORTA SUERO, María Lourdes (Mrs.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>FP</i>)
BETETA RUBIN, Karina (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>FP</i>)
ACUÑA NUÑEZ, Richard Frank (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the Congress of the Republic (<i>AP</i>)

(FP: Popular Force / Force populaire)

(AP: Alianza para el País)

PHILIPPINES

DRILON, Franklin (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate
VILLARICA, Myra Marie (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary of the Senate, Senate
BANTUG JR., Renato (Mr.)	Chief-of-Staff of Senator Franklin Drilon
DE GUZMAN JR., Antonio (Mr.) Secretary General of the Group	Director-General, Senate Office of International Relations and Protocol
YUZON, Jocelyn (Ms.)	Director III, Office of the Senate Secretary
SEVILLA, Rosa Victoria (Ms.) Delegation Secretary	Director II, Senate Office of International Relations and Protocol
DRILON, Patrick (Mr.)	Director, Office of Senator Drilon
TORRES III, Anthony (Mr.)	Executive Assistant of Senator Drilon
DE DIOS, Cherry (Ms.)	Legislative Staff Officer IV, Office of the Senate President
TIMBAYAN, Alan (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
REYES, Roussel (Mr.) Diplomat	
MALABANAN, Charisse (Ms.) Diplomat	
CAPISTRANO, Christine (Ms.) Diplomat	

POLAND – POLOGNE

SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Senate (<i>PiS</i>)
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (<i>PO</i>)
DLUGI, Grzegorz (Mr.) Vice-President of the Group	Member of the Sejm (<i>K15</i>)
PROTASIEWICZ, Jacek (Mr.)	Member of the Sejm (<i>N</i>)
KACZMARSKA, Agnieszka (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Sejm

KOWALSKI, Jakub (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms.)	Director of the Analysis and Documentation Office, Senate
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Sejm
JASKIEWICZ, Natalia (Ms.)	Vice-Director Bureau of International Relations of the Sejm
WOJCIK, Agata (Ms.)	Adviser, Senate
(PiS: Law and Justice / Droit et justice)	
(PO: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)	
(K15: Kukiz'15)	
(N: Nowoczesna)	

PORTUGAL

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr.) President of the Twelve Plus Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Finance and Budget Committee (<i>PSD</i>)
LACÃO, Jorge (Mr.)	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic Constitutional Affairs Committee (<i>PS</i>)
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Economy Committee (<i>PS</i>)
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Economy Committee (<i>PSD</i>)
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr.) Facilitator for Cyprus	Member of the Assembly of the Republic President of the Health Committee (<i>PSD</i>)
PEREIRA, Carlos (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>PS</i>)
URBANO DE SOUSA, Constança (Ms.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic (<i>PS</i>)
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
FERREIRA, Rita (Ms.) Adviser to the delegation and Twelve Plus Secretariat	Directorate 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
(PSD: Social Democratic Party (PSD) / Parti social-démocrate)	
(PS: Socialist Party (PS) / Parti socialiste)	

QATAR

AL-SULATI, Mohammed Bin Abdulla (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
AL-MEADADI, Rashid Bin Hamad (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-MANSOORI, Reem Bint Mohammed (Mrs.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-KAABI, Nasser Bin Rashed (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-KHATER, Yousifbin Rashid (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Member of the Shura Council
AL-JAIDA, Nasser Bin Khalil (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-AHBABI, Mohammed Bin Mahdi (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-MUHANNADI, Ali Bin Abd Al-Latif (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-BUAININ, Khalid Bin Abdulla (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-HENZAB, Mohammed Bin Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-MARRI, Abdullabin Fahad (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-MAADID, Mohammed Bin Ali (Mr.)	Member of the Shura Council
AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad Mubarak M B (Mr.)	Secretary General of the Shura Council
BOUCHKOUJ, Nouredine (Mr.) Adviser	Adviser, Shura Council

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE

CHUN, Jungbae (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee (<i>PDP</i>)
KIM, Jongseok (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly National Policy Committee (<i>LKP</i>)
LEE, Dongsup (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee (<i>BP</i>)

PARK, Kyungmee (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly House Steering Committee (<i>DPK</i>)
KWON, Soonjo (Mr.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Division, National Assembly
CHO, Seoyeon (Ms.) Interpreter	Protocol Officer
CHANG, Heeseung (Ms.) Interpreter	Protocol Officer
LIM, Kyueun (Ms.)	Program Officer
ZEON, Dae Young (Mr.)	Program Officer
KIM Chang Mo (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
CHO, Yeongmoo (Mr.) Diplomat	
YEOM, Boyoung (Ms.) Diplomat	

(PDP: Party for Democracy and Peace / Parti pour la démocratie et la paix)
(LKP: Liberty Korea Party / Parti de la liberté)
(BP: Bareunmirae Party / Parti Bareunmirae)
(DPK: Democratic Party of Korea / Parti démocratique coréen)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - RÉPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

BOLOGAN, Victor (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament
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ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

STAN, Ioan (Mr.) President of the Group Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Committee for Agriculture, Food Industry and Rural Development Committee for the Investigation of Abuses, Fight against Corruption, and for Petitions (<i>SDP</i>)
DINICĂ, Silvia-Monica (Ms.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on 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>)
MARIN, Nicolae (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Validation (<i>SDP</i>)
NICOLAE, Șerban (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Legal Affairs, Nominations, Discipline, Immunities and Validations Commission on Defence, Public Order and National Security (<i>SDP</i>)
OPREA, Mario-Ovidiu (Mr.)	Member of the Senate Committee for the Standing Orders Committee for Constitutionality (<i>NLP</i>)
BABUȘ, Radu (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Defence, Public Order and National Security (<i>SDP</i>)
GAVRILIȚĂ, Bianca-Miruna (Ms.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Health and Family (<i>SDP</i>)
GHILEA, Găvrilă (Mr.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for Economic Policy, Reform and Privatization (<i>NLP</i>) Secretary General of the Romanian Senate
CHENCIAN, Izabela (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	
DUMITRICĂ, George Ionuț (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate
BĂGNEANU, Ioana (Ms.) Secretary of the delegation	Parliamentary Adviser, General Directorate for Foreign Affairs and Protocol, Chamber of Deputies
TEODOREL, Luminița (Ms.) Secretary of the delegation	Parliamentary Adviser, Secretariat of the Romanian IPU Group, Senate
TUDOR, Cristian (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

PLEȘA, Dana (Ms.)
Diplomat
NEAGU, Gheorghită (Ms.)
Diplomat

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie)
(NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti national libéral)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - *FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE*

VOLODIN, Vyacheslav (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Chairman of the State Duma (<i>UR</i>)
UMAKHANOV, Ilias (Mr.) Deputy Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation
TOLSTOY, Petr (Mr.) AFANASIEVA, Elena (Ms.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma (<i>UR</i>) Member of the Council of the Federation Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building
GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of the State Duma Chairman of the Committee on Development of Civil Society and Communication with Public and Religious Associations (<i>CP</i>)
GUMEROVA, Lilia (Mrs.) 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
KLIMOV, Andrei (Mr.) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
PRIMAKOV, Evgeniy (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs (<i>UR</i>)
SLUTSKIY, Leonid (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs (<i>LDP</i>)
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of the State Duma Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Affairs of Family, Women and Children (<i>UR</i>)
YEMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr.)	Member of the State Duma First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Legislature and State Building Secretary General, Council of the Federation
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	First Deputy Secretary General of the State Duma
POSPELOV, Sergey (Mr.) PASHKOV, Mikhail (Mr.)	Head of the State Duma Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Department
TARASOV, Konstantin (Mr.) RUSTAMOV, Timur (Mr.) AMANGALIEVA, Karina (Ms.)	Head of the State Duma Department on Media Head of the State Duma Protocol Department Deputy Head of the State Duma Department on Protocol Arrangements
FEDECHKIN, Aleksey (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the State Duma Department on Organization of Legislative Process
FOLOMEIEVA, 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, Aleksei (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Deputy Head of Staff to the Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation
KARSEKA, Sergey (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Department, State Duma
MAKHUTIN, Sergey (Mr.)	Deputy Head of the State Duma Financial-Economic Department
SHEPOTINENKO, Ivan (Mr.)	Senior Counsellor of the State Duma Protocol Department
JATSUKEVICH, Ivan (Mr.) KASHEVAROVA, Anastasiya (Ms.) LEONIDOV, Maksim (Mr.)	Counsellor of the State Duma Department on Media Counsellor of the Chairman of the State Duma Counsellor of the State Duma International Cooperation Department
SOLOVIEV, Vladimir (Mr.) STAFEEV, Dmitriy (Mr.)	Counsellor of the State Duma Management Department Counsellor of the State Duma Protocol Department

STAVITSKIY, Valery (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Senior Consultant of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Department, State Duma
BABICH, Irina (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Council of the Federation
ABULKHATIN, Marat (Mr.)	Consultant of the State Duma Department on Media
BELENKYA, Arina (Ms.)	Consultant of the State Duma Protocol Department
RYLTSEVA, Ksenia (Ms.)	Consultant of the State Duma Department on Media
GAMBASHIDZE, Ilya (Mr.) Assistant to the Head of the Group	Assistant to the Deputy Chairman of the State Duma
ANTONOV, Sergey (Mr.)	Mr. Tolstoy Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Media
BEKHTIN, Maksim (Mr.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Media
IVANOV, Oleg (Mr.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Organization of Legislative Process
KOROLIEVA, Marina (Ms.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Media
KREMNEV, Pavel (Mr.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Media
TSIBULSKIY, Sergey (Mr.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Department on Organization of Legislative Process
TUZIKOV, Nikolay (Mr.)	Leading Specialist of the State Duma Protocol Department
KOSTIN, Aleksandr (Mr.)	Assistant of the Chairman of the State Duma
ABAKUMOV, Jaroslav (Mr.)	Assistant of the Chairman of the State Duma
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr.) Interpreter	Council of the Federation
PELIEVA, Zarina (Ms.) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP	Council of the Federation
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr.) Interpreter	Adviser, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation
SHMACHKOVA, Olga (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	
(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)	
(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)	
(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)	

RWANDA

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'Arc (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Senate
SEBUHORO, Celestin (Mr.) Advisory Group on Health	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Development and Finance
UWINEZA, Beline (Mrs.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Public Accountability Committee
CYITATIRE, Sosthene (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to the Senate

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES / SAINT-VINCENT-ET-LES GRENADINES

JOMO SANGA, Thomas (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the House of Assembly
KAY BACCHUS, Baptiste (Ms.)	Senator
ALEXANDER-CHARLES, Deborah C.K. (Ms.)	Secretary

SAMOA

AUMUA, Isaia Lameko (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Legislative Assembly
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SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

TOMASSONI, Mirco (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Great and General Council (<i>SSD</i>)
BRONZETTI, Denise (Mrs.)	Member of the Great and General Council (<i>PS</i>)
MONTEMAGGI, Marica (Ms.)	Member of the Great and General Council (<i>C10</i>)
MULARONI, Mariella (Mrs.) Vice-President of the Delegation	Member of the Great and General Council (<i>PDCS</i>)

GUERRA, Anna (Ms.)
Secretary of the Group

Officer, Great and General Council

(SSD: Socialist Democratic Left / Gauche socialiste démocratique)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(C10: Civico 10)

(PDCS: Christian Democratic Party of San Marino / Parti chrétien-démocrate saint-marinais)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOMÉ-ET-PRINCIPE

DAS NEVES, Delfim (Mr.)
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly (*PDC/MDFM/UDD*)

D'ALVA, Filomena (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly (*MLSTP*)

COTÚ, Danilson (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PDC/MDFM/UDD*)

DE CARVALHO, Paulo Jorge (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly (*ADI*)

FERREIRA, Samora (Mr.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

XAVIER, Ludmila (Ms.)

Secretary of the Group

(*PDC/MDFM/UDD*: Democratic Convergence Party / Force for Democratic Change Movement - Union of Democrats for Citizenship and Development / Parti de la convergence démocratique / Mouvement pour les forces de changement démocratique - Union des démocrates pour la citoyenneté et le développement)

(*MLSTP*: Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement / Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe)

(*ADI*: Independent Democratic Alliance / Action démocratique indépendante)

SENEGAL - SÉNÉGAL

GADIAGA, Hamady (M.)
Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*BBY*)

DIOUF, Seydou (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*BBY*)

MERGANE, Adji Diarra (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*BBY*)

NDIAYE, Mariama (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*BBY*)

SARR, Woraye (Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*LD*)

SOW, Yoro (M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (*BBY*)

CISSE, Baye Niass (M.)

Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire du Groupe

(*BBY*: Benno Bokk Yaakaar)

(*LD*: Freedom and Democracy / Liberté et Démocratie)

SERBIA – SERBIE

GOJKOVIC, Maja (Ms.)
Member of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth
World Conference of Speakers of Parliament,
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 (*Ind*)

Member of the Executive Committee

BOGOSAVLJEVIC BOSKOVIC, Snezana (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Culture and Information Committee

Environmental Protection Committee (*SPS*)

JERKOV, Aleksandra (Ms.)

Member of the National Assembly

President of the Committee on Human Rights of
Parliamentarians

Committee on Education, Science, Technological
Development and the Information Society (*PD*)

MIJATOVIC, Milorad (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee for Peace and International Security

Foreign Affairs Committee

Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of
Public Spending

Security Services Control Committee (*SDPS*)

PETROVIC, Mira (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly (*PUPS*)

MIJATOVIC, Jelena (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on the Economy, Regional Development,
Trade, Tourism and Energy

Committee on Kosovo-Metohija

Committee on the Rights of the Child (*SNS*)

RASKOVIC IVIC, Sanda (Mrs.)

Member of the National Assembly

Co-Rapporteur of the Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade

Foreign Affairs Committee

SMILJANIC, Srdjan (Mr.)

Committee on the Rights of the Child (*PP*)

Member of the ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly

GEKIC, Olga (Mrs.)	Advisor to the Cabinet of the Speaker, National Assembly
DUJMOVIC ROSIC, Vesna (Mrs.)	Group for Education and Presentation of the National Assembly Heritage
DJURASINOVIC RADOJEVIC, Dragana (Mrs.) Secretary to the Delegation	Senior Advisor, Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
BOJANIC MAKSIMOVIC, Sanja (Ms.)	Group for Education and Presentation of the National Assembly Heritage
JEREMIC, Marjana (Mrs.)	Advisor to the Cabinet of the Speaker of the National Assembly
KOVACEVIC, Ana (Ms.)	Cabinet of the Secretary General, National Assembly
POKRAJAC, Dragana (Mrs.) Interpreter	Translation and Interpretation Section, National Assembly
MITIC, Isidora (Ms.)	Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly
KUKOLJ, Dario (Mr.)	Assistant Secretary General, National Assembly
KRISANOVIC, Aleksandar (Mr.)	National Assembly
POZDERAC, Jasminko (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe)	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	
(SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe)	
(PD: 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 Committee (<i>LDS</i>)
DELETOURDIE, Jany (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Women Parliamentarians Anti-Victimisation Committee (<i>LDS</i>)
WILLIAM, Waven (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly International Affairs Committee (<i>PP</i>) Deputy Clerk, National Assembly
ISAAC, Tania (Mrs.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP	
(LDS: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise)	
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)	

SIERRA LEONE

BUNDU, Abass Chernor (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the State Salaries and Pensions Committee Chairman of the Committee on Selection Chairman of the Parliamentary Service Commission (<i>SLPP</i>)
CONTEH, Kemokoh (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Local Governments and Rural Development Agriculture and Food Security Committee Works Housing and Infrastructure Committee (<i>ACP</i>)
CONTEH, Ibrahim Tawa (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee of the Works and Public Asset, Lands Housing and Environmental, Finance and Sports (<i>SLPP</i>)
MAGBITY, Nancy (Ms.)	Principal Assistant to the Clerk of Parliament Parliament
(SLPP: Sierra Leone Peoples Party / Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone)	
(APC: All Peoples Congress Party / Congrès du peuple réuni)	

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

ABDUL LATEEF, Fatimah (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Government Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs Government Parliamentary Committee for Health (<i>PAP</i>)
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GAN, Thiam Poh (Mr.)	Member of Parliament / Deputy Chairperson of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Environment and Water Resources, House Committee Government Parliamentary Committee for National Development (<i>PAP</i>)
SITOH, Yih Pin (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Transport Government Parliamentary Committee for Home Affairs and Law (<i>PAP</i>) Senior Assistant Director (Language Services)
HARON, Mohamad Isa (Mr.) Delegation Secretary	
SINGH, Jai Sohan (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
KUMAR, Navin (Mr.) Diplomat	
TAN HUI BOON, Ignatius (Mr.) Diplomat	
ANG, Joseph (Mr.) Diplomat	

(PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)

SLOVENIA – SLOVÉNIE

DIMIC, Iva (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Health Committee on Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food (<i>NSi</i>)
LEP SIMENKO, Suzana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chair of the Committee on Economy Committee on Finance Committee on Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability (<i>SDS</i>)
STAROVIC, Vojko (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Committee on Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability Committee on Health Commission for Public Finance Control (<i>SAB</i>) Head of International Relations Department, National Assembly
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	

(NSi: New Slovenia-Christian Democrats / Nouvelle Slovénie - Parti chrétien-démocrate)
(SDS: Slovenian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate slovène)
(SAB: Party of Alenka Bratusek / Parti Alenka Bratusek)

SOMALIA – SOMALIE

ABDI, Abdullahi (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Upper House
ABDIRIZAK, Osman (Mr.)	Member of the Upper House
QODAH, Mustafa (Mr.)	Member of the Upper House National Resources Committee
JAMA, Ali Ahmed (Mr.) Committee on Middle East Questions	Member of the House of the People Infrastructure Committee
MOHAMUD, Said Mohamed (Mr.)	Member of the House of the People Defence 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
IBRAHIM FADUMMO, Farah (Ms.)	Member of the House of the People Immunity and Discipline Committee
HUSSEIN, Saed Abdi (Mr.)	Member of the Upper House (Nabad & Nolol)
JAMA, Ali (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Upper House
FEISAL MOHAMED, Abdikarim (Mr.)	Secretary to the Speaker, Upper House

SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD

GORA, David Okwier (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Security and Public Order Committee (SPLM)
ABER, Beatrice (Ms.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Affairs Committee (SPLM)
DENG, James Lual (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Petroleum, Mining and Energy Committee (SPLM)
KUUR, Dengtiel Ayuen (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Legislation and Legal Affairs Committee (SPLM)
WANJI, Eche Likai Barri (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee of Regional Integration (SPLM)
AKOT, Makuc Maku (Mr.)	Clerk of the Assembly, National Legislative Assembly
GARANG DENG, Ayaga (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.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Congress of Deputies (PP)
GIL, Ander (Mr.)	Member of the Senate (PSOE)
GUTIERREZ, Carlos (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Congress of Deputies
CAVERO, Manuel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Senate
BOYRA, Helena (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group	Adviser, Congress of Deputies
DE CASTRO, Maria Iciar (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

SRI LANKA

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary Business Chairman of the Committee on High Posts Chairman of the Committee of Selection (UNP)
AMARASENA, Thushara Indunil (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management Committee on Public Accounts Legislative Standing Committee (UNP)
CHANAKA, Denagama Vitharanage (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Backbencher Committee (UPFA)
WIJERATNE, Rohini Kumari (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Education under the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Sub Committee on Cluster - 03 (Just and Fair) (UNP)
WANNIARACHCHI, Pavithra Devi (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender Women Parliamentarians' Caucus (UPFA) Secretary General, Parliament
DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	
KUMARASINGHE, Upali (Mr.)	Chief of Protocol, Parliament

(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié)

(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté)

SUDAN – SOUDAN

AHMED OMER, Ibrahim (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>)
HASSAN GABOUR, Zainap Ahmed (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
ALKARORI, Abdelgalil (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Education Committee (<i>NCP</i>)
ABDELRAHMAN MOHAMED ISSA, Ali (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Energy and Mining Committee (<i>NCP</i>)
ABDELATEF ALEMAM, Amera (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly Transportation Committee (<i>NCP</i>)
ELTIAB OSMAN, Ahmed (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Transportation Committee (<i>NCP</i>)
HAJ HASSAN OSMAN, Mathaba (Mrs.) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Member of the National Assembly Legal Committee (<i>NCP</i>)
HASAN ISSA, Issa (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NCP</i>)
KHIDIR NASIR, Nawal (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>PCP</i>)
ABDALL KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, National Assembly
ALI MOHAMED, Mohamed (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General, Council of States
ABDELHAFEZ, Abdelmoun (Mr.)	Director Protocol Office, 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.) Secretary	Director, Speaker's Office, National Assembly
FATAH EL RAHMEN, Ali Mohamed (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
AHMED SALAH, Bayoume Abdelatif (Mr.) Diplomat	
ALZUPIAR, Osman Ahmed (Mr.) Diplomat	
EZERIEG, Awad (Mr.) Press	

(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)

(PCP: Popular Congress Party / Congrès populaire)

SURINAME

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (<i>NDP</i>)
HOPKINSON, Roche (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>NDP</i>)
POKIE, Diana (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (<i>ABOP</i>)
RAMDASS, Agatha (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

(ABOP: General Liberation and Development Party / Parti général de la libération et du développement)

SWEDEN – SUÈDE

LINDESTAM, Åsa (Ms.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament (<i>SAP</i>)
HAMMAR-JOHNSSON, Ann-Charlotte (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Industry and Trade (<i>M</i>)
AXELSSON, Marie (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Defence (<i>SAP</i>)
HEINDORFF, Ulrika (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Health and Welfare (<i>M</i>)
LINDBERG, Teres (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Transport and Communications (<i>SAP</i>)
THORELL, Olle (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs (<i>SAP</i>)
WIDEGREN, Cecilia (Ms.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs (<i>M</i>)

KARLSSON, Mattias (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Labour (<i>SD</i>) Secretary-General, Parliament
MATTSON, Ingvar (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms.) Secretary to the delegation	International Adviser, Parliament
SONDÉN, Björn (Mr.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation	International Adviser, Parliament
POLANO, Ewa (Ms.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
VON STADEN, Ann (Ms.) Diplomat	
SÖDERBERG, Stefan (Mr.) Diplomat	
MÄNSBACKA, Mia (Ms.) Diplomat	
CENTERSKOG, Hanna (Mr.) Diplomat	

(SAP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)
(SD: The Sweden Democrats / Les démocrates suédois)

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

CARONI, Andrea (M.) Président du Groupe, Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Membre du Conseil des Etats (<i>FDP/PLR</i>)
LOHR, Christian (M.) Président adjoint du Groupe	Membre du Conseil national (<i>CVP/PDC</i>)
KIENER NELLEN, Margrè (Mme) Membre du Comité exécutif, Présidente du Sous-Comité des finances, 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 du Conseil national (<i>PS</i>) Présidente de la Délégation auprès de l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE
LOMBARDI, Filippo (M.)	Membre du Conseil des Etats (<i>CVP/PDC</i>) Président de la Commission de politique extérieure Président de la Délégation auprès de l'APCE
MÜRI, Felix (M.)	Membre du Conseil national (<i>SVP/UDC</i>) Vice-Président de la Commission de l'environnement, de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'énergie Membre du Conseil national (<i>FDP/PLR</i>)
WEHRLI, Laurent (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies, Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Comité directeur des Douze Plus	
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
DÖRIG, Edgar (M.) Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent	

(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)
(CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre)

TAJIKISTAN – TADJIKISTAN

ZUHUROV, Shukurjon (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
MANSURI, Dilrabo (Mrs.) RAHMONZODA, Abdulghaffor (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chief of Committee of Parliament
SALIMZODA, Olim (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chief of Committee Parliament

KARIMOV, Parviz (Mr.) Assistant of the Assembly Representative	House of Representatives
SOHIBZODA, Khisrav (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
NOSIROV, Rahimjon (Mr.) Diplomat	
KHUDOYORZODA, Murodali (Mr.) Diplomat	
KARIMOV, Akram (Mr.) Diplomat	Interpreter to the Speaker
SULTONOV, Muhamadato (Mr.) Press	

THAILAND – THAÏLANDE

WASINONDH, Kitti (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Legislative Assembly First Vice-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 Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SOCATIYANURAK, Vorapol (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Economics, Monetary Affairs and Finance
SUWANNACHEEP, Saowanee (Mrs.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Third Vice-Chairperson, Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Information and Mass Communication
CHANTASATKOSOL, Veerun (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Unprivileged Affairs
BOONCHAI, Chuchart (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
SALAKIJ, Jarernsak (Mr.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Political Affairs
PIENVEJ, Sorasak (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives
PHETCHAREON, Pornpith (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives
BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr.) Secretary to the Delegation	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives
MINGMITR, Pakpoom (Mr.) 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
SUNGTO, Neeranan (Ms.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Senior Professional Level), House of Representatives
VANNURAK, Revat (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), Senate
SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Professional Level), House of Representatives
SUKPORNCHAIKAK, Kanon (Mr.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level), House of Representatives
KEREEWICHIAN, Suwat (Mr.)	Legal Officer, Bureau of Parliamentary Proceedings, House of Representatives
LICKANAJULE, Somsakul (Ms.)	Foreign Relations Officer, Special Affairs Division, House of Representatives
TALEERAT, Yossawadee (Ms.)	Foreign Relations Officer, Bureau of Foreign Languages, House of Representatives
KHANTAHIRAN, Nathapol (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
SUKUMOLCHAN Kawisara (Ms.) Diplomat	

TIMOR-LESTE

AMARAL, Arão Noe De Jesus Da Costa (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Parliament (<i>CNRT</i>)
ADOLFO MORAIS, Silvino (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee (<i>FRETILIN</i>)
DA COSTA, Aderito Hugo (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament President of the Committee 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 (<i>PLP</i>)
LONGUINHOS GUTERRES LOPES, Aniceto (Mr.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Justice
DOS SANTOS MARTINS, Lidia Norberta (Mrs.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security
MARTINS, Veneranda Lemos (Mrs.) President of the Group	Member of the National Parliament Health Committee Committee on Education, Social Welfare and Gender Equality (<i>CNRT</i>)
ALVES DA COSTA, Luis Nascimento De Jesus (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary-General
CARDOSO MANUEL, Pinto (Mr.) Assistant to the Secretary General	Assistant to the Secretary General
DOS SANTOS MARQUES NORONHA, Gracieta (Mrs.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Parliament
GONZAGA VIDIGAL, Maria Isabel (Ms.)	Coordinator for the International Relations and Cooperation
VERDIAL BARROS, Danilio Norberto Basmerly (Mr.)	Protocol
RIBEIRO DE JESUS, Cornélio (Mr.)	President's Escort
DE JESUS SANTOS SILVA KALLON, Rita (Ms.)	Advisor to the Speaker

(*CNRT*: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)
(*FRETILIN*: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)
(*PLP*: People's Liberation Party / Parti de libération populaire)

TONGA

FAKAFANUA, Lord (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (2020)
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - TRINITÉ-ET-TOBAGO

KANGALOO, Christine (Ms.) CAESAR, Brian (Mr.)	President of the Senate Secretary General
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TUNISIA – TUNISIE

SAIDANE, Mohamed (M.) Chef de la délégation	Assesseur du Président de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple chargé des relations extérieures
ALOUINI, Souhail (M.)	Président de la Commission permanente de la santé et des affaires sociales
MADHIOUB, Maher (M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple Commission de la jeunesse, de la culture, de l'éducation et de la recherche scientifique
BENSOUF, Mohamed (M.) Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies	Membre de l'Assemblée des Représentants du Peuple Commission permanente chargée des affaires de l'UIP-ONU (<i>NT</i>)
AOUAITI, Najoua (Mme) Secrétaire de la délégation	Conseillère parlementaire, chargée du dossier de l'UIP

(*NT*: Nidaa Tounes)

TURKEY – TURQUIE

ŞENTOP, Mustafa (Mr.), Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KAVAKCI KAN, Ravza (Ms.) President of the Group	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
EMIR, Murat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>CHP</i>)

ARSLAN, Ednan (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>CHP</i>)
ANDICAN, A. Ahat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>IP</i>)
KARAKAYA, Mevlut (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>MHP</i>)
SATIROGLU, Nevzat (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
POLAT DUZGUN, Arife (Ms.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
OZSOY, Hisyar (Mr.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>HDP</i>)
YILDIZ, Zeynep (Ms.) Adviser	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (<i>PJD</i>)
KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
GUNER, Mumtaz (Mr.)	Grand National Assembly of Turkey
DOGANAY, Selim (Mr.)	Legal Adviser, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KOCAK, Konur Alp (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
OZTURK, Necati (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
KARAMAHMUT, Alican (Mr.) Interpreter	
KIRCALIN, Zeynep (Mr.) Interpreter	

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)
(CHP: Republican People's Party / Parti populaire républicain)
(IP: İyi Parti)
(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party / Parti d'action nationaliste)
(HDP: People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

TURKMENISTAN

MAMMEDOVA, Gulshat (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the Assembly (<i>DPT</i>)
ANNAKURBANOVA, Aygul (Mrs.)	Member of the Assembly Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations (<i>DPT</i>)
TUVAKOV, Merdan (Mr.)	Member of the Assembly Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations (<i>DPT</i>)

(DPT: Democratic Party of Turkmenistan / Parti démocratique du Turkménistan)

UGANDA – OUGANDA

SSEBAGGALA, Abdulatif (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee (<i>Ind</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>)
MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Physical Infrastructure Committee (<i>FDC</i>)
OSORU, Maureen (Ms.) Member of the Executive Committee, Forum of Young Parliamentarians (ex officio)	Member of Parliament Gender Committee (<i>NRM</i>)
ZABWE, Julie Mukoda (Ms.) Member of the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament
BAGUMA, Spellanza Muhenda (Ms.)	Member of Parliament
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Clerk to Parliament
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Clerk, Parliamentary Affairs
KANGO, Jonathan (Mr.)	IT Officer

KAGANZI, Martha (Ms.) Secretary of the Group	Principal Clerk Assistant
BUSIKU, Peter (Mr.)	Principal Private Secretary to the Speaker
KARAMAGI, Edison (Mr.) Advisor	Senior Economist, Parliament
NASSALI, Mariam (Ms.)	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament
MUHINDO, Yusuf (Mr.)	Assistant Editor of the Hansard
WATERA, Josephine (Ms.)	Assistant Director

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)
(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale)
(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)

UKRAINE

PARUBIY, Andriy (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of Parliament (<i>PF</i>)
LUBINETZ, Dmytro (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Rules of Parliamentary Procedure and Support to Work (<i>PPB</i>)
ZARUZHKO, Valeriia (Ms.)	Member of Parliament (<i>OLRP</i>)
BEREZA, Boryslav (Mr.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Corruption Prevention and Counteraction
IONOVA, Mariia (Mrs.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairwoman of the Committee on European Integration (<i>PPB</i>)
YEMETS, Leonid (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Member of Parliament Committee on Legal Policy and Justice (<i>PF</i>)
SOTNYK, Olena (Mrs.) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Member of Parliament Chairwoman of the Subcommittee of the Committee on European Integration (<i>PPSU</i>)
SHKRUM, Alona (Mrs.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of Parliament Chairwoman of the Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government (<i>BP</i>)
TARASYUK, Borys (Mr.) Rapporteur, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of Parliament Deputy chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (<i>BP</i>)
BODNAR, Petro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	First Deputy Secretary General, Parliament
MOSOLOV, Yurii (Mr.) Secretary to the delegation	Deputy Chairman of the Secretariat of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Parliament
PACHESYUK, Yuliya (Mrs.) Secretary to the First Secretary General	Deputy Head of Division, Interparliamentary Relations Department, Parliament
PROTASENKO, Liudmyla (Mrs.) Secretary to the delegation	Chief Consultant of the Secretariat of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament
MYKYTENKO, Yevhen (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
KURUTS, Volodymyr (Mr.) Diplomat	
BODNAR, Vasyl (Mr.) Diplomat	
ZHOLOBETSKYI, Maksym (Mr.) Diplomat	
PAKHIL, Oleksandr (Mr.) Diplomat	
SOLOVIOV, Andrii (Mr.) Press	
NESTERENKO, Andrii (Mr.) Press	
LEKH, Volodymyr (Mr.) Press	

(PF: People's Front / Front populaire)
(PPB: Petro Poroshenko Bloc / Bloc Petro Poroshenko)
(OLRP: Oleh Liashko Radical Party / Parti radical Oleh Liashko)
(PPSU: "Samopomich" Union / Union "Samopomich")
(BP: Batkivshchyna Party / Parti Batkivshchyna)

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

WHITTINGDALE, John (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the House of Commons (C)
HOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)	Member of the House of Lords (C)
EVANS, Nigel (Mr.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade	Member of the House of Commons (C)
OSAMOR, Kate (Ms.)	Member of the House of Commons (L)
MATHESON, Chris (Mr.)	Member of the House of Commons (L)
DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords (<i>Lib Dems</i>)
RENNARD, Christopher (Lord)	Member of the House of Commons
HELME, Philippa (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Principle Clerk of the Table Office, House of Commons
NIMMO, Rick (Mr.) Secretary of the Group	Director of BGIPU
REES, Dominique (Ms.) Adviser of the Group	Deputy Director of BGIPU
EDWARDS, Rhiannon (Ms.) Adviser of the Group	International Project Manager
SMITH, Lynne (Ms.) Assistant	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
MOELLER, Daniel (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Senior Committee Assistant, House of Commons
HOLLIS, Rhiannon (Ms.) Member of the ASGP	Justice Select Committee Clerk, House of Commons

(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur)
(L: Labour / Parti travailliste)
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

NDUGAI, Job Yustino (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
HIJA, Juma Othman (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
JEROME LYIMO, Susan Anselm (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
MCHENGERWA, Mohamed Omary (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
SERUKAMBA, Peter Joseph (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
WILFRED KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly
SAPALI, James (Mr.)	Secretary
YAKUBU, Saidi Othman (Mr.)	Secretary to the Speaker
MZEE, Mohamedi Mzee (Mr.) Aide de camp	
GABRIEL, Gerald Sulumo (Mr.) Aide de camp	

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the Senate Labour Issues and Social Security Committee Education and Culture Committee Public Health Committee (<i>FA</i>)
NOVALES, Gonzalo (Mr.)	Member of the House of Representatives National Defense Committee (<i>NP</i>) Secretary General, Senate
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	
GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs.) Secretary of the Group and of GRULAC	Head of International Relations, House of Representatives
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr.) Secretary of GRULAC	
SERÉ, Jorge (Mr.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
PITTALUGA, Fructuoso (Mr.) Diplomat	

(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)
(NP: National Party / Parti national)

UZBEKISTAN – OUZBÉKISTAN

ISMOILOV, Nurdinjon (Mr.) Leader of the delegation	Speaker of the Legislative Chamber
SAIDOV, Akmal (Mr.)	Member of the Legislative Chamber Chairman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions NGOs and Civil Self-Government Institutes
ERNAZAROV, Komiljon (Mr.)	Member of the Legislative Chamber
ATANIYAZOVA, Oral (Ms.)	Member of the Senate
GULYAMOV, Abror (Mr.)	Chief of International Relations Department

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) – VENEZUELA (RÉPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU)

GUANIPA VILLALOBOS, Tomás Ignacio (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly
PROSPERI MANUITT, Carlos Modesto (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly
VILLALOBOS, Dave (Mr.)	Adviser
TROCONIS, Javier (Mr.)	Adviser

VIET NAM

NGAN, Nguyen Thi Kim (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly (CPV)
GIAU, Nguyen Van (Mr.) IPU Vice-President	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee (CPV)
Member of the Executive Committee	
PHUC, Nguyen Hanh (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Secretary General of the National Assembly Chairman of the National Assembly Office
CHIEN, Ha Ngoc (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Chairman of the Ethnic Minorities
ANH, Nguyen Thuy (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Chairwoman of the Social Affairs Committee
HA, Vu Hai (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
ANH, Duong Quoc (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Vice-Chairman of the Economic Committee
HA, Le Thu (Mrs.)	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Standing Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee
DINH, Nguyen Khac (Mr.) Adviser	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Chairman of the Law Committee
TOAN, Pham Dinh (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Member of the National Assembly (CPV) Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly Office
VAN, Nguyen Tuong (Mrs.) Secretary	Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly Office
CHI, Tran Kim (Mrs.) Secretary	Chief of Division, Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly Office
PHUONG, Vu Dai (Mr.) Secretary	Chief of Division, Protocol Department, National Assembly Office
HOAI, Ho Thi (Mrs.) Secretary	Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly Office

(CPV: Communist Party of Vietnam / Parti communiste vietnamien)

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation	Speaker of the National Assembly
CHITIME, Alexander (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly (PF)
KABANSHI, Emerine (Ms.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Privileges, Absences and Support Services Committee on Youth, Sport and Child Matters (PF)
KATUTA, Given (Ms.) Bureau of the Committee on Peace and International Security	Member of the National Assembly Transport, Works and Supply Committee Cabinet Affairs Committee (FDD)
ROGERS, Mwewa (Mr.)	Member of the National Assembly Cabinet Affairs Committee Chairman of the Committee on Media, Information, Communication, Technologies (PF)

KALOBO, Pavyuma (Mr.)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
CHELU, John (Mr.)
BWALYA, Barnabas (Mr.)
KAWIMBE, Stephen (Mr.)
MBEWE, Cecilian Nsenduluka (Mrs.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
MUKUKA, Michael (Mr.)
Member of the ASGP
MONGA, Pauline (Ms.)
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr.)

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Youth and Sport (*Ind*)
Official, National Assembly
Adviser, National Assembly
Adviser, National Assembly
Clerk of the National Assembly

Principal Clerk (Information Communication
Technology), National Assembly
Adviser, National Assembly
Official, National Assembly

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr.)
Leader of the Delegation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairperson of the Committee on Standing Rules and
Orders (*ZANU/PF*)

KHUMALO, Mtshane (Mr.)
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

Member of the Senate
Thematic Committee on Sustainable Development
Goals

MUZENDA, Veronica Tsitsi (Ms.)
President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade

Member of the Senate
Thematic Committee on Sustainable Development
Goals

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr.)
Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Thematic Committee on Human Rights (*ZANU/PF*)

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Public Service, Labour and
Social Welfare

Portfolio Committee on Lands, Agriculture, Climate and
Water

Portfolio Committee on Local Government, Public Works
and National Housing (*MDC-T*)

MAVENYENGWA, Robson (Mr.)
Member of the Standing Committee on Democracy and
Human Rights

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Environment and Tourism
Portfolio Committee on Industry and International Trade
(*ZANU/PF*)

MUTOMBA, William (Mr.)
Standing Committee on Peace and International
Security

Member of the National Assembly (*ZANU/PF*)

MACHAKARIKA, Tinoda (Mr.)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Transport and Infrastructural
Development
Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sports and Culture
(*ZANU/PF*)

CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr.)
Adviser, Member of the ASGP

Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly

CHISANGO, Rumbidzai Pamela (Ms.)

Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly
Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly

MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr.)

Member of the ASGP

MUKUSHWA, Zvimekria Clive (Mr.)

Security Aide to the Speaker, National Assembly

MUSHANDINGA, Martha (Mrs.)

Principal Executive Assistant to the Speaker, National
Assembly

NYAMAHOWA, Frank Mike (Mr.)

Director in the Speaker's Office, National Assembly

(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)

(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change (T) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

AL SHAMSI, Rashid (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	First Vice-President of the Arab Parliament
AL-MANNAI, Aisha (Mrs.)	Member

**CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT CENTRAMÉRICAIN**

RAMOS, Jose (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker
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**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

NGOGA, Karoli Martin (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker Chairperson of the the EALA Commission
GARANG, Gabriel Alaak Garang Diing (Mr.)	Member Accounts Committee Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution
AKOL, Anne Rose Ongom (Mrs.)	Member Accounts Committee Member of the Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee
KALINDA, Francois-xavier (Mr.)	Member EALA Commission General Purpose Committee Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee
MAASSAY, Pamela Simon (Ms.)	Member Communication, Trade and Investments Committee General Purpose Committee
NDUMBARO, Damas Daniel (Mr.)	Member EALA Commission
OGINGA, Oburu (Mr.)	Member EALA Commission Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources
MADETE, Kenneth Namboga (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the East African Legislative Assembly
OBATRE LUMUMBA, Alex (Mr.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the East African Legislative Assembly
CHANGWA TUHOYE, Emiliana (Mrs.) Member of the ASGP	Senior Personal Secretary
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 (CIS)
ASSEMBLÉE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ÉTATS MEMBRES DE LA
COMMUNAUTÉ DES ÉTATS INDÉPENDANTS**

UMAKHANOV, Ilias (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation
TURUSBKOV, Baktybek (Mr.)	Member of the Kyrgyz Parliament
SATVALDIEV, Nurbek (Mr.)	Deputy Secretary general of the IPA CIS Council Plenipotentiary Representative of the Kyrgyz Parliament

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT D'AMÉRIQUE LATINE ET DES CARAÏBES**

CASTILLO G., Elias A. (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
SERRANO SALGADO, José (Mr.) Alternate President	Member
FERRER, Yolanda (Ms.)	Member
GUIÑANSACA GARCÍA, Manuel Isaac (Mr.)	Adviser to the Speaker

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET MONÉTAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)**

MAHAMAT, Ali Kosso (Mr.) Chef de la délégation	Président
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr.) Membre de l'ASGP	Secrétaire général
BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (Mr.) Secrétaire de la délégation	Directeur de la coopération et des affaires interparlementaires
MAHAMAT, Tahir Ali Kosso (Mr.)	Directeur de cabinet

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE DES ÉTATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

LO, Moustapha Cisse (Mr.) Leader of the Delegation	Speaker
CISSE, Abdou Quadri (Mr.)	Member
DA SOUZA, Rui Dia (Mr.)	Member
BOATENG, Ama Pomaa (Ms)	Member
AZUMAH, John (Mr.)	Secretary General
TRAORE, Musa M'pe Alfred (Mr.)	Principal Parliamentary Affairs and Research Officer
FWANGDER, Ezekiel (Mr.)	Chief Protocol Officer
LO, Fallou (Mr.)	Special Assistant on Political Affairs to the Speaker

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION/PABSEC
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPÉRATION ÉCONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

ANASTASE, Roberta Alma (Mrs.) Leader of the Delegation	Member Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on European Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania
DULCA, Daniel (Mr.)	PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee Deputy Secretary General

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)**

CASTAÑEDA, Rodrigo (Mr.) Deputy Director, PSP

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)***HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS***

KHALIFA, Khaled (Mr.)

EL-DEWARY, Ayat (Mr.), Senior External Relations Officer

AL KHATER, Eman (Mr.), Associate External Relations Officer

JELLEMA, Els (Ms.), Regional Protection Officer (Stateless)

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)***PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTÉ DE LA MÈRE, DU NOUVEAU-NÉ ET DE L'ENFANT***

FOGSTAD, Helga (Ms.), Executive Director

BUSTREO, Flavia (Ms.), Fondation Botnar Board Member

TOURE, Kadidiatou (Ms.), Technical officer

ROCCO, Cecilia (Ms.), Press Officer

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)***PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA***

MUSEMINALI, Rosemary (Ms.), Director, External and Donor Relations Department

DAOUDA, Sylvie (Ms.), Senior Adviser, Partnerships, External and Donor Relations Department

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)***PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)***

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)***PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT***

MANGUIAT, Maria Socorro (Ms.) Head, National Environmental Law Unit

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)***ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE***

PAOLINI, Anna (Ms.), Director, Yemen Office

PAYO, Gulomar (Mr.), Coordinator Officer

FERNÁNDEZ, Maricel (Ms.), Education Program Specialist

SPARKS, Caitlin (Ms.), Education Program Assistant

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM (UNOCT)***NATIONS UNIES - BUREAU DE LUTTE CONTRE LE TERRORISME***

VORONKOV, Vladimir (Mr.), UN Under-Secretary-General, UN Counter-Terrorism Office

MIEDICO Mauro (Mr.), Special Advisor to the USG, UN Counter-Terrorism Office

SHAH, Muhammad Rafiuddin (Mr.), Chief of the Policy and Coordination Unit

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)***OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES CONTRE LA DROGUE ET LE CRIME (ONUDC)***

KARIMIPOUR, Masood (Mr.), Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch

LANCHENKO, Olga (Ms.), Programme Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch

ALY MOHAMED, Hatem Fouad (Mr.), Special Representative of the UNODC Executive Director for the GCC Region

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)***OFFICE DE SECOURS ET DE TRAVAUX DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS DE PALESTINE DANS LE PROCHE-ORIENT***

ESKIOCAK, Ozlem (Ms.), Strategic Partnerships Division

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)***ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ (OMS)***

SILBERSCHMIDT, Gaudenz (Mr.), Director for Partnerships and Non State Actors

MIRZA, Zafar (Mr.), Director Health System Development, HSD Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean, EMRO

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms.), External Relations Officer, Parliamentary Engagement

PRAPANCHA SURYANTORO, Ludy (Mr.), Team Leader, Strategic Partnership for IHR and Health Security

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)***ORGANISATION POUR L'INTERDICTION DES ARMES CHIMIQUES***

SUKASAM, Kesrat (Mr.), Head, Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division

RIVERA, Sharon (Ms.), Implementation Officer – Legal, Implementation Support Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)
ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ D'INTERDICTION COMPLÈTE DES ESSAIS NUCLÉAIRES

GIOVANNINI, Francesca (Ms.), Strategy and Policy Officer
CHEPURINA, Maria (Ms.)

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES / LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES

HASSANNA, Hassana (Mr.), Second Secretary

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (ACP-EU JPA)

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE

OWONA KONO, Joseph Hyacinthe (Mr.), President

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)

UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE

IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr.), Secretary General

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr.), Director

ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE

AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr.), Secretary General

NIHAWI, Samir (Mr.), Director of Parliamentary Relations

ASEAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (AIPA)

ASSEMBLÉE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ASEAN

SUNTHORNVUT, Isra (Mr.), Secretary General

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE

ŞENTOP, Mustafa (Mr.), Speaker of the Turkish Parliament

KAVAKCI KAN, Ravza (Ms.), President, Member of the Turkish Parliament

MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr.), Secretary General

GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

HASHEMI, Seyed Javad (Mr.), Director, International Affairs

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF)

EZA, Mireille (Mme), Directeur du Programme numérique APF

MAURY, Emmanuel (M.), Secrétaire général administratif

ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD (ASSECAA)

YUSUF ALI, Abdulwasie (Mr.), Secretary General of ASSECAA

EGWIM, Nkemjika (Mr.), Assistant Secretary General of ASSECAA

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)

FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)

KAKOBA, Onyango (Mr.), Secretary General

MBODI, Jenny (Mrs.), Administrative Assistant

GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)

ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION (GOPAC)

RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms.), Executive Director

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY

ON DEVELOPMENT (IPU-IGAD)

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ÉTATS MEMBRES DE L'AUTORITÉ INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT (UIP-IGAD)

MOHAMED, Adam Mohamed (Mr.), Secretary General

MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB

MOKADEM, Said (Mr.), General Secretary

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)

PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN

MAMAR MAHAMAT, Djidda (Mr.), Member (Chad)

KOE, Jean Patrice (Mr.), Director of Bureau, Chief of Cabinet

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

BOURAN, Alia (Mrs.), President
KHACHI, Fatima (Ms.), Deputy to the Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
*ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE***

KARADAĞ, Yaşar (Mr.), Member of the Parliament of Turkey
KARAHOCAGİL, Mustafa Levent (Mr.), Member of the Parliament of Turkey
MAMAIUSUPOV, Altynbek (Mr.), Secretary General

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA
*ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BÉLARUS ET DE LA FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE***

RAKHMANOV, Sergey (Mr.), Chairman of the Committee
STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr.), Secretary General
SHUMYANTSEV, Alexander (Mr.), Head of the Department
ANTOSYEV, Ilya (Mr.), Consultant

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
*UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ÉTATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)***

NIASS, Mouhamed Khouraiichi (Mr.), Secretary General
MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr.), Deputy Secretary General

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF)
*FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ (SADC)***

DHLOVO, Veronica Macamo (Mrs.), Speaker of the Parliament of Mozambique
SEGKOMA, Boemo (Mrs.), Acting Secretary General
MUNGANDI, Yapoka (Ms.), Director

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB & MALARIA

BOULE, Scott (Mr.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

AYALA, Luis (Mr.), Secretary General
PERRY, Latifa (Ms.), Coordinator

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

EL HAITE, Hakima (Ms.), President
MACKAY, Gordon (Mr.), Secretary General

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
*COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)***

SAYHI, Esra (Mr.), Delegate to Qatar
HEDHLI, Moez (Mr.), IHL expert

**PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW
TO A POSSIBLE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION
*PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS
EN VUE D'UNE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION EVENTUELLE***

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

JOSEPH, Johnathan Ozias (Mr.), Senator

BARBADOS

HOLDER, Arthur (Mr.), Speaker of the House of Assembly
SANDS, Damien (Mr.), Senator
EASTMOND, Pedro (Mr.), Clerk of Parliament

DOMINICA

BOYD KNIGHTS, Alix (Ms.), Speaker of the House of Assembly
BENOIT, Jahisiah (Mr.), Senator

LIBERIA

CHAMBERS, Bhofal (Mr.), Speaker
DOMAH, Roger S.W.Y. (Mr.), Representative
FOFANA, Ben A. (Mr.), Representative
KOLLEH, Joseph Papa (Mr.), Representative
JALLAH, Armah Z. (Mr.), Senator
PAYE, Francis (Mr.), Senator

NAURU

BURAMAN, Cyril (Mr.), Speaker of Parliament
BINGHAM AGIR, Jason (Mr.), Member of Parliament
TAWAKI KAM, Lyn (Mr.), Minister for Sport
CAIN, Ann-Marie (Ms.), Clerk of Parliament

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

PERKINS, Anthony Michael (Mr.), Speaker of the National Assembly
AMORY, Vance (Mr.), Senior Minister and Minister of Labour, Social Security and Ecclesiastical Affairs
BODDIE-THOMPSON, Sonia (Mrs.), Clerk of the National Assembly

**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 140th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 140^{ème} ASSEMBLEE**

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

SURTEES, Claressa (Ms.)
Secretary, Member of the ASGP

Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

EBU MWETETE, Dieudonné (M.)
KABAMBI KASONGO, Gilbert (M.)
Membre de l'ASGP
KANIKI MPIANA, Christophe (M.)

Directeur de commission, Assemblée nationale
Directeur-Chef de service des Commissions du Sénat

Chef de la Division Afrique orientale et Moyen-Orient,
Ministère des affaires étrangères, Assemblée
nationale

MOLIMA MBULU, Mao (M.)
NZAKO BALULA, Florence (Mme)

Secrétaire rédacteur, Assemblée nationale
Chef du Bureau en charge du Moyen-Orient, Ministère
des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

XASO, Masibulele (Mr.)
Secretary, Member of the ASGP
SITHOLE, Dumisani (Mr.)

Deputy Secretary to Parliament, National Assembly

Division Manager, International Relations and
Protocol, National Assembly

MONNAKGOTLA, Mpho (Ms.)

Researcher, National Assembly

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 140th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITÉS SPÉCIAUX PRENANT PART À DES ACTIVITES PRÉVUES À L'OCCASION
DE LA 140^e ASSEMBLÉE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

YUSTE, Rafael (Mr.), Professor, Columbia University, The Brain Initiative
ROGERS, Henk (Mr.), President and Founder, Blue Planet Foundation

Democracy and Human Rights

Debate on the draft resolution to be adopted at the 141st Assembly

DAGNIMISOM KOUTOU, Valérie (Ms.), Regional Advisor, Save the Children Denmark

Debate on follow-up to previous resolutions (social media and freedom of expression)

VENTURINI, Tommaso (Mr.), Internet and Society, CNRS

LARREA, Diana (Ms.), Al Jazeera

JOSHI, Shalini (Ms.), Executive Editor and Co-Founder of Khabar Lahariya Digital News Network, India

NAKOV, Preslav (Mr.), Principal Scientist, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI)

UN Affairs

**Panel discussion on the main theme of the 2019 HLPF: Empowering people and ensuring
inclusiveness and equality**

AHMED, Nabil (Mr.), Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International

**Panel discussion on *Ending energy poverty through access to renewable energies and inclusive
public policies: How can parliaments help?***

GONZALEZ DIAZ, Francisco N. (Mr.), Former Executive Chairman, BBVA

Forum of Young Parliamentarians

UTTAMCHANDANI, Rajiv (Mr.), Chairman, International STEM Society for Human Rights,
President, H.E.R. Academy

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

DHARMARAJ, Krishanti (Ms.), Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership

KHAN, Frida (Ms.), Gender Specialist, ILO

**Panel discussion on counter-terrorism and violent extremism *From international resolutions to
national legislations: Bridging the implementation gap***

BUNU, Falmata (Ms.), Victim and Activist

Committee on Middle East Questions

BONA, Maurizio (Mr.), Senior Advisor, CERN
HANEDA, Balsam (Ms.), UNRWA
ABU ASBAH, Hanan (Ms.), UNRWA
BAKER, Ahmad (Mr.), UNRWA

Workshop on maternal, newborn & child health

IMBAGO JACOME, David (Mr.)

Advisory Group on Health

KARLSSON Ulrika (Ms.), Former MP, Sweden

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
*BUREAU DE LA PRÉSIDENTE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE***

SCHMIDT, Nicole (Ms.), Assistant to the IPU President

GLOSSARY / GLOSSAIRE**English****Titles/Functions:**

Speaker of Parliament
President of the Group

Adviser
Chair/Chairman/Chairperson
Clerk
Deputy Speaker
Head
Leader of the Delegation
Officer
Researcher
Secretary of the Group/delegation
Spokesman

Parliaments:

House of Commons
House of Representatives
National Assembly
People's Representatives

Parliamentary Committees:

Abroad
Agreements
Broadcasting
Building
Citizenship
Complaint Reception
Computer Science
Cross-cutting Issues
Directive Board
Elderly
Fishery
Food
Foreign Affairs
Freedoms
Funding
Gender Equality
Growth
Health/Healthcare
Heritage
Home Affairs
Housing
Human Rights
Intelligence
Investigation/Inquiry
Joint Committee
Labour/Work
Law
Legal
Local Self-government
Missing, Adversely Affected Persons
Oversight
People with Disabilities
Physical Planning, Land Use Planning, Country
Planning
Public Expenditure
Public Works
Rehabilitation
Social Welfare
Standing Committee
Standing Orders/Rules
State Device

Français**Titres/Fonctions:**

Président du Parlement
Président(e) du Groupe

Conseiller
Président(e)
Secrétaire général/Greffier
Vice-Président(e)
Chef
Chef de la délégation
Fonctionnaire
Chercheur
Secrétaire du Groupe/ de la délégation
Porte-parole

Parlements :

Chambre des Communes
Chambre des représentants
Assemblée nationale
Représentants du peuple

Commissions parlementaires :

A l'étranger
Approbations
Radiodiffusion
Bâtiment
Citoyenneté
Instruction des plaintes
Informatique
Matières transversales
Comité directeur
Aînés
Pêche
Alimentation
Affaires étrangères
Libertés
Financement
Egalité entre les sexes
Croissance
Santé
Patrimoine
Affaires internes
Logement
Droits de l'homme
Renseignement
Enquête
Comité mixte
Travail
Lois
Juridique
Autonomie locale
Personnes disparues ou lésées
Surveillance
Personnes handicapées
Aménagement du territoire

Dépenses publiques
Travaux publics
Réinsertion
Protection sociale
Comité permanent
Règlement
Dispositif étatique

Sustainable Development
Trade
Training
Truth
Underprivileged
Ways and Means
Wildlife
Women, Children and Youth

Développement durable
Commerce
Formation
Vérité
Défavorisés
Voies et moyens
Faune
Les femmes, les enfants et les jeunes

IPU Committees:

Advisory Group on Health
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Committee on Middle East Questions
Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
Executive Committee
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Gender Partnership Group
Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights
Standing Committee on UN Affairs

Commissions et Comités de l'UIP :

Groupe consultatif sur la santé
Bureau des femmes parlementaires
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire (DIH)
Comité exécutif
Forum des jeunes parlementaires
Groupe du partenariat entre hommes et femmes
Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre
Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale
Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce
Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme
Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies