



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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139th Assembly

1. Opening of the Assembly

The 139th IPU Assembly was opened on Monday 15 October 2018 at 11 a.m. at the *Centre International des conférences de Genève* (CICG) with the IPU President, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (Mexico), in the chair. She was assisted in chairing the proceedings of the Assembly by several Vice-Presidents: Mr. K. Molatlhegi, Deputy Speaker (Botswana), Mr. J. Epola, Leader of the delegation (Congo), Ms. J.F. Luveni, Speaker of Parliament (Fiji), Mr. R. del Picchia, Senator (France), Mr. P.F. Casini, Leader of the delegation (Italy) and Honorary IPU President, Mr. W. Simina, Speaker of Parliament (Federated States of Micronesia), Ms. A. Tolley, Leader of the delegation (New Zealand) and Mr. N. Prea, Speaker of Parliament (Seychelles).

The IPU President delivered an opening address on the main theme of the General Debate, *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*. In the age of the fourth industrial revolution, parliamentarians were encouraged to embrace change and innovation, science and technology and to place those at the service of the policies they formulated and the laws they passed. They also had the responsibility to set ethical limits on science and technology and to establish a legal framework to ensure that machines did not take over to the detriment of humans. The gap between the political and scientific communities must be bridged and the IPU must open itself up more to young people and attract their energy and talent.

The world of instantaneous news and information had its advantages and drawbacks. However, as representatives of the people, parliamentarians must keep up with the times and engage young people in new information and communication technologies (ICTs). As part of the efforts to stay relevant, the IPU must update and innovate in the way it conducted its business. IPU Assemblies must be greener and more interactive. Parliamentarians needed to move away from the traditional rhetoric and speak up about the issues that really mattered to their constituents.

In his video message to the 139th IPU Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. A. Guterres, welcomed the IPU's focus on promoting peace and development in an age of rapid technological change. Advances in technology brought gains that could hugely accelerate work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was, however, the responsibility of all to "nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial to all" and, in that context, parliamentarians were in a unique position to ensure that no-one was left behind. Also, the issues of innovation in technology and science had to be discussed in the private sector and in university laboratories.

Ms. F. Gianotti, Director General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), made a presentation on the organization she led - the largest particle physics laboratory in the world. CERN's founding motto, when it had been established in 1954, was "Science for Peace". It presently had 22 Member States, eight Associate Member States, and six Observers to its Council.

The aim of CERN's collaboration with the IPU on the *Science for Peace Schools* programme was to realize the vision of unity through science for peace through the establishment of networks that would serve as a platform for dialogue between parliamentarians. In addition, CERN had organized daily visits to its compound for parliamentarians during the week of the Assembly and had set up a stand in the Knowledge Fair on the ground floor of the Conference Centre. It was hoped that such interaction between the scientific and parliamentary communities would indeed bridge the gap between both worlds and lead to more informed policy-making based on empirical data, mainstreaming of science into decision-making and higher numbers of female students pursuing studies in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education.

2. Participation

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

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland,

* For the complete list of IPU Members, see page 29

France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

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

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

3. Choice of an emergency item

Before the Assembly met, Uruguay withdrew its proposal entitled *Redoubling efforts to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons: The role of parliaments*. The delegations of Jordan and Kuwait, which initially submitted individual proposals, subsequently merged those proposals into the one mentioned below.

On 15 October 2018, the President informed the Assembly that the following five requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed:

- *Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments* (Burkina Faso);
- *Cutting off aid to UNRWA — A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole* (Jordan and Kuwait);
- *Climate change – Let us not cross the line* [Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of)];
- *The urgent need to resolve the humanitarian crisis caused by the deterioration of parliamentary democracy in Venezuela* (Netherlands and the United Kingdom);
- *Addressing the issue of missing persons: The role of parliaments* (Israel).

After brief presentations, the joint proposal of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and the proposal submitted by Israel were withdrawn before the vote.

The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining items (see pages 40-42). All proposals received the required two-thirds majority of the vote. The joint proposal put forward by the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of), which had received the highest number of positive votes, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 8.

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

(a) General Debate: *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change* (Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, 126 delegates from 107 Member Parliaments – including 38 Presiding Officers, as well as delegates from nine partner organizations (both Associate Members and Permanent Observers), contributed to the General Debate. For the first time, the General Debate featured a segment reserved for young parliamentarians. Many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the Outcome Document.

In addition to the opening high-level segment with the Director General of CERN, in the afternoon of 15 October the Assembly heard a presentation from special guest Mr. Henk Rogers, Founder and CEO of the Blue Planet Foundation (Hawaii). Science had clearly demonstrated the fact that climate change was a clear and present danger. As noted in the report published just a few days previously by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), limiting global warming to 1.5°C required urgent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. Hawaii was showing the world that such change was possible: children were actively involved in changing lifestyle habits in the household, legislation was being passed to end the use of carbon-based fuel and to ensure a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, and partnerships were being put in place with electrical companies and other stakeholders to turn the tide of climate change and undo the damage that had already been inflicted on the environment. Mr. Rogers called on all parliamentarians to join the struggle to ensure a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations.

The General Debate was accompanied by a Knowledge Fair for Innovation and Technology, which featured exhibitions from CERN, the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Geneva Water Hub and Waterlex. The Fair provided a valuable opportunity for delegates to interact with members of the scientific community. Daily guided tours were also organized for interested MPs to visit the CERN laboratories on the Swiss border with France.

Special segment to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The special segment took place on 16 October. It looked at how far our societies had come since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been adopted and how MPs could best address old and new challenges to achieve a world free from fear and poverty. Mr. M. Limon, Director of the Universal Rights Group, moderated a panel discussion with the IPU President, Ms. F. Koofi (MP, Afghanistan; member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians), Ms. P. Hicks (Director, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Mr. T. Mendel (Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy). Mr. Mendel was also the author of the IPU Handbook on Freedom of Expression, which was officially launched during the segment.

The panel discussion started with a short video featuring Ms. B. Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, which celebrated the legacy of Nelson Mandela on the occasion of the centenary of his birth. The video served as a reminder for MPs to stay true to Mandela's ideals, including his unwavering commitment to justice, equality and non-discrimination. The panellists shared personal experiences and views by responding to questions about how to bridge the implementation gap and ensure that international human rights standards led to concrete and tangible change on the ground; how the international human rights framework could help prevent or resolve violent conflict and the importance of free speech in the face of the shrinking space for civil society and political opposition, and increased polarization and distrust.

The panel agreed that the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration was an opportunity for MPs from all over the world to celebrate human rights, and the considerable progress made in the past seven decades to make them a reality for many more people, but also to acknowledge that there was still a long way to go and much work left to do. MPs, in their roles as legislators, representatives and role models, needed to be at the forefront of that continuing endeavour.

Ms. A. Clwyd, Member of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and former President of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, introduced by video recording the IPU Declaration: *70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and invited her fellow parliamentarians to recommit to the values and fundamental principles set forth in the Universal Declaration.

At the end of the special segment, the Assembly endorsed the IPU Declaration.

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings, on 15 and 17 October 2018, with its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) in the chair on 15 October and its Vice-President, Mr. S. Rakhmanov (Belarus), in the chair on 17 October.

At its sitting on 15 October, the Committee examined two items in back-to-back panels. The panel on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation* opened with a video message from the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee on resolution 1540. The ensuing discussion with three experts was moderated by Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, University of London (SOAS). Seventeen participants expressed their views during the event. The panel on *Combating sexual violence in UN peacekeeping operations and beyond* was moderated by Ms. U. Karlsson, a former MP from Sweden. Two experts and two MPs made presentations. Eleven speakers took the floor.

On 17 October, the Committee held an expert hearing on the theme *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights* - the topic of a resolution to be adopted by the 140th IPU Assembly. The hearing opened with the statements by two experts - Ms. J. Aparac, a member of the United Nations Working Group on the use of mercenaries, and Mr. W. Bruyère-Ostells, a university lecturer in contemporary history at the Institute for Political Science in Aix-en-Provence, France. Following the experts' interventions, a total of 21 speakers took the floor.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 16 October 2018 with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), a senior member of the Bureau, in the chair. Eleven out of 18 members were present. The members discussed internal arrangements, the main current topics of the peace and security agenda, the Committee's work programme for the 140th IPU Assembly and for the period between IPU Assemblies.

The Standing Committee held elections to its Bureau on 15 October 2018 (see page 25).

The Committee report (see page 45) was presented by the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), to the Assembly at its last sitting on 18 October.

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 15 and 17 October. The first sitting was chaired by Ms. S. Dinica (Romania), a member of the Bureau. The second sitting was chaired by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan).

The Committee discussed the subject item of the next 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 theme was introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. J. Wilson (Australia), Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana) and Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia). At the end of the debate, the co-Rapporteurs provided an initial overview of how they would incorporate the Committee's input into the draft resolution.

The Committee reviewed the draft outcome document of the forthcoming Parliamentary Meeting at the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland (COP24), due to take place on 9 December 2018. The Parliamentary Meeting was being organized by the IPU in cooperation with the Polish Parliament. The co-Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting, Ms. A. Paluch (Poland), introduced the document to the Committee. The Committee was subsequently given the opportunity to make comments and suggestions on it. The Committee's feedback would be incorporated into the document by the co-Rapporteur and presented to the Parliamentary Meeting at COP24.

The Committee also held a panel discussion entitled *Taking forward the IPU resolution entitled Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. A panel of renowned experts introduced the theme and launched a discussion on the appropriate measures and actions to be taken by countries and parliaments in order to promote the transition to renewable energy.

The Committee held elections to its Bureau on 17 October (see page 25).

The Committee approved the proposal of the Bureau to dedicate the Committee's sessions at the 140th IPU Assembly to finalizing the resolution.

The Committee report was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 18 October by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan).

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee held sittings on 15, 16 and 17 October 2018, with the Committee President, Mr. A.Y. Desai (India), in the Chair.

The Committee considered the draft resolution *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. One of the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), presented the draft resolution, as the other co-Rapporteurs, Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A Touizi (Morocco), were unable to attend.

When examining the draft resolution, the Committee considered 97 amendments submitted by 17 parliaments [Bahrain, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Netherlands, Philippines, Russian Federation, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates]. Three amendments were proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

The revised draft resolution was adopted by consensus at the final sitting by the Committee. Reservations were expressed by the delegations of Kuwait on operative paragraphs 9 and 16, Lebanon on operative paragraph 9, and Poland on the entire resolution.

The Committee Bureau met on 17 October. It considered proposals for the future work programme of the Committee. One proposal for the subject item of the Committee's next resolution had been submitted before the deadline by Bangladesh, and was presented to the Bureau by Dr. H. Millat (Bangladesh).

Following a recommendation by the Bureau, the Committee decided unanimously to endorse the proposal entitled *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*, as the subject of its next resolution. A preparatory debate would take place at the 140th Assembly and the resolution would be finalized at the 141st Assembly in October 2019.

The Bureau noted that the decision taken by the Committee at the 138th Assembly to hold a panel discussion, which would not lead to a resolution, entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*, was now in the hands of the Assembly.

The Committee approved the Bureau's recommendation to hold a panel discussion at the 140th Assembly to examine how IPU Members followed up on three resolutions adopted by the IPU in recent years, namely: the 2009 resolution on freedom of expression, the 2013 resolution on social media, and the 2015 resolution on privacy in the digital era.

Following the recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee elected Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) as Vice-President of the Standing Committee.

The draft resolution on migration was presented by Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) to the Assembly at its plenary sitting in the afternoon of 18 October and was adopted by consensus. The Assembly took note of the following reservations: Kuwait on operative paragraphs 9 and 16, Lebanon on operative paragraph 9, Ethiopia and Ukraine on operative paragraph 16, Jordan on all references to international agreements to which Jordan was not a signatory, and Poland on the entire resolution.

The Assembly also took note of the Committee's decision to hold a follow-up debate at the 140th Assembly on the aforementioned resolutions from 2009, 2013 and 2015. That debate would not lead to a resolution.

* On 15 October, the Assembly voted on a procedural motion and determined that the Assembly has the authority to change the agenda and work plan of the Standing Committees (see results of the vote on page 38). On 17 October, the Assembly voted not to hold a panel discussion on the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (see results of the vote on page 39).

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Committee held one sitting on 17 October, chaired by its President, Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), who welcomed the participants.

The meeting consisted of two panels: one on the question of whether an intergovernmental body on international taxation was needed at the United Nations, and another on the work of the WHO and the IPU to advance SDG 3 on health (see report on page 52).

At the end of its sitting, the Committee elected five new members to its Bureau (see page 25).

In his final remarks, the Committee President, Mr. J.C. Romero, welcomed gender parity on the Committee bureau. He also presented the report of the Committee to the Assembly at its final sitting on 18 October.

(f) Debate on the emergency item

Climate change – Let us not cross the line

The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of Tuesday, 16 October 2018, with Ms. M.R. Mokitim (Lesotho), Speaker of the Senate, in the chair.

Following a brief presentation and an appeal from Mr. W. William (Seychelles, co-author of the proposal), 12 speakers took the floor during the debate from: Cabo Verde, Chad, China, Cuba, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Micronesia (Federated States of), South Africa and Uganda.

During the debate the participants agreed unanimously that greater global action on climate change should be taken and that more ambitious goals were needed. One delegate reminded peers that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report showed that the situation was far worse and more urgent than first thought. He reiterated that urgent and unprecedented changes must be made to counter climate change for the sake of our existence, adding that "We need a healthy planet more than it needs us".

Delegates presented various examples of climate change that threatened the day-to-day life of many citizens well beyond the small islands in the Pacific which had sponsored the emergency item. While the sea-level rise was affecting the Pacific region, scarcity of water and desertification, which caused a lack of land on which to live and cultivate crops, were also threatening the well-being and survival of many people in Africa and the Middle East.

A delegate from Fiji warned that the real effects of climate change had already begun and that villages had been relocated in Fiji because of rising sea levels. Participants underscored that climate change had no borders and therefore the international community must act together at the very least to delay the change so as to mitigate its negative effects. Another delegate concurred, adding that political divisions must be overcome so as to fight climate change together.

Some delegates deplored the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and called on all IPU Members to comply with their commitments under the international agreement. Another delegate lamented that there were still some people who prioritized economic interest over environmental protection.

Many delegates requested that additional financial and technical support for renewable energy and desalination of sea water should be made available, so as to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

Several delegations recalled the important role that parliaments and parliamentarians could play in tackling climate change at the national and international levels. Some delegates warned that the lack of political decisions and actions was compromising the future of humankind, adding that it was time for the international community to unite and take action.

The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Chad, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Seychelles, South Africa, Tonga and Uruguay.

(g) Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item

In the afternoon of 17 October 2018, the plenary sitting of the Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution (see page 43).

5. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 18 October, Mr. M. Bouva, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Suriname, presented the Outcome Document of the General Debate on the theme of *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*. Noting that the collective stock of scientific knowledge of the world we lived in was greater today than at any time in the history of humanity, the outcome document underscored the role and responsibility of parliaments and parliamentarians in fostering an environment where science, technology and innovation made a positive contribution to peace, development and human well-being. The outcome document further identified specific avenues for parliamentary action to: strengthen legal frameworks to promote technological and scientific innovation for peace and development; establish strong connections between the parliamentary and scientific communities; and support international scientific cooperation to promote peace and development. Mr. Bouva and the IPU President both called on all IPU Members to take resolute action in that direction. (See full text of the Outcome Document on pages 31-33).

The Assembly heard and took note of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, and the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. It also formally approved the proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, as put forward by the Executive Committee and the Governing Council.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: Mr. S. Chiheb (Algeria) on behalf of the African Group, Mr. K. Darweesh (Egypt) on behalf of the Arab Group, Mr. W. Simina (Federated States of Micronesia) on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. Z. Greceanii (Republic of Moldova) on behalf of the Eurasia Group, Mr. R. Martínez Huelmo (Uruguay) on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group. They welcomed the impressive outcomes of the 139th Assembly, congratulated the IPU President and Secretariat for their hard work, and pledged their commitment to follow up on the important decisions that they had collectively taken.

In her concluding remarks, the IPU President provided an overview of the principal results of the Assembly and reiterated the importance of parliamentary solidarity and robust parliamentary action on tackling the challenges facing the world today. She underscored the need to join forces in defending the core values and principles of the IPU, and in promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law at both the national and international levels (see the President's concluding remarks on page 55).

Thanking all the participants for their support and active engagement, she declared the 139th Assembly closed.

203rd session of the Governing Council

1. Membership and Permanent Observers of the IPU

At its sitting on 15 October, the Governing Council noted that there had been no formal requests for affiliation, reaffiliation or observer status. Membership thus remained at 178 national parliaments. Discussions were advancing with Kiribati, which was attending the Assembly as an observer, and with Jamaica, with a view to future affiliation and reaffiliation respectively.

The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and took note of relevant recommendations made by the Executive Committee with regard to each of those parliaments. It was informed of the IPU's efforts to facilitate the participation of the Parliament of Kiribati in the 139th Assembly with a view to future affiliation and of other small island developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean at a forthcoming regional Seminar in the Caribbean on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

2. Financial situation of the IPU

The Governing Council received a report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 30 June 2018 and an updated list of unpaid contributions. As at 14 October 2018, four Members (Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Mauritania) and one Associate Member (Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) had arrears of two full years and were subject to voting sanctions. Two Members (Honduras and Papua New Guinea) were subject to suspension due to

arrears of three or more years. The Executive Committee did not recommend the suspension of those two Members as amendments would be adopted by the Governing Council at its current session concerning the suspension of membership rights rather than suspension of their membership status. The Secretary General noted that long-term arrears were problematic and were regularly followed up by the Secretariat. The Presidents of the geopolitical groups were also encouraged to follow up on any arrears of the Members within their respective groups.

The Council took note that the income and expenditure of the IPU were close to target for the first half of the year and were projected to remain within the overall budget until the end of the year.

3. Draft programme and budget for 2019

The Council received the consolidated budget proposal for 2019. Reporting on behalf of the Executive Committee, the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. R. del Picchia (France), explained that the budget proposal had been prepared under the supervision of the Sub-Committee on Finance and was in accordance with its guidelines.

The initial draft of the regular budget for 2019 had reflected an imbalance of expenditure over income of CHF 290,000 due to the projected costs of the 2019 Assembly in Argentina, the preparatory costs for the next World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and the financing of certain activities within the President's vision. Cost savings had subsequently been found which had reduced the imbalance and, in order to avoid increasing Members' contributions in 2019, a provision of CHF 190,000 was proposed to be authorized from the Working Capital Fund (to be used only if required). The 2019 budget included an envelope of CHF 140,000 specifically for priority activities geared towards realizing the President's vision. Mr. R. del Picchia noted that a change of Assembly venue from Argentina would involve a revision of the costs which, in any case, should not exceed the adopted budget.

The Secretary General informed the Council of the efforts to mobilize voluntary funds from external sources. Several long-term funding agreements were coming to an end and their renewal was under discussion. Voluntary funds were important in contributing to the costs of supporting IPU programmes and resources were always mobilized in line with the IPU's guidelines relating to voluntary contributions. IPU programmes were open to all Members and not focused on any particular region.

The Governing Council approved the 2019 budget of CHF 16,187,300. The approved budget and scale of contributions for 2019 are presented on pages 57-58.

4. Implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021

The Council took note of a comprehensive interim report by the Secretary General on progress made on implementation of the eight strategic objectives, as well as concrete actions that Members could take to accelerate their realization, including the hosting of future IPU events.

5. Cooperation with the United Nations system

The Council reviewed the activities undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations system from 15 March to 15 September 2018, which would henceforth be subsumed into the Secretary General's report in the form of an Annex (see page 62). The IPU had also worked together with the United Nations towards common objectives in a range of political processes. A number of meetings had been held and publications produced.

It noted that, among other developments, the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in May 2018 on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union* proclaimed 30 June as the International Day of Parliamentarism, starting in 2018. That was a landmark achievement for MPs all over the world.

6. Recent specialized meetings

The Governing Council took note of the results of the 12th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (<https://www.ipu.org/event/12th-summit-women-speakers-parliament>); the Regional Seminar on *Parliamentary Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Combating Poverty and Promoting Health Care* (<https://www.ipu.org/event/regional-seminar-parliamentary-cooperation-sustainable-development-combating-poverty-and-promoting-health-care>); the Technical Briefing on *The role of parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security as two sides of the same coin* (<https://www.ipu.org/event/technical-briefing-role-parliamentarians-in-achieving-universal-health-coverage-and-global-health-security-two-sides-same-coin>); the Third South Asian Speaker's Summit on

achieving the SDGs (<https://www.ipu.org/event/third-south-asian-speakers-summit-achieving-sdgs>); the Parliamentary Side Event at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (<https://www.ipu.org/event/parliamentary-side-event-un-high-level-political-forum-sustainable-development-hlpf>); the Third Interregional Seminar on *Parliamentary Capacity-Building and Further Implementation of the SDGs: Implementing the SDGs through South-South Parliamentary Cooperation* (<https://www.ipu.org/event/interregional-seminar-parliamentary-capacity-building-and-further-implementation-sustainable-development-goals-implementing-sdgs-through-south>); and the Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Equality for Parliaments of the Middle East and North Africa (<https://www.ipu.org/event/regional-seminar-sustainable-development-goals-and-gender-equality-parliaments-middle-east-and-north-africa>).

The Council took note of initial preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament scheduled for 2020. The event would not take place at UN Headquarters in New York as the previous edition had, due to visa restrictions on some countries. An alternative venue was being actively sought and an inclusive and transparent process for nominating members to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference had been completed. The Governing Council subsequently approved the composition of the Preparatory Committee based on the nominations received from the geopolitical groups (see page 69).

7. Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees

At its sitting on 18 October, the Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Advisory Group on Health, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU and the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG).

The Council endorsed the amended Terms of Reference of the HLAG (see page 66), aimed at making the Group more inclusive and balanced, and decided to allow the Group in its current composition to pursue its work until the next Assembly, by which time nominations from the geopolitical groups would have been received. The expanded composition of 21 members would be based on the formula used for the composition of the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, i.e. Executive Committee geopolitical group allocation plus one per group.

The Council also approved 19 decisions submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (<https://www.ipu.org/download/5702>), noting the reservations of Cambodia, the Philippines, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of, ruling party) concerning the cases in their respective countries and by Bolivia (Plurinational Republic of), Cuba, Nicaragua and Serbia concerning the case of Venezuela.

8. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council gave its provisional approval to hold the 140th Assembly in Doha (Qatar) in 2019 and the 141st Assembly in Belgrade (Serbia) in October 2019 provided that the following three requirements were fulfilled: (1) a favourable technical mission report conducted by the Secretariat on the availability of conference and related facilities; (2) the confirmation by the Parliament of Qatar to absorb all additional costs related to the holding of a second Assembly abroad in 2019; and (3) the provision of guarantees by the authorities of the host countries to provide entry visas to all delegates invited to participate in the Assembly.

The Council approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources (see page 71).

9. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules

The Governing Council approved a package of amendments to the Statutes and Rules proposed by the Executive Committee (see Annex on page 68).

10. Elections to the Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following three members to the Executive Committee for a four-year term ending in October 2022:

- Mr. G. Gali Ngothé (Chad) for the African Group;
- Mr. G. Chen (China) for the Asia-Pacific Group;
- Mr. M. Grujic (Serbia) for the Twelve Plus Group.

280th session of the Executive Committee

1. Proceedings and decisions

The Executive Committee held its 280th session in Geneva on 12, 13 and 17 October 2018. The President of the IPU chaired the meetings. The following members took part in the session: Ms. F. Benbadis (Algeria), Ms. M.I. Oliveira Valente (Angola), Mr. A. Lins (Brazil) on 12 and 13 October, replaced by Mr. C. Cajado on 17 October, Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada), Ms. Y. Ferrer Gómez (Cuba), Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt), Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Mr. K. Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan) on 12 and 13 October, Mr. K. Lusaka (Kenya), Ms. A. Habibou (Niger), Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway), Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation), Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), Mr. Nguyen Van Giau (Viet Nam) on 12 and 13 October, replaced by Mr. Vu Hai Ha on 17 October, Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) in her capacity as Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), in her capacity as President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

At its sitting on 12 October, the IPU President provided an overview of her many outreach efforts to Members and non-Members alike as contained in her vision. The IPU had achieved a milestone by having 30 June – the date on which the IPU was founded – proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Day of Parliamentarism.

The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee that no requests for membership or observer status had been received. The Parliament of Kiribati would be sending an observer delegation to the 139th Assembly with a view to future affiliation. Meanwhile, the IPU President and the Secretary General were redoubling their efforts to reach out to non-Members, especially SIDS in the Pacific and the Caribbean. In that regard, non-Member Parliaments such as Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados would be invited to the Regional seminar on the SDGs and climate change for Caribbean Parliaments in Suriname in early November 2018 and would be sensitized to the benefits of IPU membership. By the same token, inactive IPU Members in the region - Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago - would be encouraged to re-engage with the Organization.

The Executive Committee examined the unfinished business of the 138th Assembly, namely the prerogatives of the Assembly and its Standing Committees. It reviewed a legal opinion by a jurist commissioned by the Secretariat at Members' request and proposed that a vote be held in the Assembly to clarify the matter without reopening the topic of the debate.

As mandated by the Governing Council at its 202nd session, the Executive Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). At its sitting on 17 October, it recommended that the Group's composition be expanded and made more inclusive based on the same formula used for the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (Executive Committee geopolitical group allocation plus one per group). In the meantime, the IPU's work on preventing and countering terrorism should be pursued as it was part of the organization's core business as indicated in the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021.

In connection with the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021, the Executive Committee received a comprehensive report from the Secretary General, along with the usual checklist of activities conducted with the United Nations, which had been subsumed into his report due to many common areas of interest and action. The Secretary General also informed the members of the Executive Committee of two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) he wished to sign shortly with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the WHO. The Committee endorsed both MOUs.

The Executive Committee examined the situation of certain parliaments on the IPU's radar screen, namely: Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. It made recommendations on each case to the Governing Council, including the swift organization of missions to Turkey and Venezuela.

The Secretary General informed the members of recent missions he had undertaken to Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Turkmenistan in late May/early June, to Hawaii in mid-July and to Burundi in late July/early August. The first mission was intended to foster closer ties between those relatively new and discreet IPU Members. Those parliaments had shown a keen interest in engaging on the SDGs and in undertaking self-assessments. The mission to Burundi had been undertaken at the invitation of the Burundian authorities and had sought to gain first-hand insights into the dynamics at play in the conflict-ravaged country. The Executive Committee recommended that the Burundian authorities pursue

inclusive dialogue involving all political actors (both at home and abroad) on devising a consensual roadmap for the 2020 elections, and that the IPU remain engaged with the authorities and continue to provide technical assistance to the parliament.

The Executive Committee was informed at its sitting on 12 October that Argentina was no longer in a position to host the 140th IPU Assembly due to reasons beyond its control - a severe economic and financial crisis. At its sitting on 13 October it received an envoy of the Speaker of the Serbian Parliament announcing that Serbia would be willing to host the 141st IPU Assembly in October 2019 in Belgrade. At its sitting on 17 October, the Committee was informed that Qatar had made an official offer to host the 140th IPU Assembly in Doha in April 2019. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve in principle both requests provided that three requirements were fulfilled: (1) the assessment mission conducted by the Secretariat issued a positive report on the facilities for hosting an IPU Assembly; (2) the Parliament of Qatar was willing to absorb all additional costs involved in hosting a second Assembly abroad in 2019; and (3) the host countries would provide visa guarantees to allow all delegates to participate in the Assembly.

At its sitting on 17 October, the Executive Committee received a report from the President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) on cooperation between the IPU and the ASGP.

Also at its final sitting, the Executive Committee endorsed a Presidential Statement on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and the draft Outcome Document of the General Debate.

The Executive Committee elected Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) as its Vice-President for a second one-year term and the following IPU Vice-Presidents for a one-year term: Arab Group: Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt); Asia-Pacific Group: Mr. Nguyen Van Giau (Viet Nam); Eurasia Group: Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation); Group of Latin America and the Caribbean: Mr. A. Lins (Brazil); and the Twelve Plus Group: Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada). The African Group would consult and nominate its candidate shortly.

2. Sub-Committee on Finance

The Sub-Committee on Finance met on 11 October 2018 to prepare and facilitate the Committee's consideration of the financial situation of the IPU, the 2019 draft programme and budget, the situation of voluntary funding, and to review the status of the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund. The Sub-Committee advised the Executive Committee to recommend the 2019 budget to the Governing Council, having been closely involved in overseeing its preparation throughout the year.

The Executive Committee urged the geopolitical groups to encourage their Members to pay up their contributions. The Sub-Committee on Finance informed the Executive Committee that no new applications had been received for the use of the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund.

The term of the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. R. del Picchia (France) was coming to an end at the present session. All members thanked him for his dedication and hard work in leading the work of the Sub-Committee. Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) was elected to the Sub-Committee on Finance in his place and was subsequently elected as Chair by the Sub-Committee members.

3. Questions relating to the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Executive Committee was informed of staff developments. Ms. C. Bon, a French/Swiss national, had been promoted to the post of Team Leader, Documents Control Service, at the G7 level. Mr. A. Richardson, a British national, had been promoted to the post of Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation, at the P4 level, and Ms. Z. Hilal, a Lebanese national, had been promoted to the post of Manager of the Gender Partnership Programme and the Programme for Youth Participation, also at the P4 level. Ms. S. Ahmidouch, a Trinidadian national, Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council, who also wore the hats of Chief of Staff and Head of Language Services, had been promoted to the P5 level. In addition, Ms. D. Gilliéron, a French national, would be retiring at the end of the year.

The Executive Committee discussed and reviewed the contract of the Secretary General for the remaining duration of his second four-year term. This item was discussed in the absence of the Secretariat, apart from the Director of Support Services, who provided information to the Committee. Following a vote by secret ballot, the members decided that the Secretary General should be remunerated at the level of UN Under-Secretary-General according to the salary scale of the International Civil Service Commission.

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The 28th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 14 October 2018. It brought together 195 participants, including 151 parliamentarians from 70 countries and representatives from various international organizations. There were 123 women and 28 men among the parliamentarians.

In keeping with the Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the First Vice-President, Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya), took over the presidency until the end of the term in April 2020. In that capacity, she chaired the proceedings.

The Forum expressed its gratitude to Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden), former President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, who had lost her seat in Parliament in the most recent parliamentary elections held in Sweden. She was warmly thanked for her strong and inspiring commitment to gender equality and for her invaluable contributions to the work of the IPU over the past years.

The IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, welcomed the participants and made an opening statement.

As a contribution to the Assembly, participants considered, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the 139th Assembly on *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. Two groups were formed to conduct the discussions. Participants underscored that migrant women faced multiple discrimination and that women constituted the majority of victims of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation and forced labour in domestic work. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolution, which were incorporated by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Participants then discussed the measures needed to eliminate the barriers and discrimination that impeded women from realizing their potential in science and new technologies. The Forum stressed the importance of inclusive and gender-sensitive teaching. Support to women researchers and professors was also identified as a driver of change by providing new role models to girls and challenging sexist stereotypes. To address those challenges, the Forum proposed measures such as supporting the creation of tech companies and the financing of research projects led by women, including projects aimed at addressing discrimination against women.

The Forum elected a regional representative of the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. F. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran), and two regional representatives of the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) and Ms. O. Sotnyk (Ukraine), to fill vacant positions in the Bureau.

At its second sitting on 18 October, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians nominated Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) as its First Vice-President and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) as its Second Vice-President. The two candidatures would be submitted for approval to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians at its 29th session.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians expressed its sincere condolences to the Parliament of Nigeria following the death of Ms. F. Adodoyin (Nigeria), who was a Bureau member.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Ms. D. Solórzano (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Vice-President, Mr. F. Pinedo (Argentina), Ms. F. Koofi (Afghanistan), Ms. L. Dumont (France), Mr. D. Carter (New Zealand), Ms. A. Jerkov (Serbia) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland) took part in the Committee's 157th session, which was held from 13 to 17 October 2018. Mr. A. Alaradi (Bahrain), President, Mr. N. Bako-Arifari (Benin) and Ms. J. Mukoda-Zabwe (Uganda) were unable to attend.

The Committee submitted 19 decisions to the Governing Council (see link: <https://www.ipu.org/download/5702>) for adoption concerning the following countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Palestine, Palestine/Israel, Philippines, Senegal, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

During the session, the Committee held 10 hearings and informal meetings with delegations and complainants to reinforce its understanding of the cases before it and convey its concerns. At that session, the Committee had on its agenda 23 cases concerning the situation of 328 members of parliament in 15 countries. Of the cases examined, 39 per cent were from Asia, 24 per cent from Europe; 18 per cent from the Americas; 16 per cent from the Middle East and North Africa and 3 per cent from Africa. Eighty-two per cent of the cases concerned opposition members of parliament and 20 per cent concerned women. Freedom of expression being a matter of direct or indirect concern in most cases, the violations most frequently considered by the Committee during the session were undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate, lack of fair trial, torture and violation of freedom of movement.

2. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Committee held two sittings, on 14 and 16 October 2018. The Committee's President Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada), Mr. H. Julien-Laferrière (France), Ms. A. Makonda Ridley (Malawi), Mr. A. Al-Ahmad (Palestine), Mr. F. Mürli (Switzerland), and Mr. M. Al-Mehrzi (United Arab Emirates) attended both sessions. Mr. N. Shai (Israel) attended the sitting on 14 October. Ms. B. Grouwels (Belgium) and Mr. R. Munawar (Indonesia) attended the sitting on 16 October.

The Committee examined the current situation in the region, particularly the announcement by the US Administration to end all funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the passing of a law by the Israeli Knesset defining the State of Israel as the nation of the Jewish people. In addition, the Committee heard brief presentations by the Yemeni delegation and Mr. N. Gouda, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, on the situations in their respective countries. The members recognized the complexity of the different situations while reaffirming their commitment to open dialogue and concrete projects.

Following a discussion on science as an enabler of dialogue, the Committee concurred on the importance of the *Science for Peace Schools* and was looking forward to bringing that project to fruition in November 2018. The Committee members further agreed to undertake a visit to the Middle East in early 2019 and highlighted their wish to visit refugee camps in Jordan.

3. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on Monday 16 October. As there was no quorum, no formal decisions were taken. The Committee members present did, however, hold a hearing with the delegation of Myanmar, as part of the follow-up to the 137th IPU Assembly emergency item resolution on the Rohingya crisis, which called on the Committee "to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to address the situation of the Rohingya people and provide a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis".

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to the Myanmar delegation for having engaged in a constructive dialogue. The hearing allowed for an exchange of information on initiatives taken in Myanmar to address the situation and allow for a safe return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. Committee members encouraged the Parliament of Myanmar to strengthen its involvement in the resolution of that tragedy by fulfilling its role of monitoring government action and by reaching out to the Myanmar people to appease the situation and lay the foundations for justice and reconciliation. Committee members also encouraged the Parliament of Myanmar to initiate a discussion in due course on the question of citizenship.

Committee members were very keen to pursue the dialogue and expressed their wish to carry out a mission to Myanmar to see how the IPU could support the Parliament in its efforts to secure a positive outcome to the humanitarian crisis.

The Committee furthermore held an open briefing session on *Ending Statelessness by 2024 - Pledges, Action and Results*. (See results of that session on page 20).

4. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group, composed of Mr. K. Lusaka (Kenya), Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway), Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates), met on 17 October 2018. Ms. Haukeland Liadal chaired the meeting. The Group reviewed figures regarding the composition of delegations present at the 139th IPU Assembly.

As at 17 October, 32.9 per cent of delegates registered at the Assembly were women. That figure was the highest percentage ever achieved at an IPU Assembly. The Group stressed the importance of continuing its work to promote further progress in that respect.

Of the 149 delegations registered, 140 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 17 were composed exclusively of men (12.1%) and four were composed only of women. The 21 single-sex delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Denmark, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Haiti, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen. In addition, there were nine single-member delegations attending the Assembly, of which five were made up of a male delegate and four of a female delegate. Group members agreed to bring those figures back to their geopolitical groups for discussion and action.

To remedy the situation, the Group also agreed to look into ways of strengthening existing sanctions. With regard to the Governing Council, the Group proposed that single-sex delegations be limited to one vote instead of two. As for the Assembly, the Group suggested that parliaments represented by single-sex delegations after two (not three) consecutive sessions be sanctioned with a reduction in their voting entitlements and number of delegates. The Group would therefore work on proposals for amendments along these lines.

In addition, the Group agreed to monitor more closely the composition of delegations attending IPU Assemblies, and more particularly their respective men/women ratio so as to give more visibility to gender-balanced delegations and encourage others to follow suit.

The Group also acknowledged the work led by the IPU as part of the International Gender Champions initiative, and the launch of the toolkit on gender-responsive parliaments. It recommended that the IPU work on developing a code of conduct that would apply for Assemblies and other IPU meetings.

To support the progress of women MPs worldwide, the Group also decided to engage not only with parliaments that had no women members, but also with parliaments where women accounted for less than 5 per cent of the membership. The Group planned to invite representatives of some of those parliaments for an exchange of views at the next session.

The Group welcomed the new IPU study on *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe* conducted in partnership with PACE. It encouraged the participants to disseminate it widely and to follow up its recommendations. It also recommended that the IPU conduct similar studies in other regions.

5. Advisory Group on Health

The Advisory Group on Health met on Tuesday 16 October, with six out of eight members in attendance. The Group's technical partners from the WHO and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria were also in attendance.

The Group unanimously approved the second one-year mandate for its Chairperson, Dr. H. Millat (Bangladesh), and Vice-Chairperson, Ms. P. Bayr (Austria). It heard a report from the IPU Secretariat about the health-related activities carried out since the Group's last meeting. The Group was particularly pleased to note the conclusion of important cooperation agreements between the IPU and the WHO, and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), which provided a solid framework for future global parliamentary action on health. The Group also took note of and approved the activities planned by the IPU and its partners in order to implement existing cooperation agreements.

The Group agreed to serve as the review board for the future IPU handbook for parliamentarians on women's, children's and adolescents' health. The Group also provided important guidance for preparation of a future handbook for parliamentarians on nutrition, which would be jointly prepared by FAO and the IPU with support from the WHO, the SUN Movement and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

It welcomed the finalization of the review of child, early and forced marriage in Africa, jointly conducted by the IPU and the WHO in cooperation with 24 African parliaments. The publication was expected at the end of 2018.

The Advisory Group gave its support to the Chair's efforts to introduce universal health coverage as a subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

6. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 14 October 2018. The meeting was attended by Mr. J. de Matos Rosa (Portugal), a Facilitator, four members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and three representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot political parties.

The parties expressed their readiness to engage in dialogue and exchange of views and stressed the need to recommence negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. They underlined that a functional and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the values and principles of the European Union, would benefit all Cypriots.

7. Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

The Forum met on Monday, 15 October 2018 with Ms. M. Oloru (Uganda), President of the Board of the Forum in the chair. A total of 64 young parliamentarians were in attendance, 32 of whom were women (50%).

The Forum discussed recent national efforts to enhance youth participation. It also reviewed youth participation at the IPU with a view to monitoring the implementation of the newly introduced measure to enhance youth participation at IPU Assemblies. It noted that young parliamentarians made up 20 per cent of participants at the 139th Assembly and that percentage should be increased at future Assemblies.

Plans to increase the number of young people in parliament must be put into action. To support that work, the members of the Forum identified global targets for youth participation in parliament which set the minimum standards to be achieved by 2035. Three targets were identified based on the proportion of young people in the population according to the following three age groups:

- Target of a minimum of 15 per cent of young parliamentarians under 30, corresponding to the proportion of people aged between 20 and 29 in the global population (18%);
- Target of a minimum of 35 per cent of young parliamentarians under 40, corresponding to the proportion of people aged between 20 and 39 in the global population (38%); and
- Target of a minimum of 45 per cent of young parliamentarians under 45, corresponding to the proportion of people aged between 20 and 44 in the global population (48%).

Each target provided for gender parity of 50 per cent young women and 50 per cent young men. Each country should identify what pertinent strategies and measures it would put in place to meet the targets, taking into account its own national specificities. The Forum would launch a global campaign to strengthen commitment and promote efforts towards the attainment of the targets.

The Board of the Forum also met on Monday, 15 October. The Board members chose the theme of the Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, due to take place in Baku (Azerbaijan) in December 2018. In preparation for the 140th Assembly, the Board appointed Mr. O. Al-Tabtabaee (Kuwait) to prepare a youth overview report to be submitted to the co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, and Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia) to prepare a youth overview report to be submitted to the co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

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

The Group held one sitting on 14 October 2018 with Ms. A. Al Qubaisi (United Arab Emirates), Chairperson; Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), Vice Chairperson; Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh, honorary IPU President); Ms. L. Cai representing China; Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt); Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation); Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden); Ms. M. Oloru (Uganda) in her capacity as President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) in her capacity as Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians in attendance.

Mr. S. Chiheb (Algeria), Ms. C. Crexell (Argentina), Mr. K. Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) also participated.

The Group heard an update on the implementation of the activities it had adopted at its second meeting on 2 and 3 May 2018 in Abu Dhabi, namely: the global parliamentary summit, the parliamentary network, the web-based platform, capacity-building workshops and reports. The members were pleased to see concrete developments and they looked forward inter alia to the first capacity-building workshops due to take place in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Sahel regions in early 2019. The Group approved the retention as advisers of Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, former President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, for her wise counsel and experience, and Mr. A. Avsan, although he was no longer an MP, for his technical expertise in law enforcement and as a former judge.

The Executive Committee would review the Group's Terms of Reference, including its composition, and make a recommendation to the Governing Council for endorsement. The Group encouraged the members of the Group who were also members of the Executive Committee to underline the significant work that had already been accomplished. They insisted that what the Executive Committee was requested to do was to clarify the composition and not call into question the existence of the Group as its creation had been decided during the St. Petersburg Assembly in October 2017.

Other events

1. Meeting of the Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups

In the morning of 14 October, the IPU President met with the Presidents of the geopolitical groups to discuss the organization of work during and beyond IPU Assemblies, including in terms of enhancing the impact and visibility of the organization and better meeting its key objective of fostering greater parliamentary understanding and solidarity.

The Presidents of the geopolitical groups gave a summary of their activities since the 138th Assembly, which included a number of events, such as the recently concluded Regional Seminars on the SDGs in St. Petersburg (for Eurasia), Panama City (for GRULAC) and Alexandria (for the Middle East and North Africa). The President presented an overview of future IPU activities – in line with the IPU Strategy and her vision – and encouraged the Presidents of the groups to reach out to their members with a view to identifying future hosts for IPU events. The Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020 would be a major event for the IPU and the global parliamentary community. The President had therefore decided to be as inclusive as possible in the selection of the Preparatory Committee and invited all Groups to submit the names of their representatives for the Preparatory Committee before the end of the Assembly.

The 2018 reporting exercise by Members on follow-up to IPU resolutions and decisions had seen an increase in the overall response rate (currently at 67%), also due to the active engagement of the Group Presidents. The report that had been submitted to the IPU Governing Council included tangible evidence of the impact of parliamentary follow-up action at the national level. It was important to share those good practices and positive results as widely as possible, so as to inspire further action. Each Member Parliament and parliamentarian had a particular responsibility in that regard, and could help replicate the key IPU messages as they related to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Enhanced dialogue and cooperation with the regional and other parliamentary organizations was another key objective of the IPU, as that could help reduce duplication, build synergies and better take advantage of the comparative advantages of each partner organization. A working luncheon with the Group Presidents and the heads of some 30 regional and other parliamentary organizations was scheduled later in the week in the context of the Assembly, with a view to further brainstorming on the way ahead.

2. Meeting of the Presidents of the Standing Committees

In the afternoon of 14 October, the IPU President met with the Presidents of the Standing Committees. They had been elected at the previous Assembly, based on the agreement reached by the geopolitical groups on the distribution of leadership positions within the IPU. The Committee Presidents each provided an overview of their work at the current Assembly, and of the possible outstanding issues that needed to be dealt with. One of those had to do with the prerogatives of the Standing Committees in terms of setting their agendas and programmes of work, and whether the Assembly could change the agendas adopted by the Committees. The IPU membership was called upon to decide on that matter the following day – the IPU Statutes and Rules would then need to be amended accordingly, so as to clarify the current grey zone in that area.

The Presidents of the Standing Committees underscored that, while participation and the quality of discussions in the Committee Bureaux had improved significantly in recent years, more needed to be done to ensure communication and cooperation beyond the Assemblies. The Bureaux were also called to play an important role in representing the IPU at various international conferences. Among those in the coming months were Geneva Peace Week, the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and the Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. For its part, the IPU was continuing its practice of convening parliamentary meetings in the context of major UN processes – as was the case in 2018 with the UN Conference on Migration, the International Conference on Climate Change and the UN High-Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development.

The members of the Standing Committees were also keen to look for ways to build bridges and foster parliamentary solidarity beyond the official meetings of the IPU. The IPU's strength was the unity in its diversity, and the personal relationships established in the context of the organization helped promote better understanding and peaceful relations between nations. It was agreed that together they would reflect on possible ways of fostering exchanges – including through sports and culture – in the context of various IPU activities.

3. Open briefing session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on *Ending Statelessness by 2024 – Pledges, Action and Results*

On 17 October, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law organized with Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) an open session on *Ending Statelessness by 2024 – Pledges, Action and Results*. The session brought together as panellists members of parliament from Spain and Kenya, as well as a representative from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and a representative from the European Network on Statelessness. The panel was introduced and moderated by UNHCR.

Statelessness, or the absence of a nationality, affected up to 10 million people globally. There was no region that did not have significant numbers of stateless persons. The open session highlighted that nationality was the right to have rights. Without a nationality, a person was invisible and had no access to basic human rights, such as the right to education, access to health or work. There was an urgent need to "humanize" those invisible individuals.

The session reviewed the various causes of statelessness, which included conflict of laws, transfer of territory, gaps in civil registration laws, discrimination in nationality laws or administrative practices, and lack of birth registration. Many of the world's stateless persons were also victims of forced displacement. Indeed, people who had been uprooted from their homes were particularly vulnerable to statelessness, especially when territorial borders were redrawn. Statelessness itself could be a root cause of forced movement. A closer look at the causes of statelessness showed that one common feature stood out—solutions existed and were in the hands of States, their governments and parliaments.

In 2019, UNHCR would hold a ministerial event on statelessness to mark the mid-way point in the 10-year campaign to end statelessness by 2024. That event would provide an opportunity to take stock of achievements and give States a chance to make concrete pledges for additional steps they would take to address statelessness. The session recommended that members of parliament engage in that global effort by raising the issue nationally, mapping out their national context to identify potential causes or gaps that could lead to statelessness situations and taking measures to address those gaps. Small steps could go a long way towards changing the lives of many.

4. Panel discussion on *Where do parliaments stand in the fight against sexism and harassment?*

The regional study on *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe* (<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe>) was launched at the 139th IPU Assembly. Conducted jointly by the IPU and PACE, the study was based on face-to-face interviews with 123 women from 45 European countries, 81 of whom were women parliamentarians and 42 female parliamentary staff. In order to present the findings of the study, an interactive discussion, entitled *Where do parliaments stand in the fight against sexism and harassment?* was organized during the Assembly. The discussion was chaired by the IPU President and Ms. L. Maury Pasquier, President of PACE. The following speakers took part: Ms. M. Rempel, member of parliament (Canada), Mr. L. Córdova, President of the National Electoral Institute (INE) of Mexico, and Ms. M. Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Organization (ILO).

The session began with a theatrical performance in which 12 women parliamentarians read out the anonymous testimonies of women gathered as part of the regional study. These testimonies gave voice to the human experience behind the figures in the new study. Participants were then presented with the main data and findings of the study. The interventions of the guest speakers and the discussion helped establish links between the study's findings and innovative approaches taken at the international and national levels to address both the issue of violence against women in politics, including in parliaments, and that of harassment and gender-based violence at work.

The session provided an opportunity for participants to both share personal experiences of harassment and violence against women in parliaments and to give concrete examples of solutions already being implemented in parliaments and other institutions. Participants agreed that the extent and nature of sexism and gender-based violence against women in parliaments were of great concern and required urgent attention and action by all. They called on national parliaments to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against sexist attitudes and gender-based violence, to put in place complaint and investigation mechanisms that were confidential and sensitive to victims' needs, and to provide training for all those working in parliament on issues of respect at work and combating sexism and harassment.

Participants also highlighted the need to change the cultural norms that contributed to sexism and gender-based violence in order to bring about a lasting change in mind-sets and behaviours. They called on the IPU to keep exploring the issue further by carrying out studies in other regions and continuing the discussions, actively involving men and taking their input into account, for example by making the issue an emergency item, the subject item of a Committee resolution or the theme of an Assembly general debate. They also recommended that the IPU and PACE develop a framework for preventing sexism and harassment in international forums.

5. Panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in combating terrorism and violent extremism*

The panel discussion was organized as part of the activities of the IPU-UN Joint Programme on countering terrorism and violent extremism following a recommendation from the High-Level Advisory Group to give more visibility to the work of the Group and to the roles of parliamentarians in that field. The event sought to bring the global parliamentary community closer to the realities on the ground through the testimonies of victims. It was opened by the IPU Secretary General.

The audience heard the testimony of Ms. F. Bunu, a 19 year-old girl who had been abducted by Boko Haram but had managed to escape. She was committed to sharing her story so that she could help others and called upon parliamentarians to ensure education for all in order to prevent radicalization. The audience then heard the testimony of Mr. I. Buba, the founder of the Youth Coalition Against Terrorism. Through his story, he highlighted the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism as they were felt by the people on the ground. Both Ms. Bunu and Mr. Buba affirmed that young people were willing to work and succeed but needed support from their elected representatives. They launched an appeal for parliamentarians to take action and ensure that the socio-economic rights of all were guaranteed.

Mr. A. Avanesov from UNDP, Ms. S. Alirzayeva from the United Nations Office for Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Mr. B. Tukhtabayev from UNESCO presented the work of their agencies in combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism. UNDP highlighted the economic damage caused by terrorism, as well as the correlation between radicalization and the absence of socio-economic rights. UNOCT emphasized the need for parliaments to join forces with governments as terrorism needed to be fought at every level of society. UNESCO agreed with the victims in underlining the need for educational programmes for youth.

Mr. A. Avsan, a former policeman, judge and parliamentarian from Sweden, made a presentation on the importance of maintaining stable and democratic societies with the rule of law at their core. He highlighted the key role of parliamentarians as part of the global fight against terrorism. Mr. U. Al Ahzari, a renowned scholar and member of the Egyptian House of Representatives, briefed the audience on the cultural misuse of terrorism. He emphasized that violent extremism could be prevented through education, including by teaching people about the misuse of terminology. He talked about the SDGs as an important global platform for prevention and called for the adoption of a global parliamentary declaration against violent extremism. Such a declaration should contain basic principles, such as the prohibition of killing regardless of creed or ideology, and the rejection of tyranny, compulsion and hatred, terrorization of humankind, destruction of homelands and religious profanation.

Participants from Bahrain, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Qatar, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) took the floor. They agreed that it was essential to cooperate in order to fight the scourge collectively. They reiterated that terrorism had no borders and that no country was immune to it. It was important to take that fight on for the good of future generations. Lastly, the participants welcomed the testimonies of the victims and highlighted the importance of giving them a platform to share their stories. They also welcomed the progressive speech delivered by Mr. Al Ahzari, which highlighted tolerance and co-existence.

6. Side event on *Legislating on food and nutrition: Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for parliamentary action*

The session was moderated by Ms. G. Verburg, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the SUN Movement. Dr. H. Millat, MP, Chairperson of the IPU Advisory Group on Health, welcomed the participants. Dr. F. Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO, set the scene for the importance of legislative action to improve nutrition, highlighting that nutrition could help drive the achievement of many, if not all, of the SDGs.

The panel discussion with members of parliament and a youth representative presented good practices in advancing nutrition in different national contexts. Mr. G. Girardi (Chile), MP, presented the Chilean experience in developing legislation targeting labelling and inappropriate marketing of unhealthy foods to children. That model could be replicated in other countries with the support of partners such as the WHO and FAO. He also noted the importance of engaging with academia and the scientific community.

Dr. N. Hamid Mairaj (Pakistan), MP, stressed the role of parliamentarians in ensuring that existing frameworks and policies were implemented. In Pakistan, support from women MPs across party lines was instrumental in the enactment of legislation on protecting breastfeeding. However, she reiterated that health and nutrition should not only be the responsibility of women.

Mr. E. Wangwe (Kenya), MP, highlighted the key role of parliaments in holding government to account. Although the right to food was enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution, Parliament was instrumental in the realization of that fundamental right by ensuring that adequate funds were allocated to nutrition programmes and interventions, and by monitoring implementation.

Ms. T. Chimkowola (Malawi) presented her experience as a young leader engaged in nutrition in Malawi. She challenged parliamentarians and other stakeholders to consider young people as part of the solution rather than the problem.

The parliamentarians who responded stressed in particular the need for multisectoral approaches to nutrition, including health, education, agriculture, and water and sanitation. Another common theme that emerged was the importance of building partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. In order to ensure that people were not left behind, particular attention should be paid to local government and the community level to create an enabling environment for nutrition with the participation of citizens, mothers and young people.

The concluding remarks were made by Ms. C. Rodrigues Birkett, Director, FAO Liaison Office to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), who highlighted the role of parliamentarians in connecting with people, and the challenge of changing minds and attitudes with regard to nutrition.

7. Panel discussion on *Building bridges between the parliamentary and scientific communities*

The panel discussion was organized in the afternoon of 16 October in cooperation with CERN and was moderated by Mr. P.F. Casini, honorary IPU President. The panel was composed of Ms. S. Ataullahjan, Canadian senator and President of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, Mr. P. Lomas, creator and trustee of Raspberry Pi, and Mr. F. Quevedo, Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP).

The panellists agreed that continuing scientific and technological progress and new challenges facing society called for increased cooperation between the worlds of science and politics. Parliamentarians should improve the lives of ordinary people they represented by monitoring the way in which science was put to practical use, which was not always positive. Thanks to their budgetary and law-making functions, parliamentarians played a crucial role in regulating innovations while still allowing the continuation and funding of research. It was highlighted that, even with limited budgets, innovation could be successful. In addition, the panellists underlined that it was important for parliaments to understand the specificities of basic scientific research and to ensure public funds for such research, which often lacked support from private investors. One of the panellists explained that education was the democratization of science and technology and that it could be used to inform debate inside the country and beyond.

It was recognized that there were barriers on both the parliamentary and scientific sides to facilitating evidence-based policies. Parliamentarians stated that it was their responsibility to remain aware of the latest scientific and technological changes while underlining that the world moved extremely fast, and for that reason, it was difficult for them to always be aware of the latest information. On the other hand,

scientists also recognized that they had a responsibility to reach out and communicate with the general public about their findings. It was noted that very few scientists were members of parliaments, which was often due to a lack of interest.

Representatives of different scientific organizations took the floor, as well as parliamentarians from Bahrain, Chile, Malawi, Syrian Arab Republic and Timor-Leste. Chile highlighted a concrete model of cooperation that its parliament had put in place, in the form of an association for parliamentarians and scientists to work together and draft laws that were then submitted to legislators for adoption. The participants agreed that parliamentarians had all the tools at hand to make a positive impact on societies, but that they were lacking specific knowledge.

The IPU was seen as a platform for bringing science and parliaments closer together. The debate led to a unanimous recommendation for the IPU to establish a body on science and education as a more regular part of its work, particularly during the Assemblies. In that way, through the IPU, parliaments would have a permanent interface with the rapidly evolving world of science, technology and innovation, gaining insight into all its implications for policy-making.

8. Panel discussion on *What can MPs do to sort fact from fiction in the age of fake news?*

The IPU Communications Division organized a workshop on fake news in the afternoon of Tuesday 16 October. The panel was made up of Ms. A. Leander, Faculty member of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy and Professor of International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva; Mr. C. Matheson, Member of Parliament from the United Kingdom; and Mr. T. Fakude, Head of Research Relations at the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies. It was moderated by Ms. H. Aly, Director of IRIN News.

Questions discussed included whether fake news was new or simply more visible now thanks to new technology; whether the phenomenon really undermined democracy by sowing confusion, doubt and division; the role of parliament in regulating misinformation without compromising free speech; how the media quality-control the information they disseminated; and alleged malpractice or malign intentions by State actors and data companies such as Cambridge Analytica in the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom, as well as elections in the Caribbean and Catalonia.

The panellists disagreed on whether fake news and misinformation should be regulated but agreed that citizens, particularly young people, should be encouraged to develop a more critical eye when it came to information and its sources.

9. Parity debate on *Ensuring that children enjoy their rights and grow up protected from violence*

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate to promote parity representation and participation of men and women by inviting them to voice their concerns on gender equality during the discussion. The parity debate focused on violence against children and the concrete solutions and measures needed to eliminate it. Forty women and 23 men participated in the debate. The number of men was lower than in the previous debate, where there had been an equal number of women and men. The debate was launched by the following speakers: Ms. J.A. Gakuba, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda and member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; Mr. O. James, Global Campaign Director, the *Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation*; Ms. A. Gass, *Girls Advocacy Alliance* Officer at Plan International, UNOG; and Dr. H. Millat, Member of Parliament from Bangladesh. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya) moderated the debate.

The debate focused on social norms related to age and sex that exposed boys and girls to different forms of violence. Girls were more exposed to violence relating to their sexuality — sexual violence, forced and early marriage, genital mutilation — whereas boys were more targets of homicide and forced labour. The enormous vulnerability to violence of children who were not registered in birth registers and who lived in situations of war required the urgent attention and action of parliamentarians. It was also recommended that age, as well as the situation and specific needs of girls and boys, be taken into consideration in laws and public policies that provided measures aimed at preventing violence against children and services to children victims of violence. It was also recommended that children take part in the decisions that concerned them and be informed of their rights and issues on gender equality through awareness and education campaigns. The participants requested that children's rights be incorporated more often in IPU debates, including in the exchange of good practices between parliamentarians dealing with the issue.

10. Joint IPU-ASGP workshop on: *How good is parliament at holding government to account? How well am I performing my oversight role?*

The joint IPU-ASGP workshop took place on 18 October. It brought together MPs, Secretaries General of parliaments and senior parliamentary staff.

The workshop was moderated by Ms. A. Tolley, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Zealand. The session opened with an introduction of the panellists through questions and answers: Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina); Mr. J.M. Araújo, Secretary General of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal; and Mr. B. Bwalya, Adviser, National Assembly of Zambia.

Mr. A. Richardson (IPU Secretariat) presented the recommendations of the 2017 *Global Parliamentary Report* on parliamentary oversight, and the draft self-assessment toolkit currently being developed by the IPU. The toolkit, which drew directly on the recommendations of the Report, was intended to assist parliaments in assessing their capacity for effective oversight in order to help them to identify strengths, weaknesses and priorities for reform.

The discussion that followed focused on how to make good use of parliament's oversight powers, based on some of the self-assessment questions. Participants took the floor to exchange views, experiences and good practices on mechanisms their parliaments used to ensure government was responsive to parliamentary questions and recommendations.

Some of the examples shared included: parliamentary committees in Sierra Leone that withheld approval of departmental budgets until the relevant Minister had provided an appropriate response to recommendations made by parliament; and a "protest" mechanism in the parliament of Ukraine, whereby extra time in plenary was allocated for addressing questions that had not yet received a satisfactory answer. Participants noted the creation of a new department for evaluation of the impact of laws in Ecuador, the introduction of gender-impact assessments in Portugal, and the publication of pre- and post-legislative regulatory impact assessments in Georgia. Meanwhile, the Parliament of Zambia was engaged in an exercise to evaluate its overall performance, with support from the IPU.

The discussion underlined that parliaments often faced common challenges in holding government to account, though the details varied according to the context of each country. It also drew out the creative solutions that parliaments were developing to address the challenges, and highlighted the importance of the parliament's administrative capacity to provide quality support for oversight to MPs, as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Elections and appointments

1. Vice-President of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee elected one of its members, Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) as its Vice-President for a second one-year term ending in October 2019.

2. Vice-Presidents of the IPU

The Executive Committee elected the following Vice-Presidents for a one-year term ending in October 2019:

- *African Group*: to be nominated
- *Arab Group*: Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt)
- *Asia-Pacific Group*: Mr. Nguyen Van Giau (Viet Nam)
- *Eurasia Group*: Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation)
- *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*: Mr. A. Lins (Brazil)
- *Twelve Plus Group*: Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada).

3. Executive Committee

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

- *African Group*
Mr. G. Gali Ngothé (Chad) to replace Ms. F. Benbadis (Algeria), whose term had ended.

- *Asia-Pacific Group*
Mr. G. Chen (China) to replace Mr. S. Suzuki (Japan), whose term had ended.
- *Twelve Plus Group*
Mr. M. Grujic (Serbia) to replace Mr. R. del Picchia (France), whose term had ended.

4. Sub-Committee on Finance

The Executive Committee appointed:

- Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) for a term ending in October 2020.

The Sub-Committee elected Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland) as its Chair.

5. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians elected Ms. S. Kihika (Kenya) as its President for a two-year term ending in October 2020.

It also elected the following three regional representatives to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. F. Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran) for a term ending in March 2022.

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) for a term ending in March 2020.
- Ms. O. Sotnyk (Ukraine) for a term ending in March 2022.

6. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council elected the following four members to the Committee for a four-year term ending in October 2022:

- Mr. R. De Roon (Netherlands)
- Mr. L. Wehrl (Switzerland)
- Mr. J.G. Correa (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
- Mr. A.A. Jama (Somalia).

7. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council elected the following four members for a four-year term ending in October 2022:

- *African Group*: Mr. R. Mwewa (Zambia)
- *Asia-Pacific Group*: Mr. J. Wilson (Australia)
- *Group of Latin America and the Caribbean*: Ms. G.C. Bañuelos (Mexico)
- *Twelve Plus Group*: Ms. Á. Vadai (Hungary).

8. Gender Partnership Group

Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) was appointed to the Group.

Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway) was elected Chair of the Group.

9. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committees elected the following members for a two-year term (renewable) in their respective Bureaux ending in October 2020:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Eurasia Group:

- Vacancy

Twelve Plus Group:

- Ms. A. Shkrum (Ukraine) – first term

Asia-Pacific Group

- Vacancy
- Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) – second term

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

- President: Ms. V. Muzenda Tsitsi (Zimbabwe) (until March 2020)

African Group

- Ms. V. Muzenda Tsitsi – to complete the second term of Zimbabwe, ending in March 2020.

Asia-Pacific Group

- No candidature received.

Eurasia Group

- Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) – to complete the first term of Armenia, ending in March 2020.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

- Vice-President: Ms. A. Gerken (Netherlands) (until March 2020)

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

- President: Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina) - March 2019 (first term)
- Vice-President: Ms. S. Al-Hashem (Kuwait) - March 2020 (first term)

African Group

- Mr. P.H. Katjavivi (Namibia) - October 2020 (first term)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan) - October 2020 (first term)
- Ms. B. Sampatisiri (Thailand) - October 2020 (second term)

Eurasia Group

- Mr. M. Melkumyan (Armenia) - October 2020 (first term)

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. A. Theologou (Cyprus) - October 2020 (first term)
- Mr. L. Iemets (Ukraine) - October 2020 (first term).

10. Rapporteurs to the 141st Assembly

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights appointed Dr. H. Millat (Bangladesh) and Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The IPU President will continue consultations with a view to nominating a woman parliamentarian from Africa as a third co-Rapporteur.

11. Internal Auditors for the 2019 accounts

The Governing Council appointed the following Internal Auditor for the 2019 accounts:

- Mr. R. del Picchia (France)

Media and Communications

Media coverage

The IPU communications team issued four press releases during the 139th Assembly.

The press release that generated the most interest was “*#MeToo: Alarming levels of sexual abuse and violence found in Europe’s Parliaments*”, to accompany the launch of the new study on sexism against women in parliament, published in partnership with PACE.

The new IPU communications strategy, which prioritizes news agencies and good relations with key journalists, was paying off as many of them produced news wires (AFP, ATS, AP, EFE...) that were picked up. Consequently, the #MeToo release generated close to 1,000 news clippings, including many major international news outlets (CNN, BBC, RT, Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, Washington Post, ABC...).

The press release on MPs’ human rights also generated much interest, followed by the closing press release on the emergency item on climate change, with around 800 news clippings in total between them.

In addition, the communications team sent the press releases to all IPU Members in English, French, Spanish and Arabic to encourage them to disseminate further.

A closing press conference at the Palais des Nations with the UN correspondents was well attended, with about a dozen journalists despite competition from a media stake-out on Syria happening at the same time.



#IPU139 Governing Council approves Committee on #HumanRights of #MPs decision on 60 #Venezuela parliamentarians with reservations by some countries. @delsasolorzano



1:11 PM - 18 Oct 2018

53 Retweets 48 Likes

Social media

The strategy of posting less but more strategic tweets with IPU institutional messaging led to big hikes in followers, notably on twitter where there was a 58 per cent increase in followers compared to the last Assembly (568 new followers at #IPU139 versus 360 at #IPU138). The number of overall followers stood at around 18,500 at the end of the Assembly.

The IPU’s facebook page and new Instagram account also enjoyed increases in followers and engagement.

The most popular @IPUparliament tweet, with 53 retweets and 48 likes, was about MP human rights violations in Venezuela.

Website

The number of visitors to ipu.org during #IPU139 increased by 19 per cent compared to the last Assembly, and the number of pages seen increased by 9 per cent. Those increases were probably largely due to increased visibility in the media and social media, as well as the usual practice of posting documents and official assembly pictures on flickr, which drove traffic to the website.

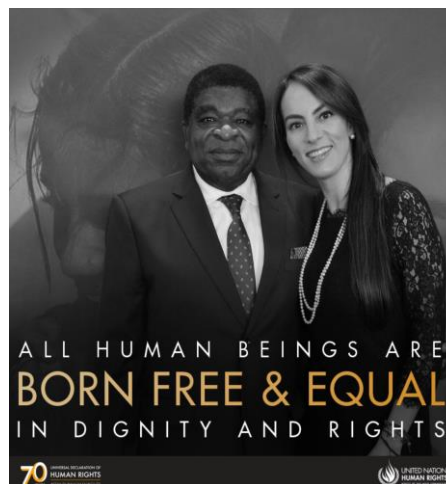
| Indicator | #IPU138 | #IPU139 | Progression |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Website visitors | 9,728 | 11,576 | 19% |
| Website pages seen | 32,984 | 35,957 | 9% |

Photographs, selfie box and video

The IPU official photographers at the Assembly produced hundreds of photographs that were posted at regular intervals on ipu.org for participants to download and share.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the communications team also organized a 'selfie box', in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The box proved popular with over 2,000 'selfies' taken by delegates, many of which were shared on social media.

A short video of the highlights of the Assembly is being prepared.



Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Members (178)

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

Associate Members (12)

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

* As at the close of the 139th Assembly.

Agenda^{*}, resolutions and other texts of the 139th Assembly

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

* The unfinished business of the 138th Assembly was dealt with during the 139th Assembly.

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

***Endorsed by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)***

The collective body of scientific knowledge of the world we live in is greater today than at any time in history. Scientific research continues to push back the boundaries of our known universe. This knowledge fuels rapid innovation and technological change, which in turn can enhance human well-being and stimulate economic growth, among a wealth of other potential benefits. Over the years, advancements in the natural and social sciences, including the development of incredibly effective drugs and medical procedures, have resulted in a better quality of life for everyone.

The associated technological developments have generated, among many other things, extraordinary improvements in connectivity and communication. Digitalization and big data offer new ways of creating innovative solutions, such as early warning systems to prevent violence, and empower young people and women to solve social issues through technology. They also present a great opportunity to make substantial progress in the areas of biology, renewable energy, financial technology, as well as towards Industry 4.0, commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution.*

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the key role that science and technological innovation play in sustainable development, emphasizing their importance not only for economic growth and prosperity but also for environmental protection, development and social inclusion. However, we recognize that scientific discovery and technological change do not automatically lead to positive developments for society. The manipulation of the human genome, autonomous killer robots, cybercrime and the implications of the use of artificial intelligence are just some of the ethical and societal challenges of our time. Shying away from these difficult questions is not an option.

In an ever-changing world, we must be at the forefront of deliberations on new issues that can have a major impact on our societies. We must approach our task with humility, recognizing our own limitations, encouraging dialogue and avoiding ideological responses. As parliamentarians, we are responsible for fostering an environment where science, technology and innovation make a positive contribution to peace, development and human well-being, while simultaneously limiting or mitigating the associated risks and protecting the planet. We do not take these responsibilities lightly. Our debate has identified several avenues for parliamentary action to promote peace and development through science and technological innovation:

Strengthen legal frameworks that are conducive to technological and scientific innovation for peace and development

As lawmakers, we have the means to create a legal framework that is conducive to innovation, as well as a regulatory environment that enables businesses to flourish while guaranteeing respect for the environment and international law, particularly international human rights law. Our role is to safeguard the interests of society and people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Promote education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and, in particular, encourage the participation of women and girls, with the aim of achieving gender equality and reducing the gender imbalance in STEM education and in scientific careers;
- Promote universal digital literacy, especially among young people, in view of the transformation of work skills required for a future labour market built on a digital and knowledge-based economy, making sure to leave no one behind;
- Adopt timely and effective national and international legislation in favour of technological innovation that promotes peace, security, sustainable development and social inclusion and that defines common ethical boundaries;
- Ensure, by using our legislative and oversight prerogatives, that no development driven by science and technology impedes or violates human rights or results in the irrational use of natural resources; and

* Industry 4.0 refers to the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and cognitive computing.

- Guarantee respect for the international human rights framework as the beacon that guides our decisions on how to address difficult ethical issues.

Make parliaments drivers of technological innovation in the interest of transparency and inclusion

Science and technological innovation are radically transforming every aspect of human existence, including the way parliaments work. The use of modern technology can make parliaments more efficient and effective. We want to assume parliamentary leadership in technological innovation not only through our legislative function, but also by transforming our parliamentary processes and promoting a culture of engagement with our people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Increase the level of transparency, accountability and responsiveness to our constituencies through the use of modern information and communications technologies, such as live video streaming of parliamentary sessions and improved online information access;
- Make use of the available technological tools and instruments to improve the design and monitoring of our policies and legislations;
- Take steps to ensure that our parliaments are open and transparent institutions; that they are willing to consider innovative working methods, such as the establishment of parliamentary committees on the future; and that parliamentary research services are appropriately funded and resourced so that they can provide parliamentarians with timely, non-partisan analyses;
- Reduce the carbon footprint of parliaments and work towards the realization of e-parliaments; and
- Strengthen inter-parliamentary collaboration in the fields of science and technology and share best practices and lessons learned.

Establish strong connections with the scientific community

It is our duty to facilitate and promote regular and systematic interaction between parliaments and the scientific community. Access to the best available expertise is essential for us to make informed choices. The rational, scientific approach to making sense of the world needs to be encouraged and supported by everyone, including politicians and the media. Therefore, we decide to:

- Recognize that scientific research plays a fundamental role in developing knowledge and technologies that can allow parliaments to formulate evidence-based policies aimed at tackling societal challenges;
- Support mechanisms and budgetary measures that guarantee science-based policymaking to ensure the sustainable well-being of future generations;
- Reaffirm that non-partisan funding for scientific research is an investment in our future;
- Underline the importance of scientific methods for elucidating facts that can be checked, verified and accepted by society, especially at this current time when factual information is increasingly being called into question in political discourse, and when scientific consensus is no longer valued by all sectors of society; and
- Promote and value the presence in parliaments of scientists, engineers, innovators and STEM educators.

Support international scientific cooperation in favour of peace and development

Science and technology provide a neutral umbrella under which parliamentarians with different political opinions can come together and address global challenges related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Science can be used to build bridges and to bring countries in conflict together through scientific cooperation that benefits their respective populations. Therefore, we decide to:

- Support models of peaceful scientific cooperation, such as the ones developed by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the International Centre for Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME);
- Support the initiative by the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to establish, in cooperation with CERN, an IPU Science for Peace Schools programme aimed at bridging the worlds of science and politics and creating inter-parliamentary networks to address common challenges;
- Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge-sharing as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda;
- Call for open access to scientific publications as a way of reducing the unequal distribution of scientific knowledge and technological innovation and of increasing the ability of people to contribute more effectively to society;

- Support the technology transfer process in developing countries by conducting effective capacity-building activities in the receiving country, with a view to ensuring that technological innovation does not further increase global inequalities; and
- Include scientific knowledge in the parliamentary oversight of the 2030 Agenda implementation process.

The future is, by definition, uncertain. Scientific discovery, innovation and technological change bring great opportunities, but also risks that we must control. Parliaments have a critical role to play in that regard. We can greatly contribute to this process by raising parliamentary awareness of the importance of science, technology, innovation and STEM education for society; by making sure that science is systematically brought into public debates and decision-making; by considering the implementation of appropriate regulations to foster technological innovation; and by promoting cross-border initiatives based on scientific cooperation. In our role as representatives of the people, we pledge to engage the scientific community in an ongoing dialogue on the ways in which we can enhance peace and development, improve human well-being and safeguard the interests of all members of our society.

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

*Resolution adopted by consensus¹ by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that migration has been a feature of human civilization from time immemorial and that, when governed humanely and fairly, migration contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in both origin and destination countries and strengthens the bonds of human solidarity,

Also recalling all the relevant international instruments, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),

Affirming that people on the move, irrespective of their legal status, as all human beings, are entitled to the full enjoyment of the human rights set out in the relevant international treaties and covenants,

Conscious of the burden shouldered by the countries of destination that can come from large, unpredictable movements of persons, and the potential impact on countries of origin of the large-scale migration of skilled workers,

Noting that the international approach to migration governance is still largely ad hoc, and that no equivalent exists for migrants to the clearly-defined status and rights of refugees in international law,

Welcoming the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent efforts to improve international cooperation and solidarity, and to share equitably the burden and responsibility for migration governance through the preparation of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

Recalling the commitment of the international parliamentary community to strengthen cooperation on migration governance, with a strong focus on the human rights of migrants, as outlined in the declarations and resolutions on migration adopted by the 130th, 133rd and 138th IPU Assemblies and other IPU documents,

Underscoring that migration should be a choice not a necessity, and that, through international legal obligations and commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, States have a shared responsibility and have undertaken to address all the root causes of migration such as violence and conflict, poverty, inequality, unemployment and economic exclusion, lack of economic opportunity, especially for women and youth, social inequalities, disregard of rule of law and transparency, violations of human rights, natural disasters and climate change,

Affirming the need to uphold common standards for the protection of the human rights of migrants and migration governance, and to ensure a gender- and disability-responsive and child-sensitive approach at all stages of migration,

¹ - The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservations on operative paragraph 9.
- The delegations of Ethiopia and Ukraine expressed reservations on operative paragraph 16.
- The delegation of Kuwait expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 9 and 16.
- The delegation of Jordan expressed reservations on all references to international agreements to which Jordan is not a signatory.
- The delegation of Poland expressed its reservation on the resolution as a whole.

Recognizing the multiple discriminations and forms of violence that migrant women face in countries of origin, transit and destination, particularly those engaged as domestic workers, and reaffirming the need to urge host countries to accept their responsibility in this area,

Also recognizing that women constitute the majority of victims of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation and forced labour in domestic work,

Reaffirming the sovereign right of States to determine, in accordance with international law, their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, and also recognizing the right of States to distinguish between a regular and irregular migration status in their legislative and policy measures on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, while taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work,

1. *Welcomes* the process leading to the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that should be adopted on 10 December 2018, and urges States and their respective parliaments to make full use of this new instrument for improving international cooperation and migration governance;
2. *Calls upon* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to ratify and implement relevant international human rights laws and key ILO conventions² as well as other relevant international and regional instruments protecting the rights of migrants, women, children and persons in vulnerable situations;
3. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that decisions of sovereign States on migration policies and related legislation, including bilateral and regional agreements, are consistent with their States' international human rights obligations and the rule of law;
4. *Urges* parliamentarians to lead efforts to develop evidence-informed narratives on migration that avoid stereotyping but, instead, enhance integration and social cohesion, and to take vigorous action to combat xenophobia, racism, intolerance and other forms of discrimination;
5. *Calls on* parliaments to promote people's access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on the opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration, thus enabling would-be migrants to make informed choices;
6. *Encourages* "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches to migration based on partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the private sector, and calls for regular consultation with migrants and diaspora groups in the policy-making process where appropriate, and also calls for gender-sensitive training on migration for all professionals and officials that are in contact with migrants;
7. *Urges* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to expand the legal pathways for migration to facilitate labour mobility and skills training, family reunification, and migration for reasons such as armed conflict, gender-based violence, natural disasters and climate change;
8. *Calls on* governments to take measures to promote mutual understanding and respect between migrants and the host society, and, recalling that integration is a two-way task that implies the migrants' respect for the national laws of their destination country, to facilitate migrants' integration in society, inter alia, by way of language courses, vocational training, recognition of educational and professional credentials, information about economic opportunities, protection against discrimination and, in accordance with national legislation, pathways to citizenship for permanent residents;
9. *Recalls* that social protection and labour rights apply to all persons, including migrants, and that regular migrants should have equitable access to social security coverage and portability of contributions and entitlements in accordance with national legislation;
10. *Urges* States to adopt gender-responsive labour policies and legislation, grounded in international labour and human rights standards, with a view to ensuring that all women migrant workers, including domestic and care workers, are protected against all forms of abuse and exploitation, including the confiscation of travel documents;

² In particular ILO conventions 97, 143, 181 and 189.

11. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and discrimination against migrant women, particularly domestic workers as a vulnerable group in the host countries, and urges States to take legislative, executive and judiciary measures to combat this form of violence and discrimination;
12. *Calls on* state authorities at their respective levels of competency to ensure all persons, including migrants, have proof of legal identity and nationality and adequate documentation, and effective access to education, health care, and other basic services, regardless of their migration status;
13. *Insists on* due process and access to justice for all migrants and calls for enhanced cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in order to ensure the safe and dignified return for migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on a state's territory, to use forced return only as a last resort to seek alternatives to the detention of migrants, and to work seriously towards the elimination of detention of children on migratory grounds;
14. *Calls for* the establishment of an international standard of practice for dealing with, and protecting, migrants in vulnerable situations, including stateless persons and unaccompanied children, and insists on the concept of the "best interest of the child" in migration policy;
15. *Calls upon* States, particularly countries of origin, to address situations where a child would otherwise be stateless by strengthening measures to reduce statelessness, including ensuring that women and men can equally confer their nationality to their children;
16. *Invites* governments to support the contribution of diasporas to their country of origin by facilitating mobility and investment and by studying the adoption in national legislation of measures to enhance political participation such as the right to vote, dual citizenship and the representation of diasporas in parliament;
17. *Encourages* the development of comprehensive approaches for the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in the countries of origin, by combining reintegration support targeting individuals and the communities to which migrants return with measures to enhance the governance of migration, livelihood opportunities and the protection of human rights, in general;
18. *Calls on* States to take meaningful and coordinated action, including enacting legislation, to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and end impunity for trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, to protect migrants, particularly women and children, from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to assist migrants who have become victims of trafficking; and also encourages States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and combat such acts and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities;
19. *Urges* governments to make full use of the existing data sources on migration, such as the Global Migration Data Portal developed by the International Organization for Migration, and to strengthen country level collection and the sharing of data on migration, disaggregated by age, gender, migration status and other relevant criteria, with a view to informing debates, policy-making and legislation, while protecting personal data;
20. *Affirms* the necessity to exchange information and data on the number of migrants, their countries of origin, the circumstances and causes of their migration, their needs and the efforts needed to assist them;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to require government to report periodically on progress in the implementation of national migration policies, and to use parliamentary tools such as questions to ministers, public hearings and committee enquiries to hold government to account for the results achieved;
22. *Urges* parliaments to actively participate in and support regional integration processes and transnational efforts to coordinate migration policy, and to domesticate relevant regional instruments in national legislation;

23. *Calls on* parliaments to actively engage in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a means to optimize migration governance and address the major drivers of forced and irregular migration—particularly extreme poverty, climate change and natural disasters, and urges parliaments to promote measures aimed at raising awareness of and maximizing the development benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration;
24. *Invites* all parliaments to participate in the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018 in Marrakesh (Morocco);
25. *Also invites* parliaments to play an active role in follow-up and implementation of the Global Compact and parliamentarians to join national delegations to the International Migration Review Forum, which will meet every four years, beginning in 2022, as the main global mechanism to review the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration;
26. *Calls on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments, with the support of the International Organization for Migration, to develop a "Parliamentary plan of action on migration" by the end of 2019, that operationalizes the commitments in this resolution, the Global Compact for Migration and State obligations under international human rights law, and to report to the IPU on progress in 2021;
27. *Recommends* that parliaments avail of parliamentary exchanges and inter-parliamentary conferences, such as the IPU Assemblies, as platforms for constructive dialogue on migration policy and the protection of migrants.

Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138th Assembly

Do you agree that the Assembly can change the work plan and agenda of the Standing Committees?

Results

Affirmative votes 874 Abstentions120
Negative votes 671

| Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|
| Afghanistan | | 14 | | Georgia | | 10 | | Poland | 15 | | |
| Albania | | <i>Absent</i> | | Germany | | 19 | | Portugal | | 13 | |
| Algeria | 16 | | | Ghana | | | 14 | Qatar | 11 | | |
| Andorra | | 10 | | Greece | | 13 | | Republic of Korea | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Angola | | 14 | | Guatemala | | <i>Absent</i> | | Republic of Moldova | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Argentina | | | 10 | Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | Romania | | 14 | |
| Armenia | 11 | | | Haiti | | <i>Absent</i> | | Russian Federation | 20 | | |
| Australia | | 14 | | Hungary | | 13 | | Rwanda | | | 12 |
| Austria | | 12 | | Iceland | | 10 | | Samoa | 8 | | |
| Azerbaijan | | | 10 | India | | | 23 | San Marino | | 10 | |
| Bahrain | 11 | | | Indonesia | 22 | | | Saudi Arabia | 14 | | |
| Bangladesh | 20 | | | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 18 | | | Senegal | 12 | | |
| Belarus | 10 | | | Iraq | 14 | | | Serbia | 12 | | |
| Belgium | | 10 | | Ireland | 10 | | | Seychelles | 10 | | |
| Bhutan | | | 10 | Israel | | 12 | | Sierra Leone | 11 | | |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 12 | | | Italy | | 17 | | Singapore | 12 | | |
| Botswana | | 11 | | Japan | 20 | | | Slovenia | | 10 | |
| Brazil | | 22 | | Jordan | 12 | | | Somalia | 13 | | |
| Bulgaria | | <i>Absent</i> | | Kazakhstan | 13 | | | South Africa | | | 17 |
| Burkina Faso | 13 | | | Kenya | 15 | | | South Sudan | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Burundi | 12 | | | Kuwait | 11 | | | Spain | | 15 | |
| Cabo Verde | | 10 | | Lao People's Dem. Republic | | | 12 | Sri Lanka | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Cambodia | | 13 | | Latvia | | 11 | | Sudan | 15 | | |
| Cameroon | | 13 | | Lebanon | 11 | | | Suriname | 10 | | |
| Canada | | 15 | | Lesotho | | 11 | | Sweden | | 10 | |
| Central African Republic | 8 | | | Liechtenstein | | 8 | | Switzerland | | 12 | |
| Chad | 13 | | | Lithuania | | 11 | | Syrian Arab Rep. | 13 | | |
| Chile | 13 | | | Malawi | 10 | | | Thailand | | 18 | |
| China | 23 | | | Malaysia | 14 | | | Timor-Leste | | 11 | |
| Comoros | | <i>Absent</i> | | Mali | 10 | | | Togo | 10 | | |
| Congo | | <i>Absent</i> | | Malta | | 10 | | Tonga | 8 | | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | <i>Absent</i> | | Mexico | | 20 | | Tunisia | 13 | | |
| Croatia | | 10 | | Micronesia (Fed. States of) | 8 | | | Turkey | 18 | | |
| Cuba | 13 | | | Monaco | | 10 | | Turkmenistan | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Cyprus | | 10 | | Mongolia | | <i>Absent</i> | | Uganda | 15 | | |
| Czech Republic | | 13 | | Morocco | 13 | | | Ukraine | | 17 | |
| DPR of Korea | 12 | | | Myanmar | 15 | | | United Arab Emirates | 11 | | |
| DR of the Congo | 17 | | | Namibia | | 11 | | United Kingdom | | 18 | |
| Denmark | | 12 | | Netherlands | | 13 | | Uruguay | | 11 | |
| Djibouti | 10 | | | New Zealand | | 11 | | Uzbekistan | 15 | | |
| Ecuador | 13 | | | Nicaragua | 8 | | | Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) | | 15 | |
| Egypt | 19 | | | Niger | | 13 | | Viet Nam | 19 | | |
| El Salvador | | <i>Absent</i> | | Nigeria | 20 | | | Yemen | 11 | | |
| Equatorial Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | Norway | | 12 | | Zambia | | 13 | |
| Estonia | | 11 | | Oman | 11 | | | Zimbabwe | | 13 | |
| Ethiopia | 19 | | | Pakistan | | 21 | | | | | |
| Fiji | 10 | | | Palestine | 11 | | | | | | |
| Finland | | | 12 | Paraguay | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | | |
| France | | 18 | | Philippines | 20 | | | | | | |

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Results of the roll-call vote on the unfinished business of the 138th Assembly

Do you agree that at the 140th Assembly the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights holds a panel debate that will not lead to a resolution, entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons?*

Results

Affirmative votes..... 499 Abstentions 130
Negative votes 636

| Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|---------------|--------------------------------|-----|----|---------------|
| Afghanistan | | | <i>Absent</i> | Georgia | 11 | | | Poland | | 10 | |
| Albania | | | <i>Absent</i> | Germany | | | <i>Absent</i> | Portugal | 13 | | |
| Algeria | | 16 | | Ghana | | | <i>Absent</i> | Qatar | | 11 | |
| Andorra | | | <i>Absent</i> | Greece | 13 | | | Republic of Korea | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Angola | | | 14 | Guatemala | | | <i>Absent</i> | Republic of Moldova | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Argentina | 10 | | | Guinea | | | <i>Absent</i> | Romania | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Armenia | | | <i>Absent</i> | Haiti | | | <i>Absent</i> | Russian Federation | | 20 | |
| Australia | 14 | | | Hungary | | | <i>Absent</i> | Rwanda | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Austria | 10 | | | Iceland | 10 | | | Samoa | | 8 | |
| Azerbaijan | | | <i>Absent</i> | India | | | 23 | San Marino | 10 | | |
| Bahrain | | 11 | | Indonesia | | 22 | | Saudi Arabia | | 14 | |
| Bangladesh | | | <i>Absent</i> | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | | 18 | | Senegal | | 12 | |
| Belarus | | 13 | | Iraq | | 14 | | Serbia | 7 | | 5 |
| Belgium | 10 | | | Ireland | | | <i>Absent</i> | Seychelles | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Bhutan | | | 10 | Israel | | | <i>Absent</i> | Sierra Leone | | 11 | |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | | | 12 | Italy | 17 | | | Singapore | | | 10 |
| Botswana | 11 | | | Japan | 10 | | | Slovenia | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Brazil | 20 | | | Jordan | | 12 | | Somalia | | 11 | |
| Bulgaria | | | <i>Absent</i> | Kazakhstan | | 13 | | South Africa | 17 | | |
| Burkina Faso | | 13 | | Kenya | | 15 | | South Sudan | | 13 | |
| Burundi | | 12 | | Kuwait | | 11 | | Spain | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Cabo Verde | 3 | 7 | | Lao People's Dem. Republic | | | <i>Absent</i> | Sri Lanka | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Cambodia | | | 13 | Latvia | | 11 | | Sudan | | 15 | |
| Cameroon | | | <i>Absent</i> | Lebanon | | 11 | | Suriname | 10 | | |
| Canada | 15 | | | Lesotho | | | 11 | Sweden | 10 | | |
| Central African Republic | | 8 | | Liechtenstein | | | <i>Absent</i> | Switzerland | 12 | | |
| Chad | | 13 | | Lithuania | | | <i>Absent</i> | Syrian Arab Rep. | | 13 | |
| Chile | 10 | | 3 | Malawi | | | <i>Absent</i> | Thailand | 18 | | |
| China | | 23 | | Malaysia | | 14 | | Timor-Leste | | 10 | |
| Comoros | | | <i>Absent</i> | Mali | | | <i>Absent</i> | Togo | 10 | | |
| Congo | | 10 | | Malta | 10 | | | Tonga | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | | <i>Absent</i> | Mexico | 20 | | | Tunisia | | 13 | |
| Croatia | | | <i>Absent</i> | Micronesia (Fed. States of) | 3 | 5 | | Turkey | | 18 | |
| Cuba | 13 | | | Monaco | | | 10 | Turkmenistan | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Cyprus | 10 | | | Mongolia | | | <i>Absent</i> | Uganda | | 15 | |
| Czech Republic | 13 | | | Morocco | | 13 | | Ukraine | 17 | | |
| DPR of Korea | | 12 | | Myanmar | | | <i>Absent</i> | United Arab Emirates | | 11 | |
| DR of the Congo | | 17 | | Namibia | 10 | | | United Kingdom | 18 | | |
| Denmark | 12 | | | Netherlands | 13 | | | Uruguay | 11 | | |
| Djibouti | | 10 | | New Zealand | 11 | | | Uzbekistan | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Ecuador | 13 | | | Nicaragua | | | 8 | Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) | 4 | | 11 |
| Egypt | | 19 | | Niger | | | <i>Absent</i> | Viet Nam | | | <i>Absent</i> |
| El Salvador | 10 | | | Nigeria | | | <i>Absent</i> | Yemen | | 11 | |
| Equatorial Guinea | | 11 | | Norway | 12 | | | Zambia | | 13 | |
| Estonia | | | <i>Absent</i> | Oman | | 11 | | Zimbabwe | | 13 | |
| Ethiopia | | 19 | | Pakistan | | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | |
| Fiji | 10 | | | Palestine | | 10 | | | | | |
| Finland | | | <i>Absent</i> | Paraguay | | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | |
| France | 18 | | | Philippines | | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | |

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments

Results of the roll-call vote on the request by the delegation of Burkina Faso for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---|------|
| Affirmative votes | 715 | Total of affirmative and negative votes ... | 1046 |
| Negative votes | 331 | Two-thirds majority | 697 |
| Abstentions | 619 | | |

| Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|--|
| Afghanistan | 14 | | | Georgia | 10 | | | Poland | 15 | | | |
| Albania | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Germany | 19 | | | Portugal | 13 | | |
| Algeria | | | 16 | Ghana | 14 | | | Qatar | | 11 | | |
| Andorra | 10 | | | Greece | 13 | | | Republic of Korea | | <i>Absent</i> | | |
| Angola | | | 14 | Guatemala | | <i>Absent</i> | | Republic of Moldova | | <i>Absent</i> | | |
| Argentina | 10 | | | Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | Romania | 14 | | | |
| Armenia | 11 | | | Haiti | | <i>Absent</i> | | Russian Federation | | | 20 | |
| Australia | 8 | 6 | | Hungary | 13 | | | Rwanda | 12 | | | |
| Austria | | | 12 | Iceland | | | 10 | Samoa | | 8 | | |
| Azerbaijan | | | 10 | India | 12 | | 11 | San Marino | | | 10 | |
| Bahrain | | 11 | | Indonesia | | | 22 | Saudi Arabia | | 14 | | |
| Bangladesh | | | 20 | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | | 18 | | Senegal | 12 | | | |
| Belarus | | | 10 | Iraq | | 14 | | Serbia | 4 | | 8 | |
| Belgium | 10 | | | Ireland | | | 10 | Seychelles | | | 10 | |
| Bhutan | 6 | | 4 | Israel | | | 12 | Sierra Leone | | | 11 | |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | | | 12 | Italy | 17 | | | Singapore | | | 12 | |
| Botswana | | | 11 | Japan | 20 | | | Slovenia | 10 | | | |
| Brazil | | | 22 | Jordan | | 12 | | Somalia | | | 13 | |
| Bulgaria | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Kazakhstan | 13 | | | | | | |
| Burkina Faso | 13 | | | Kenya | | | 15 | South Africa | | 17 | | |
| Burundi | 12 | | | Kuwait | | 11 | | South Sudan | | <i>Absent</i> | | |
| Cabo Verde | 10 | | | Lao People's Dem. Republic | | | 12 | Spain | 10 | 5 | | |
| Cambodia | | | 13 | Latvia | | 11 | | Sri Lanka | | <i>Absent</i> | | |
| Cameroon | 13 | | | Lebanon | | 11 | | Sudan | | 15 | | |
| Canada | 5 | | 10 | Lesotho | 11 | | | Suriname | 10 | | | |
| Central African Republic | 8 | | | Liechtenstein | | | 8 | Sweden | | | 10 | |
| Chad | 13 | | | Lithuania | | | 11 | Switzerland | 9 | 3 | | |
| Chile | | | 13 | Lithuania | | | 11 | Syrian Arab Rep. | | 13 | | |
| China | 23 | | | Malawi | | | 10 | Thailand | | | 18 | |
| Comoros | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Malaysia | | 14 | Timor-Leste | 11 | | | |
| Congo | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Mali | 10 | | Togo | 10 | | | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Malta | 10 | | Tonga | | | 8 | |
| Croatia | | | 10 | Mexico | 10 | | 10 | Tunisia | | 13 | | |
| Cuba | 13 | | | Micronesia (Fed. States of) | 8 | | | Turkey | | | 18 | |
| Cyprus | | | 10 | Monaco | | 10 | | Turkmenistan | | <i>Absent</i> | | |
| Czech Republic | | 13 | | Mongolia | | <i>Absent</i> | | Uganda | 15 | | | |
| DPR of Korea | | 12 | | Morocco | | | 13 | Ukraine | | | 17 | |
| DR of the Congo | 17 | | | Myanmar | | | 15 | United Arab Emirates | | 11 | | |
| Denmark | | 12 | | Namibia | | 11 | | United Kingdom | 18 | | | |
| Djibouti | | | 10 | Netherlands | | 13 | | Uruguay | | | 11 | |
| Ecuador | 13 | | | New Zealand | | 11 | | Uzbekistan | | | 15 | |
| Egypt | 19 | | | Nicaragua | 8 | | | Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) | 10 | | 5 | |
| El Salvador | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Niger | 13 | | | | | | |
| Equatorial Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Nigeria | 20 | | | | | | |
| Estonia | 11 | | | Norway | | 12 | | Viet Nam | 19 | | | |
| Ethiopia | 19 | | | Oman | | 11 | | Yemen | | 11 | | |
| Fiji | | | 10 | Pakistan | 6 | | 15 | Zambia | | | 13 | |
| Finland | | | 12 | Pakistan | | 11 | | Zimbabwe | | | 13 | |
| France | 18 | | | Palestine | | 11 | | | | | | |
| | | | | Paraguay | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | | Philippines | 20 | | | | | | | |

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Cutting off aid to UNRWA — A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law:
Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this
decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole**

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request by the delegations of Jordan and
Kuwait for the inclusion of an emergency item**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes..... 1,036 Total of affirmative and negative votes .. 1,294
Negative votes 258 Two-thirds majority..... 863
Abstentions 371

| Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|
| Afghanistan | 14 | | | Georgia | | | 10 | Poland | 15 | | |
| Albania | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Germany | | 19 | Portugal | | | 13 |
| Algeria | 16 | | | Ghana | | | 14 | Qatar | 11 | | |
| Andorra | 10 | | | Greece | 13 | | | Republic of Korea | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Angola | 14 | | | Guatemala | | <i>Absent</i> | | Republic of Moldova | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Argentina | 10 | | | Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | Romania | | 14 | |
| Armenia | 5 | | 6 | Haiti | | <i>Absent</i> | | Russian Federation | 20 | | |
| Australia | | 11 | 3 | Hungary | | 13 | | Rwanda | | | 12 |
| Austria | | | 12 | Iceland | | 10 | | Samoa | 8 | | |
| Azerbaijan | 10 | | | India | 23 | | | San Marino | 5 | | 5 |
| Bahrain | 11 | | | Indonesia | 22 | | | Saudi Arabia | 14 | | |
| Bangladesh | 20 | | | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 18 | | | Senegal | 12 | | |
| Belarus | | | 10 | Iraq | 14 | | | Serbia | 10 | | 2 |
| Belgium | | 10 | | Ireland | | | 10 | Seychelles | 10 | | |
| Bhutan | 7 | | 3 | Israel | | 12 | | Sierra Leone | | | 11 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 12 | | | Italy | | | 17 | Singapore | | | 12 |
| Botswana | 11 | | | Japan | 20 | | | Slovenia | | | 10 |
| Brazil | 22 | | | Jordan | 12 | | | Somalia | 13 | | |
| Bulgaria | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Kazakhstan | 13 | | South Africa | 17 | | |
| Burkina Faso | | | 13 | Kenya | | | 15 | South Sudan | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Burundi | 12 | | | Kuwait | 11 | | | Spain | | 15 | |
| Cabo Verde | | | 10 | Lao People's Dem. Republic | 12 | | | Sri Lanka | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Cambodia | | | 13 | Latvia | | 11 | | Sudan | 15 | | |
| Cameroon | | 13 | | Lebanon | 11 | | | Suriname | 10 | | |
| Canada | | 15 | | Lesotho | | | 11 | Sweden | | | 10 |
| Central African Republic | 8 | | | Liechtenstein | | | 8 | Switzerland | 12 | | |
| Chad | | | 13 | Lithuania | | | 11 | Syrian Arab Rep. | 13 | | |
| Chile | 13 | | | Malawi | | | 10 | Thailand | 8 | | 10 |
| China | 23 | | | Malaysia | 14 | | | Timor-Leste | 5 | 6 | |
| Comoros | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Mali | | | Togo | 10 | | |
| Congo | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Malta | 10 | | Tonga | 8 | | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Mexico | 15 | 5 | Tunisia | 13 | | |
| Croatia | | | 10 | Micronesia (Fed. States of) | 8 | | | Turkey | 18 | | |
| Cuba | 13 | | | Monaco | | 10 | | Turkmenistan | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Cyprus | 5 | | 5 | Mongolia | | <i>Absent</i> | | Uganda | 15 | | |
| Czech Republic | | 13 | | Morocco | 13 | | | Ukraine | 10 | | 7 |
| DPR of Korea | 12 | | | Myanmar | | | 15 | United Arab Emirates | 11 | | |
| DR of the Congo | 17 | | | Namibia | 11 | | | United Kingdom | | 18 | |
| Denmark | | 12 | | Netherlands | | 13 | | Uruguay | 11 | | |
| Djibouti | 10 | | | New Zealand | | 11 | | Uzbekistan | 15 | | |
| Ecuador | 13 | | | Nicaragua | 8 | | | Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) | 6 | 9 | |
| Egypt | 19 | | | Niger | | | 13 | | | | |
| El Salvador | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Nigeria | 10 | 10 | | | | |
| Equatorial Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Norway | | 12 | | | | |
| Estonia | | 11 | | Oman | 11 | | | Viet Nam | 19 | | |
| Ethiopia | 19 | | | Pakistan | 21 | | | Yemen | 11 | | |
| Fiji | | | 10 | Palestine | 11 | | | Zambia | 13 | | |
| Finland | | | 12 | Paraguay | | <i>Absent</i> | | Zimbabwe | 13 | | |
| France | 18 | | | Philippines | 20 | | | | | | |

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Climate change – Let us not cross the line

Results of the roll-call vote on the request by the delegations of Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of) for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| Affirmative votes | 1,106 | Total of affirmative and negative votes ... | 1,417 |
| Negative votes | 311 | Two-thirds majority | 945 |
| Abstentions | 248 | | |

| Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. | Country | Yes | No | Abst. |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan | 14 | | | Georgia | 10 | | | Poland | | | 15 |
| Albania | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Germany | 19 | | | Portugal | 13 | |
| Algeria | | | 16 | Ghana | 14 | | | Qatar | | 11 | |
| Andorra | 10 | | | Greece | 13 | | | Republic of Korea | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Angola | | | 14 | Guatemala | | <i>Absent</i> | | Republic of Moldova | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Argentina | 10 | | | Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | Romania | 14 | | |
| Armenia | 11 | | | Haiti | | <i>Absent</i> | | Russian Federation | 20 | | |
| Australia | 14 | | | Hungary | 13 | | | Rwanda | 12 | | |
| Austria | 12 | | | Iceland | 10 | | | Samoa | 8 | | |
| Azerbaijan | | | 10 | India | 12 | | 11 | San Marino | 10 | | |
| Bahrain | | 11 | | Indonesia | 22 | | | Saudi Arabia | | 14 | |
| Bangladesh | 20 | | | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | | 18 | | Senegal | 12 | | |
| Belarus | 10 | | | Iraq | | 14 | | Serbia | 12 | | |
| Belgium | 10 | | | Ireland | 10 | | | Seychelles | 10 | | |
| Bhutan | 7 | | 3 | Israel | 12 | | | Sierra Leone | 11 | | |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 12 | | | Italy | | | 17 | Singapore | 12 | | |
| Botswana | 11 | | | Japan | 20 | | | Slovenia | 10 | | |
| Brazil | | | 22 | Jordan | | 12 | | Somalia | | | 13 |
| Bulgaria | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Kazakhstan | 13 | | South Africa | 17 | | |
| Burkina Faso | | | 13 | Kenya | 15 | | | South Sudan | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Burundi | 12 | | | Kuwait | | 11 | | Spain | 15 | | |
| Cabo Verde | 10 | | | Lao People's Dem. Republic | 12 | | | Sri Lanka | | <i>Absent</i> | |
| Cambodia | 13 | | | Latvia | 11 | | | Sudan | | 15 | |
| Cameroon | 13 | | | Lebanon | | 11 | | Suriname | 10 | | |
| Canada | 10 | | 5 | Lesotho | 11 | | | Sweden | 10 | | |
| Central African Republic | 8 | | | Liechtenstein | 8 | | | Switzerland | | 12 | |
| Chad | 13 | | | Lithuania | 11 | | | Syrian Arab Rep. | | 13 | |
| Chile | | | 13 | Malawi | 10 | | | Thailand | 18 | | |
| China | 23 | | | Malaysia | 14 | | | Timor-Leste | 11 | | |
| Comoros | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Mali | | | 10 | Togo | 10 | |
| Congo | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Malta | 10 | | | Tonga | 8 | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Mexico | 20 | | | Tunisia | | 13 |
| Croatia | 10 | | | Micronesia (Fed. States of) | 8 | | | | Turkey | | 18 |
| Cuba | 13 | | | Monaco | 10 | | | | Turkmenistan | | <i>Absent</i> |
| Cyprus | 10 | | | Mongolia | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Uganda | 15 | |
| Czech Republic | | 13 | | Morocco | | 13 | | | Ukraine | 17 | |
| DPR of Korea | | 12 | | Myanmar | 15 | | | | United Arab Emirates | | 11 |
| DR of the Congo | | | 17 | Namibia | | 11 | | | United Kingdom | 18 | |
| Denmark | 12 | | | Netherlands | | 13 | | | Uruguay | 11 | |
| Djibouti | | | 10 | New Zealand | 11 | | | | Uzbekistan | 15 | |
| Ecuador | 13 | | | Nicaragua | 8 | | | | Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of) | 10 | 5 |
| Egypt | | 19 | | Niger | | 13 | | | Viet Nam | 19 | |
| El Salvador | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Nigeria | 20 | | | Yemen | | 11 |
| Equatorial Guinea | | <i>Absent</i> | | | Norway | 12 | | | Zambia | | 13 |
| Estonia | 11 | | | Oman | | 11 | | | Zimbabwe | | 13 |
| Ethiopia | 19 | | | Pakistan | 11 | | 10 | | | | |
| Fiji | 10 | | | Palestine | | 11 | | | | | |
| Finland | 12 | | | Paraguay | | <i>Absent</i> | | | | | |
| France | | | 18 | Philippines | 20 | | | | | | |

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Climate change – Let us not cross the line

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 17 October 2018)*

The 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development draws a clear link between climate change and other critical areas of today's society, such as food security, the ocean, and other water resources,

Recalling that, as part of the Paris Agreement, the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,

Noting that the IPCC recently released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,

Also noting the following projections of major concern in the IPCC report:

- (a) Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between the present day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).
- (b) By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (medium confidence). A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas (medium confidence).
- (c) On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
- (d) Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to the Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).
- (e) Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C,

Acknowledging that the Report establishes that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible despite being at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C,

Recognizing that the small island developing States (SIDS) acknowledged that "climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of Pacific people"; and further recognized the importance placed on an "expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritizing environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support",

Acknowledging that many countries near sea level are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, notably droughts, floods and storms, due to high rates of poverty, financial and technological constraints as well as a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, despite many of these countries not being significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

Recognizing the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change, and committed to sustained, high-level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP24),

Cognizant of the profound impact of climate change on the ocean and the fact that the global community cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without considering the other, and while recognizing that ocean acidification has a specific target under Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, and that it must not lose sight of the fundamental climate change-related issues such as ocean warming, deoxygenation, coral bleaching and sea level rise which present a new set of challenges for the ocean,

Recalling the relevant IPU resolutions on climate change and the Parliamentary action plan on climate change, endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session in Zambia in 2016, which identifies key areas of action for legislators and makes recommendations about their delivery,

Also recalling the SIDS parliamentary outcome document of their meeting held on 14 October 2017 in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly, which was subsequently made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn (COP23),

Therefore calls on the IPU Members to:

- (a) Recognize and decisively act on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C;
- (b) Support and lead the development of the Rule Book and Guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, including resource mobilization and simplifying procedures for accessing climate change funding, in order to build on the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP24;
- (c) Take a leadership role in combating climate change and strengthening their partnership with all countries so as to meet their ambitions as set out in their nationally determined contributions;
- (d) Encourage their governments to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy targets; and
- (e) Strengthen oversight of national and international commitments, including government implementation of national legislation and enhance transparency, accountability and reporting of climate change.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 15 and 17 October 2018 with its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain), in the Chair.

On 15 October, the Committee examined two items through back to back panels on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation*, and on *Combating sexual violence in UN Peacekeeping operations and beyond*.

Panel discussion on *Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation*

Before the first panel discussion on 15 October began, Committee members were invited to watch a video message from the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee on resolution 1540, His Excellency Sacha Sergio Llorenty Solíz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations.

By way of introducing the panel's topic, the moderator, Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, London, quoted former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on the key role parliamentarians and parliaments played in the disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. He also praised current United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. A. Guterres, for releasing the new disarmament agenda "Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament". This comprehensive document comprised an implementation plan that outlined a set of practical measures across the entire range of disarmament issues and sought to generate fresh perspectives and to explore areas where serious dialogue was required to bring disarmament back to the heart of the system for maintaining peace and security. The moderator then presented the Committee's project on parliamentary oversight of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation policies. The project aimed at providing a better understanding of the methods and instruments at the disposal of parliamentarians for gathering, assessing, questioning, and acting upon information on their government's policy. He introduced the three speakers.

Ambassador Janis Karklins, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations in Geneva, President of the fifth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP5), gave a presentation within the agenda item *Disarmament that Saves Lives* which referred to conventional weapons. With 500,000 people annually dying in armed violence, conventional weapons could be compared, in terms of their ultimate devastating effect, to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). The international community was addressing the different conventional weapons through various conventions including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT was not a disarmament treaty in the classical sense of the word but sought to promote responsible action by States in the context of the arms trade and to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms. Ambassador Karklins highlighted the role of parliaments, in particular their oversight function. As the ATT did not have a review mechanism, its interpretation and implementation was left to the discretion of the State Parties. It was therefore up to parliamentarians to hold governments to account when it came to their efforts to implement the Treaty.

Ms. S. Mercogliano, Political Affairs Officer, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva branch, gave a presentation on the agenda item *Disarmament to save humanity*, regarding weapons of mass destruction and other strategic weapons. She noted that part V of the Agenda for Disarmament is entirely devoted to strengthening partnerships for disarmament and emphasizes not only the importance of engaging with governments, but also with international organizations, research institutes, civil society and the private sector. Noting the deteriorating security climate, she emphasized the importance of disarmament in upholding stability and security, promoting confidence and trust, and preventing conflict, inter alia. In the agenda, the Secretary-General notes that the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons should motivate the international community to take action leading to their total elimination. An implementation plan was released in early October 2018. It details how all actors and stakeholders should carry out the actions contained in the disarmament agenda.

Ms. K. Vignard, Chief of Operations and Deputy Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), gave a presentation on disarmament for future generations which focused on emerging means and methods of warfare. She promoted an understanding of the implications of new forms of science and technology in conflict; encouraged responsible innovation and application of new

technologies; and called for human control over weapons and artificial intelligence as well as the promotion of peace and stability in cyber space. The international security dimension of new weapons technologies raised new concerns with regard to legal issues, such as the definition of "armed attack" or some fundamental principles of United Nations Charter concepts, such as "self-defence", and new proliferation challenges. New technologies were accessible, had dual-use and gave the private sector a leading role. They had combinational and enabling features and produced knowledge gaps. These new weapons and means of warfare could be destabilizing since, although innovations seemed to make the projection of force or coercion less risky, they raised a set of challenging ethical issues.

Further to the presentations, 17 speakers took the floor. They presented their countries disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation status. They also reiterated that people should be at the centre of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation agendas and policies. Some speakers called for action to reduce weapons especially in countries that were increasing the manufacturing of weapons. They proposed that budgets should be diverted, for example, from weapons and the army to education or climate change. Politics would thus be more human and would highlight the moral and ethical aspect of the issue. Speakers also urged that efforts be undertaken to ensure weapons did not reach non-States actors and underscored that one solution would be to reduce arms stocks and halt the arms race.

Panel discussion on *Combating sexual violence in UN peacekeeping operations and beyond*

The panel was moderated by Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden), former parliamentarian. As President of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians she pushed for the topic to be taken on board by the Committee.

Ms. C. Bardet, international lawyer specialized in war crimes, and President of the NGO, We are not Weapons of War (WWoW), welcomed the choice of Dr. Denis Mukwege as winner of the 2018 Peace Nobel prize. She explained that sexual violence used as a weapon of war had always been present in conflicts. It was silent, and its victims were invisible, rarely heard, receiving very little support - their perpetrators were only very exceptionally brought to trial. Rape as a tool of war had become endemic and almost systematic in contemporary conflicts. It was used to humiliate, destroy and exercise power over women as well as over men and children. For centuries, sexual violence in times of conflict had been tacitly accepted and considered inevitable. It was only in 1992 that the issue came before the United Nations Security Council which declared that mass, organized, and systematic detention and rape of women constituted "an international crime that was not to be ignored". Subsequently, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) recognized rape as a crime against humanity. UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 declared that the use of rape and other sexual violence in times of conflict could constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or be a constituent element of genocide.

Ms. W. Cue, Senior Coordinator for PSEA/SHA at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Secretariat, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), spoke about the United Nations system-wide approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse committed by humanitarian actors against beneficiary populations. Such exploitation and abuse by humanitarian staff could not be tolerated and violated everything the United Nations stood for. The issue became a priority for the United Nations Secretary-General who released a strategy where victims' rights and dignity were prioritized. Reporting and investigation mechanisms were strengthened, and transparency increased. Member States, civil society and other relevant actors, including victims themselves were engaged in building a multi-stakeholder network against sexual exploitation and abuse. There was a change of mindset among Member States, the United Nations and the aid sector, at all levels, with everyone committed to fighting that scourge.

Mr. J.-P. Letelier (Senator, Chile), former President of the IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, presented a parliamentary viewpoint. He highlighted the need to understand that wartime rape was a crime against humanity that should not be subject to amnesty nor have statutes of limitations. Parliamentarians should first ensure that the definition of wartime rape was put into national laws. That would help to prosecute perpetrators of such acts, recognize State responsibilities and end impunity. He mentioned a proposal made to that effect by the President of Uruguay where States must assume responsibility for crimes committed by those they sent abroad and, more globally, responsibility for the acts committed by all their nationals participating in operations.

Ms. P. Fraser-Damoff (MP, Canada) called for all States to adopt a zero-tolerance approach. She presented the Canadian Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations, an innovative and multilateral pilot project that would develop, apply and test a combination of approaches to help overcome barriers

to increasing women's meaningful participation in peace operations. The Elsie Initiative will impact both uniformed military and police staff. It included significant research, monitoring and evaluation components to ensure it could be adjusted throughout implementation.

Further to the presentations, 11 speakers took the floor. Among them were several of the largest contributors to United Nations operations such as Bangladesh, India and South Africa. Several of the speakers referred to UN Security Council resolution 2272 aimed at preventing sexual exploitation and abuse by those under the United Nations mandate and called for its operationalization. The resolution reaffirmed zero tolerance but also mandated a new mechanism as a response to sexual exploitation and abuse: the repatriation of entire military contingents and police units that contained individuals who had allegations made against them. Several speakers referred to the fact that the vast majority of the victims did not complain and kept their pain secret. They called on NGOs to carry out awareness campaigns in the field and to give advice to rape victims.

Speakers called for a road map for parliamentary action and proposed several ideas such as: encouraging parliaments to hold regular briefings on peace operations, including cases of misconduct; and regularly assessing existing national legislation to determine its applicability to sex crimes committed by its citizens while in the service of UN peace operations. Parliaments could also amend, if necessary, the administrative frameworks governing police and military personnel to explicitly include sexual exploitation and abuse as serious forms of misconduct and ensure that such cases entailed the harshest available sanctions. Speakers highlighted the value of conducting training of peacekeeping troops prior to deployment in conflict regions, with an emphasis on response to conflict-related sexual violence. South Africa gave the example of the deployment of a mobile Military Court consisting of a judge, a lawyer, a prosecutor and a clerk to judge South African peacekeepers accused of misconduct in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi and South Sudan.

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

On 17 October, the Committee held an expert hearing on *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*, the topic of a resolution that was expected to be adopted by the 140th IPU Assembly.

The hearing opened with the statements of two experts: Ms. J. Aparac, member of the UN working group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and Mr. W. Bruyère-Ostells, university lecturer in contemporary history at the Institute for Political Sciences in Aix-en-Provence, France.

The experts gave a short overview of the evolution of mercenarism and its different forms and manifestations. Mercenarism was a phenomenon as old as war itself, present throughout history. Three different types of mercenaries could be identified: the integrated, entrepreneurial and ideological. Over time, mercenarism evolved and declined only to re-emerge with the wars of decolonization and the ensuing civil wars. With the end of the Cold War, the phenomenon experienced a revival and new types of mercenary-related activities emerged in the form of private military companies which moved away from scattered groups of individual mercenaries to professionalized, structured companies, sometimes listed on the stock market. The latest manifestations of the phenomenon had taken the form of expanded services that the companies offered to humanitarian actors, maritime security, detention facilities, and so forth.

The experts also analysed the linkages between foreign fighters and mercenaries and identified key similarities such as the trait of being an external actor intervening in a conflict, and the types of activities foreign fighters and mercenaries were involved in, such as armed conflicts, terrorism and organized crime. While noting that a key difference between many foreign fighters and mercenaries was their ideological motivation, the experts noted that incentives of financial or material gain also existed among foreign fighters.

Both experts highlighted the fact that defining mercenaries and foreign fighters was key to the issue. There was not a single definition, neither historical nor legal, of mercenarism. International law provided for a narrow definition of a mercenary; other definitions could be found in the UN Convention against the Use of Mercenaries adopted in December 1989 (by 35 States Parties but no permanent member of the Security Council) and in national legislation. Sociological, anthropological and historical realities also needed to be taken into account. One solution could be to draft legislation that regulated the status of all foreign participants in a theatre of war in general, moving away from the distinction between mercenaries and foreign fighters, to the idea of providing assistance to a foreign State without being formally mandated by a State.

After hearing the experts' presentations, a total of 21 speakers took the floor. All speakers agreed on the need for better legislation in order to prohibit the use of mercenaries and foreign fighters and to regulate the work of private military companies. They highlighted the current gaps and the lack of oversight mechanisms at all levels to address issues arising from the presence of mercenaries and foreign fighters. Legislation should address impunity and promote respect and ethics. Some speakers were of the view that individuals from one country fighting under any other flag should be prosecuted under the jurisdiction of his/her own country wherever the action took place and called for the adoption of very strict national laws criminalizing mercenary-related activities. Speakers also called for better governance and an enhanced oversight of the security sector. Regarding the identified differences between mercenaries and foreign fighters many speakers stated that they should be treated in the same way. Finally, one speaker underscored that when drafting the resolution, the co-rapporteurs should take into account the fact that several IPU Members had not ratified all the conventions covering the issue of mercenaries.

In conclusion, the two co-rapporteurs took the floor to explain their preliminary views on the topic and thanked the experts and the various speakers for providing them with food for thought.

The report on the work of the Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 18 October by the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain).

The Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security met on 16 October 2018 with Ms. L. Rojas, senior member of the Bureau, in the Chair. Eleven out of eighteen members were present. During this meeting, the Bureau met with the co-rapporteurs who explained how they would like to work on the resolution. The Bureau also discussed its workplan. It confirmed the decision taken at the 138th Assembly to devote all the time allocated for the 140th Assembly to negotiating the resolution. For future activities in-between assemblies, all present members were of the view that more field visits should be organized. The Bureau took note of an invitation to visit Jordan and a formal offer was expected. Bureau members were also informed of the Geneva Peace Week taking place from 5 to 9 November 2018. The proposals were subsequently approved by the Standing Committee at the end of its last plenary sitting on 17 October.

Elections took place on 15 October 2018. The Twelve Plus Group proposed Ms. A. Shkrum (Ukraine) to fill a vacant post. The Asia-Pacific Group proposed Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) for a second mandate. Two posts remain vacant: one for the Eurasia Group, to be filled by either a woman or a man, and one for the Asia-Pacific Group, to be filled by a woman.

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 15 and 17 October. The first sitting was chaired by Ms. S. Dinica (Romania), member of the Bureau. The second sitting was chaired by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan).

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

The debate was organized on the theme of the Standing Committee's forthcoming resolution which should be adopted at the 140th Assembly. The purpose of the debate was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about the role of fair and free trade investment in achieving the SDGs, especially in terms of economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

The theme and key issues for consideration and discussion were introduced by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. J. Wilson (Australia), Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana) and Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia). They stressed the importance of recognizing that there was a clear nexus between trade and investment, and that both were crucial to the achievement of the SDGs. Trade was often neither fair nor equitable, and export-import relations were sometimes imbalanced. Parliaments should therefore work to prevent the spreading of systems that exacerbate inequalities and, instead, promote a process that could help develop fair and free trade. The co-Rapporteurs stated that it was not a question of countries being equally developed but rather of having equal opportunities and that that should, in fact, be the target to aim for. Particular attention should also be paid to fostering industrialization as, in its absence, free trade could have negative consequences for developing countries.

A total of 30 delegates took the floor to share their views, comments and good practices their countries had put in place to increase citizens' standards and advance the realization of the SDGs. Some delegates gave specific examples of measures their parliaments had developed to enhance free exchange, reduce taxes, foster economic development and support countries affected by climate change. Participants particularly stressed the importance for parliaments to make good use of their oversight function and to work to ensure justice. Stability was considered a key driver for the attainment of economic development. There was agreement that stability was a natural consequence of fair trade. Innovation, green investment and circular economy were also highlighted as important aspects that should be reflected in the future draft resolution.

Given the disparities that existed between countries, several participants underscored the importance of cooperation, solidarity and support that should be provided to developing countries. They stressed that IPU Members should reaffirm their determination to pursue equitable development, create equal business opportunities and improve citizens' standards of living. Concrete actions should be taken to ensure the maximum benefit for all. Participants agreed that, contrary to protectionism and isolationism, trade and investment were crucial engines that could accelerate SDGs realization, boost development and generate productivity gains. Participants also agreed that the SDGs represented a great opportunity to promote equitable and inclusive economic growth.

To conclude the debate, the co-Rapporteurs recalled that trade could help reduce poverty and that it was important for everybody to pursue trade with a clear focus on a shared well-being. They invited participants to send written inputs for inclusion in the draft resolution.

Parliamentary contribution to the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference

The Standing Committee discussed the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to take place on 9 December in Krakow (Poland).

The session started with a briefing by the Rapporteur to the Parliamentary Meeting in Krakow, Ms. A. Paluch (Poland), who introduced the meeting's draft outcome document. As Poland was to host the next UN Climate Change Conference (COP24), she outlined the history of the climate change agreements, starting with the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the subsequent Kyoto Protocol, and the adoption of the 2015 Paris Agreement (PA). Regarding the latter, she stressed that the PA required that all countries reduce emissions which was why the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were introduced. Ms. A. Paluch further highlighted the PA's harmonized system of monitoring, reporting, and stock-taking, and underscored that the PA was based on the principle of cooperation. She reminded delegates to submit comments to the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting in writing by 16 November 2018.

Altogether four delegations took the floor in the debate: India, Japan, Kuwait, and Seychelles. They referred to the recent natural disasters and the record heat experienced in many countries last summer. The delegates urged their peers for action against global warming, highlighting the need to limit global temperature rise to 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and expressed hope that COP24 would put in place more effective regulations on climate change. Better linkages with the SDG agenda, capacity building and knowledge transfers were highlighted as some of the most pressing issues that needed to be dealt with.

After responding to delegates' questions, Ms. A. Paluch thanked all delegates for their contributions to the draft outcome document and invited others to send their amendments in writing. The revised draft outcome document would be shared with all delegates through the IPU website at the end of November 2018.

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

The panel discussion was chaired by the Committee Vice-President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa, member of parliament (Jordan). It benefitted from the expert contributions of Ms. S. Lozo and Ms. M. de Blonay, both with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Mr. T. Pringle, member of parliament (Ireland), and Ms. B. Hoehn, member of parliament (Germany).

Ms. S. Lozo introduced the discussion and highlighted the benefits renewables could produce at the environmental, social and economic levels. Amongst others, she stressed the growing variety of renewable power sources as well as the growing uptake of renewables in developing countries. Renewables could be important providers in terms of employment as on average renewable energy industries could create more jobs than fossil fuel industries. Considering that energy transition could increase the gross domestic product and boost economic growth, Ms. S. Lozo highlighted the importance of ensuring that this process was just and fair. Regulations, enabling frameworks and comprehensive policies were in fact crucial in order to effectively achieve a sustainable energy transition. Ms. M. de Blonay informed participants about the work conducted by IRENA to raise further awareness and disseminate the IPU resolution.

Mr. T. Pringle presented his Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill, which had received unanimous cross-party support that summer in the Irish lower house and was currently going through the final stages in the Irish upper house. The bill was considered ground-breaking in forecasting Ireland to become the first country in the world to divest its public money out of fossil fuel companies. He stressed that it was time that parliamentarians listened and responded to their communities and represented civil society in advocating for climate action. Mr. T. Pringle urged parliamentarians across the world to replicate that process and create healthy links between civil society, institutions and other sympathetic politicians, helping the collective take on corporate power.

Ms. B. Hoehn talked about the expansion of renewables in Germany and informed on how they represented one of the most important sources of electricity in the country. In 2017 almost 50 per cent of the energy was derived from renewable sources. Germany was in fact aiming to make its energy supply greener and more climate-friendly, and to make the country less dependent on fossil fuels.

In the ensuing debate, 17 delegates took the floor. They highlighted the need for Governments and Parliaments to establish policies on renewable energies and presented the strategies implemented in their countries in order to contribute to the development of this sector, including their Official development assistance (ODA) spending. Among others, discussants stressed the need to prioritize schemes aimed at supporting households, and that energy had to be affordable. Japan highlighted that hydrogen energy would be used at the 2020 Olympic Games it would host. Other representatives underscored the importance for parliamentarians to raise public awareness on renewable energy and establish a constructive dialogue among the different stakeholders including the private sector as the transition to renewable energy required considerable resources and finances. It was also mentioned that renewable energy transition was closely related to migration. The development of the renewable energy sector could in fact create jobs and help solve migration-related challenges. Parliamentarians acknowledged the potential of the sector and also considered the role of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Elections to the Bureau and work plan for the 140th IPU Assembly

The Committee elected to the Bureau Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) for the African Group and Mr. A. Simonyan (Armenia) for the Eurasia Group. Both candidates would complete the term of their countries on the Bureau.

The Committee also elected Ms. V.T. Muzenda (Zimbabwe) to complete the term of President.

The Committee approved the proposal of the Bureau to dedicate the Committee's sittings at the 140th IPU Assembly to drafting the resolution.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

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

Presenters: Ms. S. Blankenburg, Head, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD; Ms. T.M. Ryding, Policy and Advocacy Manager for tax justice, EURODAD; Mr. D. Pacheco, Member of Parliament (Portugal).

Thirteen interventions were made from the floor in response to panel presentations. On the whole, participants expressed support for the creation of an intergovernmental body at the UN that would work to establish a global tax standard on corporate taxation.

The argument for such a body was introduced by the Group of 77 (G77) and China in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 in Addis Ababa. No agreement was reached on the proposal due to the opposition of developed countries, where most of the world's transnational corporations are headquartered.

One key problem with the current international tax regime was that it allowed corporate conglomerates to shift profits to subsidiaries strategically located in low-tax jurisdictions. The OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative, that sought to establish a common tax standard, was designed without the participation of developing countries and had proved to be inadequate because of its many loopholes. Developing countries were invited to join the initiative provided they agree to it as it currently stands.

Compounding the problem was the proliferation of tax havens, as well as governments' growing practice of luring corporate investors to their countries by lowering the effective tax rate. As a result, globally corporate taxes had been reduced from 50 per cent to 24 per cent in just a few decades. Currently, hundreds of billions of dollars in potential revenue were lost to these practices yearly.

An intergovernmental body on taxes would not undermine governments' sovereign tax authority, but rather help strengthen their capacity to collect taxes on behalf of their people. That was also reflected in the current movement within the European Union towards the creation of a common tax regime for transnational corporations.

The proposed UN body would have universal membership. In addition to establishing a global standard of corporate taxation, possibly through an international treaty, it might also be mandated to create a new class of global taxes to support efforts to address global problems such as climate change.

Panel discussion on *What scope for cooperation between parliaments and the WHO as the leading United Nations agency for global health?*

Presenters: Ms. M. Bocoz, Assistant Director-General for External Relations, WHO; Dr. H. Millat, member of parliament (Bangladesh), President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health.

Established in 1948, the WHO has 194 Member States, 7,000 staff members and offices in 150 countries. The organization's mandate is to encourage worldwide policy dialogue on health issues and to provide strategic support to countries' health systems, technical assistance to national health authorities and emergency services to countries coping with a health crisis.

The debate, which included seven interventions, highlighted the essential role of the WHO in helping countries implement SDG 3 on health, and its ambitious target to achieve universal health care by 2030. Lately, the WHO had played a leading role in the fight against non-communicable diseases (diabetes, heart disease and cancer), which are responsible for 40 million deaths each year. It was also working with countries to promote and support vaccination programmes to prevent contagious diseases.

The 2018 resolution of the UN General Assembly on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union* for the first time called for closer cooperation between the WHO and the IPU. That mention provided a welcome boost to a partnership that had been in the making over the last few years and that was formalized recently in a memorandum of understanding. The IPU Advisory Group on Health supervised and advised much of IPU's health-related work with parliaments and was the main interface between the two organizations.

The session highlighted the important role of parliaments in legislation and budget oversight to expand the provision of health services to all people, particularly the most vulnerable and hardest to reach. Parliamentarians participated in the annual World Health Assembly, which was the main governing body of the WHO and where the IPU organized a regular side event.

Participants welcomed those developments and encouraged the WHO to work closely with the IPU, as well as directly with parliaments. Two proposals were made in that regard: that the WHO website feature more prominently its relationship with parliaments, and that parliaments constitute groups of friends of the WHO.

Towards the close of the session, the Committee formally elected five new members: Ms. A. Theologou (Cyprus), Mr. L. Iemets (Ukraine), Mr. M. Melkumyan (Armenia), Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan) and Mr. P. Katjavivi (Namibia). In addition, Ms. S. AlHashim (Kuwait) was elected Vice-President of the Committee.

In his final remarks, the Committee President welcomed gender parity in the committee leadership and thanked participants for their contribution to the session.

Declaration on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*Endorsed by the the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a historic instrument drafted in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War by representatives from around the world with different legal and cultural backgrounds.

The fundamental rights in the Declaration have served, first and foremost, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human beings and to contribute to the peace, security and prosperity of all nations.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Declaration, we also remember and honour Nelson Mandela, who would have turned 100 years old this year. He personified the ideals of the Declaration and, in his own words, strove to uphold "the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities".

Over the course of his lifetime, the rights enshrined in the Declaration were universally recognized, with States now bound in law to ensure their citizens benefit from these rights and can access appropriate remedies and redress when the rights are violated.

Yet these rights are still far from being a reality for many. Against the backdrop of growing authoritarianism, internal conflict, war, poverty and large-scale migration, we, as parliamentarians, feel compelled to reaffirm our commitment to the Declaration and its underlying principles in the following way:

- As legislators, we commit to guaranteeing that the domestic legal framework complies with international and national human rights obligations and creates an enabling environment for inclusive participatory politics, a vibrant civil society and the rule of law.
- As people's representatives, we will do everything in our power to ensure that parliamentary discourse, proceedings, and outreach are rooted in, and promote, equality, liberty and justice.
- We will do more to raise greater awareness of the Declaration among our constituents and help them to access their rights thereunder.
- As role models, we commit ourselves to inspire and energize our societies, particularly by championing the rights of those who are marginalized and persecuted, such as women, children, minorities, and others who are disenfranchised.
- We commit to the Declaration by acting in solidarity with parliamentary colleagues worldwide whose fundamental rights are being violated and by raising their cases at the appropriate forums and with the relevant interlocutors, as well as by supporting the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.
- We will do everything in our power to support human rights defenders, the often "invisible Mandelas" who risk their freedom and lives to uphold the rights of others and who merit the recognition and support of parliaments, especially in light of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Concluding remarks by the IPU President on the values and principles of the IPU

*Endorsed by the 139th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

Colleagues, the IPU motto is *For Democracy. For Everyone.*

Our vision statement says *We work for a world where every voice counts.*

At this Assembly, we took a vote that caused many members of our Organization, and me, distress.

The IPU Assemblies are a place where parliamentarians learn about and discuss all subjects, without vetoes and taboos on issues, particularly those related to human rights. We have a responsibility as parliamentarians to tackle all subjects that those we represent need us to cover.

This week we launched the new IPU handbook for parliamentarians on freedom of expression. I encourage each of you to use this document to inform and guide our future work, at home and here in our assemblies.

As we are reminded on this 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all human beings have the same rights, including the right to freedom of expression, and to equality before the law.

These are fundamental principles that the IPU and its Members must find a way to incorporate more fully in all our work, in committees and in plenary.

Presidential statement on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The IPU welcomes the recent positive developments on the Korean Peninsula, notably the Inter-Korean Summit in April leading to the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula; the U.S.-DPRK Summit in Singapore in June, and President Moon Jae-in's visit to Pyongyang in September.

These historic events are building blocks of peace and the IPU applauds the efforts by both sides to work towards rapprochement and mutual understanding.

The IPU has been building and will continue to build bridges between the delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) and is pleased to facilitate contacts during IPU Assemblies. These Assemblies serve as platforms for dialogue and bilateral exchanges and are a clear demonstration of parliamentary diplomacy in action.

At the 139th IPU Assembly, the delegations of the DPRK and ROK stated their commitment to working together, including within the IPU, in order to contribute actively to the substantial progress made on the normalization of relations between both sides.

The IPU was founded on the principle of political dialogue to resolve differences and conflicts and is at the service of its Members to facilitate contacts, mediate conflicts and offer its good offices in the interest of a more peaceful world. As a neutral and impartial broker, the IPU remains an oasis of hope.

IPU Budget for 2019

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 15 October 2018)*

| | 2018 Approved Budget | 2019 Approved Budget | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | Regular Budget | Other Sources | All Funds |
| REVENUES | | | | |
| Assessed contributions | 10,467,100 | 10,515,200 | | 10,515,200 |
| Working Capital Fund | 237,000 | 422,000 | | 422,000 |
| Staff assessment | 1,048,500 | 1,099,700 | | 1,099,700 |
| Interest | 100,000 | 100,000 | | 100,000 |
| Programme support costs | 0 | 298,700 | (298,700) | 0 |
| Other revenue | 16,000 | 16,000 | | 16,000 |
| Voluntary contributions | 4,002,600 | | 4,034,400 | 4,034,400 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | 15,871,200 | 12,451,600 | 3,735,700 | 16,187,300 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| Strategic Objectives | | | | |
| 1. Build strong, democratic parliaments | 2,321,900 | 1,322,200 | 824,200 | 2,146,400 |
| 2. Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights | 1,699,000 | 517,900 | 656,400 | 1,174,300 |
| 3. Protect and promote human rights | 1,469,500 | 1,035,600 | 508,500 | 1,544,100 |
| 4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security | 505,200 | 195,500 | 907,200 | 1,102,700 |
| 5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation | 3,159,400 | 3,437,600 | | 3,437,600 |
| 6. Promote youth empowerment | 417,200 | 79,600 | 265,100 | 344,700 |
| 7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda | 972,700 | 151,300 | 851,400 | 1,002,700 |
| 8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations | 923,000 | 927,100 | | 927,100 |
| Subtotal | 11,467,900 | 7,666,800 | 4,012,800 | 11,679,600 |
| Enablers | | | | |
| Effective internal governance and oversight | 867,900 | 912,700 | 21,600 | 934,300 |
| Visibility, advocacy and communications | 1,026,200 | 1,097,200 | | 1,097,200 |
| Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach | 10,000 | 10,000 | | 10,000 |
| A properly resourced and efficient Secretariat | 2,681,700 | 2,658,900 | | 2,658,900 |
| Subtotal | 4,585,800 | 4,677,200 | 21,600 | 4,700,400 |
| Other charges | 114,000 | 106,000 | | 106,000 |
| Eliminations | (296,500) | | (298,700) | (298,700) |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 15,871,200 | 12,451,600 | 3,735,700 | 16,187,300 |

Approved 2019 capital budget

| Item | 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Replacement of computers | 35,000 |
| 2. Furniture | 15,000 |
| 4. Website development | 100,000 |
| Total capital expenditures | 150,000 |

Approved programme and budget for 2019

Scale of contributions for 2019 based on the UN scale of assessment

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 15 October 2018)*

| Country Name | UN 2016-2018 | Approved 2019 scale | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | CHF |
| Afghanistan | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Albania | 0.008% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Algeria | 0.161% | 0.310% | 32'300 |
| Andorra | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Angola | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Argentina | 0.892% | 1.120% | 116'800 |
| Armenia | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Australia | 2.337% | 2.550% | 265'900 |
| Austria | 0.720% | 0.940% | 98'000 |
| Azerbaijan | 0.060% | 0.180% | 18'800 |
| Bahrain | 0.044% | 0.160% | 16'700 |
| Bangladesh | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Belarus | 0.056% | 0.180% | 18'800 |
| Belgium | 0.885% | 1.110% | 115'700 |
| Benin | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Bhutan | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 0.012% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.013% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Botswana | 0.014% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Brazil | 3.823% | 3.960% | 412'900 |
| Bulgaria | 0.045% | 0.160% | 16'700 |
| Burkina Faso | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Burundi | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Cabo Verde | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Cambodia | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Cameroon | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Canada | 2.921% | 3.110% | 324'300 |
| Central African Republic | 0.001% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Chad | 0.005% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Chile | 0.399% | 0.590% | 61'500 |
| China | 7.921% | 7.890% | 822'600 |
| Colombia | 0.322% | 0.500% | 52'100 |
| Comoros | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Congo | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Costa Rica | 0.047% | 0.170% | 17'700 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 0.009% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Croatia | 0.099% | 0.230% | 24'000 |
| Cuba | 0.065% | 0.190% | 19'800 |
| Cyprus | 0.043% | 0.160% | 16'700 |
| Czech Republic | 0.344% | 0.520% | 54'200 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 0.005% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 0.008% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Denmark | 0.584% | 0.790% | 82'400 |
| Djibouti | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Dominican Republic | 0.046% | 0.170% | 17'700 |
| Ecuador | 0.067% | 0.190% | 19'800 |
| Egypt | 0.152% | 0.300% | 31'300 |
| El Salvador | 0.014% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Estonia | 0.038% | 0.150% | 15'600 |
| Eswatini | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |

| Country Name | UN 2016-2018 | Approved 2019 scale | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | CHF |
| Ethiopia | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Fiji | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Finland | 0.456% | 0.650% | 67'800 |
| France | 4.859% | 4.930% | 514'000 |
| Gabon | 0.017% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Gambia | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Georgia | 0.008% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Germany | 6.389% | 6.390% | 666'300 |
| Ghana | 0.016% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Greece | 0.471% | 0.670% | 69'900 |
| Guatemala | 0.028% | 0.140% | 14'600 |
| Guinea | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Guyana | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Haiti | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Honduras | 0.008% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Hungary | 0.161% | 0.310% | 32'300 |
| Iceland | 0.023% | 0.130% | 13'600 |
| India | 0.737% | 0.950% | 99'100 |
| Indonesia | 0.504% | 0.700% | 73'000 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 0.471% | 0.670% | 69'900 |
| Iraq | 0.129% | 0.270% | 28'200 |
| Ireland | 0.335% | 0.510% | 53'200 |
| Israel | 0.430% | 0.620% | 64'600 |
| Italy | 3.748% | 3.890% | 405'600 |
| Japan | 9.680% | 9.680% | 1'009'300 |
| Jordan | 0.020% | 0.130% | 13'600 |
| Kazakhstan | 0.191% | 0.350% | 36'500 |
| Kenya | 0.018% | 0.130% | 13'600 |
| Kuwait | 0.285% | 0.460% | 48'000 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Latvia | 0.050% | 0.170% | 17'700 |
| Lebanon | 0.046% | 0.170% | 17'700 |
| Lesotho | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Libya | 0.125% | 0.270% | 28'200 |
| Liechtenstein | 0.007% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Lithuania | 0.072% | 0.200% | 20'900 |
| Luxembourg | 0.064% | 0.190% | 19'800 |
| Madagascar | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Malawi | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Malaysia | 0.322% | 0.500% | 52'100 |
| Maldives | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Mali | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Malta | 0.016% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Marshall Islands | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Mauritania | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Mauritius | 0.012% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Mexico | 1.435% | 1.670% | 174'100 |
| Micronesia (Federated States of) | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Monaco | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Mongolia | 0.005% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Montenegro | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Morocco | 0.054% | 0.180% | 18'800 |
| Mozambique | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Myanmar | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Namibia | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |

| Country Name | UN 2016-2018 | Approved 2019 scale | |
|---|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | CHF |
| Nepal | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Netherlands | 1.482% | 1.720% | 179'300 |
| New Zealand | 0.268% | 0.440% | 45'900 |
| Nicaragua | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Niger | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Nigeria | 0.209% | 0.370% | 38'600 |
| Norway | 0.849% | 1.070% | 111'600 |
| Oman | 0.113% | 0.250% | 26'100 |
| Pakistan | 0.093% | 0.230% | 24'000 |
| Palau | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Palestine | | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Panama | 0.034% | 0.150% | 15'600 |
| Papua New Guinea | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Paraguay | 0.014% | 0.120% | 12'500 |
| Peru | 0.136% | 0.280% | 29'200 |
| Philippines | 0.165% | 0.320% | 33'400 |
| Poland | 0.841% | 1.060% | 110'500 |
| Portugal | 0.392% | 0.580% | 60'500 |
| Qatar | 0.269% | 0.440% | 45'900 |
| Republic of Korea | 2.039% | 2.260% | 235'600 |
| Republic of Moldova | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Romania | 0.184% | 0.340% | 35'500 |
| Russian Federation | 3.088% | 3.270% | 340'900 |
| Rwanda | 0.002% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Saint Lucia | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Samoa | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| San Marino | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1.146% | 1.380% | 143'900 |
| Senegal | 0.005% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Serbia | 0.032% | 0.150% | 15'600 |
| Seychelles | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Singapore | 0.447% | 0.640% | 66'700 |
| Slovakia | 0.160% | 0.310% | 32'300 |
| Slovenia | 0.084% | 0.210% | 21'900 |
| Somalia | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| South Africa | 0.364% | 0.550% | 57'300 |
| South Sudan | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Spain | 2.443% | 2.650% | 276'300 |
| Sri Lanka | 0.031% | 0.140% | 14'600 |
| Sudan | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Suriname | 0.006% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Sweden | 0.956% | 1.180% | 123'000 |
| Switzerland | 1.140% | 1.370% | 142'800 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0.024% | 0.130% | 13'600 |
| Tajikistan | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Thailand | 0.291% | 0.460% | 48'000 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 0.007% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Timor-Leste | 0.003% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Togo | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Tonga | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 0.034% | 0.150% | 15'600 |
| Tunisia | 0.028% | 0.140% | 14'600 |
| Turkey | 1.018% | 1.250% | 130'300 |
| Turkmenistan | 0.026% | 0.140% | 14'600 |
| Tuvalu | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |

| Country Name | UN 2016-2018 | Approved 2019 scale | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | CHF |
| Uganda | 0.009% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Ukraine | 0.103% | 0.240% | 25'000 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.604% | 0.810% | 84'500 |
| United Kingdom | 4.463% | 4.560% | 475'400 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Uruguay | 0.079% | 0.210% | 21'900 |
| Uzbekistan | 0.023% | 0.130% | 13'600 |
| Vanuatu | 0.001% | 0.100% | 10'400 |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 0.571% | 0.780% | 81'300 |
| Viet Nam | 0.058% | 0.180% | 18'800 |
| Yemen | 0.010% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Zambia | 0.007% | 0.110% | 11'500 |
| Zimbabwe | 0.004% | 0.110% | 11'500 |

| Member or associate member | UN 2016-2018 | Approved 2019 scale | |
|---|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | CHF |
| Andean Parliament | | 0.020% | 2'100 |
| Arab Parliament | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| Central American Parliament | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| East African Legislative Assembly | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| European Parliament | | 0.060% | 6'300 |
| Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States | | 0.030% | 3'100 |
| Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| Latin American and Caribbean Parliament | | 0.030% | 3'100 |
| Parliament of the CEMAC | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| Parliament of the ECOWAS | | 0.010% | 1'000 |
| Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation | | 0.030% | 3'100 |
| Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe | | 0.050% | 5'200 |
| Total | | | 10'515'200 |

Cooperation with the United Nations system

List of activities undertaken by the IPU between 15 March and 15 September 2018

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

Building on the biennial Report of the UN Secretary-General, on 22 May the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a new and comprehensive resolution on *Interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU* - www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/72-278-e.pdf. UNGA President, Mr. Lajcak, chaired the meeting, which was also addressed by a number of UN Member States and by the IPU President. The resolution came to fruition after a number of inter-governmental consultations in New York led by Ambassador Camacho of Mexico. The resolution is substantive and forward looking, and identifies modalities of interaction and cooperation in a variety of areas. Among other things, it establishes a new International Day of Parliamentarism, calls for closer and more systematic engagement between the UN Country Teams and national parliaments, and reiterates the need for IPU and the UN to work together with parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs.

Democracy and human rights

The IPU continued to contribute to the UN processes for a Global Compact for Migration and another on Refugees that will be adopted this year. Following the Declaration on migrants and refugees adopted by the 138th Assembly on 28 March, the IPU advocated incorporating language on parliaments in the texts being negotiated in New York (migration) and in Geneva (refugees). This resulted in several acknowledgements of the role of parliaments in both documents.

On 17 May, the Human Rights Council issued a comprehensive report entitled the *Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review*. The report draws from responses to a questionnaire for parliaments sent by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders. It contains recommendations regarding the setting up of a parliamentary human rights committee and the strengthening of engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, especially the universal periodic review.

In addition to helping engage parliaments in the Universal Periodic Review during the HRC annual session (18 June – 6 July), the IPU organized a workshop and a side event during the session to highlight concrete experiences of parliamentarians to protect and promote human rights.

On 23 May, the UN General Assembly designated 30 June as the International Day of Parliamentarism. This date commemorates the first ever meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1889. At the IPU's suggestion, a number of parliaments were already able to organize events to celebrate the first International Day of Parliamentarism on 30 June 2018, and the IPU will continue to work with the UN to reinforce efforts to promote this Day in the future.

The IPU also pursued its regular efforts to engage parliaments to celebrate the International Day of Democracy on 15 September. In 2018, the IPU proposed, as an overall theme, that of "oversight" – a core function of parliaments and a vital part of the checks and balances of any healthy democracy.

On 18 September, the IPU contributed to a side event convened by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador in the context of the 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which focused on "the impact of corruption in the full enjoyment of human rights at all levels". This provided an opportunity to share with the broader UN community in Geneva the main findings of the recent IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report on Oversight.

UNDP and the IPU continued their project of assistance to the Parliament of Myanmar. The two organizations also continued their collaboration in support of the parliaments of Djibouti, Georgia, and Vanuatu.

The IPU and UNDP also continued cooperation to develop a methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.7.1, which measures the proportions of positions (by age group, sex, persons with disabilities, and population groups) in public institutions, compared to national distributions. The IPU and UNDP have drafted metadata for this indicator and initiated a pilot test in August with selected parliaments. If the pilot is successful, the next step is to submit the methodology for approval to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).

IPU and UNDP continued their efforts to disseminate the 2017 *Global Parliamentary Report* on parliamentary oversight. These include the presentation of a Serbian-language version of the Report, prepared by UNDP's office in Serbia, at a regional seminar on the SDGs held in Belgrade on 24-25 May.

Gender equality

The IPU pursued its collaboration with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) to promote the role of parliaments in advancing implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The IPU Member Parliaments have been regularly informed and invited to contribute to their State review by the CEDAW Committee. The IPU communicated the recommendations of these reviews to the parliaments of the countries under review for them to take them into account in their work. The IPU's work in this area has also consisted of ensuring that the CEDAW Committee understands the key role of parliament in implementation of CEDAW and has access to IPU's data on women in politics, and increasingly stresses both issues during their dialogue with States.

IPU, in collaboration with USAID and UNDP, supported the Parliament of Georgia in carrying out a gender self-assessment in June 2018 based on the IPU's *Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments: A self-assessment toolkit*. The exercise brought together men and women, members of parliament and staff. Priorities were identified for future reform, including measures to increase the number of women members of parliament and to tackle sexism and harassment. The conclusions of the exercise will also inform the development of the parliament's strategy and plan of action.

Representatives from UN Women and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) took part in the 12th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, which was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in April 2018, and co-hosted by the IPU and the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies. The Summit focused on the theme *Working so every voice counts*. A Cochabamba Declaration affirmed the link between women's equal participation in politics and more prosperous, peaceful and inclusive societies and called for the achievement of gender parity in politics and the adoption and implementation of specific legislation to combat violence against women in politics (see section under Objective 2 of main report).

Youth empowerment

At the 138th IPU Assembly, a dialogue session was organized in collaboration with UNAIDS during the meeting of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The panel session focused on the role of young parliamentarians in addressing harmful laws and politics in order to end AIDS by 2030, with activists and civil society also taking part.

On 28 June 2018, the UN General Assembly released the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Youth and Human Rights (A/HRC/39/33). Informed by IPU activities at the Human Rights Council, such as at the 2016 UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law, the report heavily references the 2016 IPU report on *Youth Participation in National Parliaments*, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, and related IPU recommendations on youth participation in parliaments.

For International Youth Day (12 August 2018), the IPU partnered with iKNOW Politics for an interactive Twitter Chat that took place on 10 August 2018. The Twitter Chat engaged with parliamentarians, experts, activists and the general public to get feedback and generate buzz on a series of questions related to youth and young women's participation in politics. iKNOW Politics is a joint project, with UNDP and UN Women taking part (see section under Objective 6 of main report).

International peace and security

An IPU delegation participated in the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 25 April. The IPU delivered a statement at the Sixth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that was held on 27 June in New York.

The IPU and UNODC continued to develop a joint programme on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, which seeks to facilitate the incorporation of international commitments into domestic legislation and promote regional parliamentary cooperation. The two partners organized the second meeting of the specialized group on counterterrorism, where the budget and the activities of the joint programme were approved. Following this event, the IPU and UNODC engaged in consultations with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in order to formalize a trilateral agreement, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will be presented to the Governing Bodies

at the 139th IPU Assembly for approval. In addition, the joint secretariat started drafting the first parliamentary report on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, which will be launched at the First Global Parliamentary Summit tentatively scheduled for February 2019 (see section under Objective 4 of main report).

Sustainable development

On 12 April 2018, the IPU Secretary General and UN Environment Executive Director signed an MoU setting out their joint cooperation on the SDGs, especially those related to environment and climate change. Work on a joint Policy Brief for members of parliament on the green economy continued during the summer, with the aim of launching the paper at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in early December (see section under Objective 7 of main report).

On May 21-22, the IPU participated in the biannual session of the UN Development Cooperation Forum, with a delegation of eight members of parliament. The IPU also followed the annual Financing for Development Forum and related side events. The IPU Secretary General was a presenter at a special meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council on sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies on 23 May.

On 25 May in Geneva, the Director General of WHO took part alongside the IPU Secretary General in a technical briefing on "the role of parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security as two sides of the same coin".

On 5 June, an IPU delegation took part in the multi-stakeholder hearing providing input to a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on non-communicable diseases in September. The IPU was asked to contribute to this meeting by a resolution of the General Assembly. Building on this, the IPU was invited to contribute to the high-level meeting on universal health coverage in September 2019.

As a contribution to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development, the IPU encouraged the participation of some 90 members of parliament in the main proceedings and organized an official side event on 16 July, the first day of the HLPF ministerial segment. The side event discussed the main theme of the HLPF on environmental sustainability. On 17 July, IPU and UNDP held a parliamentary workshop on their self-assessment toolkit for the SDGs. The IPU President delivered a statement during the general debate of the HLPF later in the week. In the months leading up to the HLPF, the IPU surveyed the parliaments of the 47 countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) as a way of encouraging greater parliamentary engagement in this key monitoring process (see section under Objective 7 of main report).

The IPU and UNDP continued to support SDG self-assessments in parliaments through the IPU-UNDP SDG Self-Assessment Toolkit. During the reporting period the parliament of Argentina began plans for a workshop using the IPU-UNDP toolkit.

The IPU participated actively in several working group meetings of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which includes UNDP. The IPU provided input to two working groups of the GPEDC, helped establish the new business leaders caucus, helped define new indicators of progress on development cooperation, and participated in the launch event of the GPED's 2018 Global Monitoring Exercise 11-12 September in Paris (see section under Objective 7 of main report).

Honorary President of the IPU, Saber Chowdhury, presented on a panel of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs on the contribution of audit institutions to the SDGs in New York on 29 July. On 18 July the IPU Permanent Observer spoke at a UNDP side event on parliamentary engagement with civil society organizations on the SDGs.

Senior-level interaction

A high level panel on migration and refugees was held on 23 March at the opening of the 138th IPU Assembly in Geneva. The panel featured the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, the Director of the International Organization for Migration, Mr. William Lacy Swing, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain. Other UN officials participated in the workshops, special events and committee sessions throughout the Assembly.

The UN Secretary-General contributed to the celebration of the first ever International Day of Parliamentarism on 30 June with a special video message to all parliaments and parliamentarians. The video message was featured on the IPU web site as part of a broader effort to celebrate the day, which also coincides with the founding of the IPU.

On 19 July, the first working level meeting of IPU and UN staff took place following a recommendation of the Senior Leadership meeting held in November 2017. Sixteen entities or bodies of the United Nations were represented at the meeting co-chaired by the IPU Permanent Observer at the United Nations and a senior officer from the UN Department of Political Affairs. The meeting explored potential new synergies between the IPU and the United Nations at the working level and identified a number of questions regarding cooperation at the country level.

On 9 July a meeting was held at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva to discuss preparations for a new MoU on political and technical cooperation between the IPU and WHO. Both organizations committed to deepening their partnership, which in future would extend beyond the traditional area of cooperation of women's, children's and adolescent health (WCAH) to universal health coverage (UHC) and global health security (GHS).

On 31 July, the Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations met with the President-elect of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, for a first informal exchange of views on the upcoming session. The meeting helped place the IPU and parliament more firmly on the agenda of the President elect of the General Assembly. It also included a first discussion on the possible theme and timing of the 2019 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 14 and 16 October 2018. The Committee's President, Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada), Mr. H. Julien-Laferrière (France), Ms. A. Makonda Ridley (Malawi), Mr. A.N.M. Al-Ahmad (Palestine), Mr. F. Müri (Switzerland) and Mr. M. Al-Mehrzi (United Arab Emirates) attended both of the sessions. Mr. N. Shai (Israel) attended the sitting on 14 October. Ms. B. Grouwels (Belgium) and Mr. R. Munawar (Indonesia) attended the sitting on 16 October.

The Committee heard a report on the latest general developments in the Middle East. In this context, the Committee was informed about the situation in Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. The Committee was also informed about the recent developments on the Israeli/Palestinian situation and about the numerous communications which had been sent to the IPU leadership in that regard.

The Committee heard the views of both Israel and Palestine regarding the recent developments, namely the announcement by the US Administration to end all funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the passing of a law by the Israeli Knesset defining the State of Israel as the nation of the Jewish people. While noting their differences, both parties underscored their commitment to the Committee's work as all efforts to foster peace must be pursued for the good of future generations.

The members had a discussion on science as an enabler of dialogue. They agreed on the importance of projects like the IPU *Science for Peace Schools*, and expressed support for their implementation. The first session of the IPU *Science for Peace Schools* project had been designed for staff of the parliamentary secretariats and would take place from 18 to 24 November 2018. The invitations had already been sent and many registrations had been received. The Committee noted the importance of legislation in regulating science so as to avoid any negative impacts or outcomes (e.g. atomic bombs, artificial intelligence, etc.).

The Committee also heard two presentations, the first from the Yemeni delegation and the second from Mr. N. Gouda, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan. The Yemeni delegation gave the members a short update of the current situation in the country. The delegation highlighted that, as had been the case in March, it was attending the 139th Assembly as a single, united delegation. The delegation further explained that, due to the dire situation in the country, many parliamentarians had been forced to flee the capital Sana'a but that they remained committed to their role as MPs. Mr. Gouda presented a short summary of the situation on the ground in Jordan and highlighted the important role his country had played in welcoming refugees from the different conflict zones in the region. Mr. Gouda underscored the importance of not marginalizing the Israeli/Palestinian situation as it had a ripple effect on many other relations in the region and in the world.

The members concluded that they would undertake a visit to the Middle East region, most likely early in 2019, in order to gain a better understanding of the realities on the ground. The members emphasized the need to include visits to refugee camps in Jordan. The Secretariat took note of that request.

IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Terms of Reference

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

Mandate

The IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG-CTVE) shall serve, under the authority of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council, as the global parliamentary focal point for counter-terrorism related parliamentary activities.

Building on the resolutions adopted by IPU Assemblies and Members' wish to see enhanced cooperation with the United Nations in this field, the IPU has devised a Member-driven plan of action for parliaments to address terrorism.

Purpose

The role of the Group shall be to guide the Member-driven plan of action for parliaments to address terrorism and prevent violent extremism, as well as to bridge the significant gaps in the implementation of relevant IPU and UN resolutions.

The plan of action will also draw on relevant UN instruments such as the 2006 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the 2016 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, which includes countering the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The Group shall focus on supporting parliamentary measures and legislative work necessary to implement existing IPU and UN resolutions and strategies relating to terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

The main expected outputs are: organization of regional and global inter-parliamentary conferences; the establishment of a Global Parliamentary Network to foster cooperation among national parliamentary security committees related to counter-terrorism; the organization of capacity-building programmes for parliaments on counter-terrorism; the production of an annual parliamentary report on implementation of relevant IPU and UN resolutions; the elaboration of best practices and guidelines for parliamentarians; and the mapping and consolidation of existing IPU activities in the field of prevention of violent extremism.

The work of the Group is expected to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the IPU's counter-terrorism efforts by supporting the parliamentary processes to translate international commitments into national laws, and ensuring implementation at the national level.

An IPU support team will coordinate the proposed activities, with technical support from the UNODC.

Membership

The Group shall be composed of 21 members of national parliaments, nominated by their respective geopolitical groups on the basis of expertise and on the formula used for the composition of the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (Executive Committee geopolitical group allocation plus one per group).^{*} The composition of the Group shall be gender balanced in accordance with the provisions of Art. 21(f) of the IPU Statutes. In addition, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians shall be ex officio members.

International organizations, in addition to UNODC, with relevant expertise will be associated to the Group.

^{*} African Group: 5 members; Arab Group: 2 members; Asia-Pacific Group: 4 members; Eurasia Group: 2 members; GRULAC: 3 members; and Twelve Plus Group: 5 members.

High-Level Advisory Group members shall serve for a single four-year term.

The mandates of members or their representatives who fail to participate in three consecutive meetings of the High-Level Advisory Group shall be automatically terminated.

One international organization active in the area of counter-terrorism, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shall be part of the joint support team servicing the Group.

Chairperson

The Group shall elect its Chairperson for a period of one year. He/she shall be eligible for re-election for one further one-year term.

The Advisory Group may also elect a Vice-Chairperson for one year following the same procedure as for election of the Chairperson.

Sessions

The Group shall normally meet twice a year in regular session, on the occasion of IPU Assemblies. Its sessions shall be held *in camera*. The Group shall set the dates for its sessions based on the proposals made by the Secretary General. Additional meetings may be held if the Group so decides outside IPU Assemblies.

Agenda

The provisional agenda of the Group shall be drawn up by the Group Chairperson in consultation with the Secretary General.

Decisions

As a general rule, the Group's decisions shall be taken by consensus. In other cases, the main recommendations, as well as diverging opinions, shall be conveyed to the Council.

Missions

The Group may decide to carry out field visits, principally to examine the role played by a given national parliament in addressing the issues that fall within the Group's mandate. Such missions shall be conducted in accordance with agreed rules and principles.

Reporting

The Group shall report twice a year in regular session on its work to the Governing Council, of which it shall be a subsidiary body.

Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

Status of participation of women delegates at the 139th Assembly of the IPU (at 17 October 2018)

Composition of delegations at the last eight IPU statutory meetings (March 2015 - present)

| Meeting | Total delegates | Total/percentage of women delegates | | Total delegations | Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more) | | Total all-female delegations (2 or more) | Total single-sex delegations (2 or more) | Total single-member delegations (male and female) |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--|------------|--|--|---|
| | | Total | Percentage | | Total | Percentage | | | |
| Geneva (17/10/18) | 751 | 247 | 32.9 | 149 | 17 | 12.1 | 4 | 21 | 9 |
| Geneva (27/03/18) | 745 | 227 | 30.5 | 148 | 18 | 12.7 | 3 | 21 | 6 |
| St. Petersburg (10/17) | 829 | 249 | 30.0 | 155 | 17 | 11.8 | 1 | 18 | 11 |
| Dhaka (04/17) | 612 | 193 | 31.5 | 126 | 11 | 9.6 | 1 | 12 | 12 |
| Geneva (10/16) | 693 | 228 | 32.9 | 141 | 15 | 11.5 | 3 | 18 | 11 |
| Lusaka (03/16) | 636 | 190 | 29.9 | 126 | 19 | 15.8 | 0 | 19 | 6 |
| Geneva (10/15) | 647 | 210 | 32.5 | 133 | 12 | 9.9 | 2 | 14 | 12 |
| Hanoi (03/15) | 675 | 189 | 28.0 | 128 | 16 | 13.7 | 1 | 17 | 11 |

Single-sex, multi-member delegations present in Geneva (status on 17 October 2018)

| N° | Country | Geneva 10/18 | | | Geneva 03/18 | | | St. Petersburg 17 | | | Dhaka 17 | | | Geneva 16 | | | Lusaka 16 | | | Geneva 15 | | | Hanoi 15 | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | | Women MPs | Men MPs | Total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total |
| 1 | Andorra | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | absent | | |
| 2 | Azerbaijan | 0 | 2 | 2 | absent | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| 3 | Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | absent | | | absent | | |
| 4 | Burkina Faso | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 5 | Czech Republic | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | Denmark | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | DPR Korea | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | absent | | | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 8 | Fiji | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | suspended | | |
| 9 | Haiti | 0 | 2 | 2 | absent | | | 0 | 4 | 4 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 10 | Ireland | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | absent | | | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 11 | Liechtenstein | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | absent | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | absent | | |
| 12 | Micronesia | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | absent | | | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 13 | Morocco | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 14 | Myanmar | 0 | 3 | 3 | absent | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 15 | Paraguay | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |
| 16 | Peru | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | absent | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | absent | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 17 | Republic of Korea | 0 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 18 | Republic of Moldova | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | 1 | 0 | 1 | absent | | |
| 19 | Somalia | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | absent | | | absent | | | 0 | 2 | 2 | absent | | | absent | | |
| 20 | Sri Lanka | 0 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 21 | Yemen | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 7 | absent | | | absent | | | 0 | 8 | 8 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |

Single-member delegations present in Geneva (status on 17 October 2018)

| N° | Country | Geneva 10/18 | | | Geneva 03/18 | | | St. Petersburg 17 | | | Dhaka 17 | | | Geneva 16 | | | Lusaka 16 | | | Geneva 15 | | | Hanoi 15 | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|---------|-------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | | Women MPs | Men MPs | Total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total | Women MPs | Men MPs | total |
| 1 | Central African Republic | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | suspended | | | suspended | | | suspended | | | suspended | | |
| 2 | Congo | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |
| 3 | El Salvador | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | absent | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | Nicaragua | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | absent | | | 1 | 0 | 1 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |
| 5 | Panama | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | Samoa | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |
| 7 | Slovenia | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | absent | | | absent | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | absent | | |
| 8 | Sweden | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | Tonga | 0 | 1 | 1 | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | | absent | | |

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

New Article 1.4

The IPU has legal personality and has the authority to enter into international agreements, including cooperation agreements with national parliaments and inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Amend Article 5.3 (loss of IPU membership)

When a Member or Associate Member of the IPU is three years in arrears in the payment of its contributions to the IPU, the Executive Committee shall consider the situation, **on a case-by-case basis, and in close consultation with the Member or Associate Member concerned**, and express an opinion to the Governing Council. The Governing Council shall take a decision on the suspension of the **rights affiliation** of that Member or Associate Member ~~to the IPU~~.

Amend Article 18 (Governing Council)

1. The Governing Council shall be composed of three representatives from each Member of the IPU (cf. Governing Council, Rule 1.2). ~~The term of office of a member of the Governing Council shall last from one Assembly to the next.~~

Amend Article 26 (Executive Committee)

2. The Executive Committee shall perform the following functions:
- (e) Propose to the Governing Council the **five-year IPU Strategy, as well as** its annual work programme and budget (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 3.4), **and examine the progress made in meeting IPU objectives, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Statutes.**
 - (ebis) **Examine and submit for approval of the Governing Council the Organization's policies on transparency and accountability, as well as its communications strategy, in keeping with the overall five-year IPU Strategy;**

Amend Article 28 (Secretariat)

2. The Secretariat shall perform the following functions:
- (f) Prepare proposals for **the five-year IPU Strategy, the annual** work programme and budget for the consideration of the Executive Committee (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 3.2, 3.3 and 3.7);
 - (fbis) **Prepare for the consideration of the Executive Committee policies and reports on transparency and accountability to be approved by the Governing Council;**

Preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2020

Composition of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

*Noted by the Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

African Group

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. Aabdelkader Bensalah | President | Council of the Nation of Algeria |
| Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams | Speaker | National Council of Namibia |
| Mr. Tinni Ousseini | Speaker | National Assembly of Niger |
| Ms. Rebecca Kadaga | Speaker | Parliament of Uganda |
| Mr. Haroun Kabadi | President | National Assembly of Chad |

Arab Group

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--|
| Ms. Amal Al Qubaisi | Speaker | Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates |
| Mr. Marzouq Al Ghanim | Speaker | National Assembly of Kuwait |

Asia-Pacific Group

| | | |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Ms. Jiko Luveni | Speaker | Parliament of Fiji |
| Mr. Li Zhanshu | Chairman | Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China |
| Lord Fakafanua | Speaker | Legislative Assembly of Tonga |
| Ms. Sumitra Mahajan | Speaker | Lok Sabha of India |

Eurasia Group

| | | |
|--|----------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Mikhail Vladimirovich Myasnikovich | Chairman | Council of the Republic of Belarus |
| Vacancy | | |

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Ms. Elizabeth Cabezas | President | National Assembly of Ecuador |
| Mr. Silvio Ovelar | President | Senate of Paraguay |
| Ms. Maya Fernández Allende | President | Chamber of Deputies of Chile (to be replaced in March 2019 by the new President Mr. Gabriel Silber) |

Twelve Plus Group

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Mr. Demetris Syllouris | President | House of Representatives of Cyprus |
| Mr. Trevor Mallard | Speaker | House of Representatives of New Zealand |
| Ms. Maja Gojkovic | Speaker | National Assembly of Serbia |
| Ms. Ana Pastor | President | Congress of Deputies of Spain |
| Vacancy | | |

Representatives of the Executive Committee

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Konstantin Kosachev | Russian Federation |
| Mr. Kenneth M. Lusaka | Kenya |
| Ms. Hege Haukeland Liadal | Norway |

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Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU
High-level representative of the United Nations Secretary-General

Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Parliamentary Workshop and events in the context of the World Investment Forum 2018 | GENEVA 22-24 October 2018 |
| Parliamentary Speakers' Summit at the G20 | BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) 1-2 November 2018 |
| Regional seminar on climate change and disaster risk reduction for Parliaments of the Caribbean | Suriname 5-6 November 2018 |
| Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for the Parliaments of the Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and East Asia | JERUSALEM (Israel) 20-22 November 2018 |
| Follow-up regional seminar on the contribution of parliament to combat child trafficking and labour on the occasion of the ECOWAS Parliamentary session | ECOWAS Parliament HQ ABUJA (Nigeria) 20-22 November 2018 |
| Regional workshop on the Parliament's contribution to the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) for African English-speaking parliaments, organized by the IPU and the WTO | GABORONE (Botswana) November 2018 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| World e-Parliament Conference 2018 | GENEVA 3-5 December 2018 |
| 43 rd session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO on the occasion of the annual WTO session | GENEVA 6 December 2018 |
| Annual session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO | GENEVA 6-7 December 2018 |
| Parliamentary Meeting at the Global Compact on Migration | RABAT (Morocco) 6-7 December 2018 |
| Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) | KRAKOW (Poland) 9 December 2018 |
| Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians | BAKU (Azerbaijan) 13-15 December 2018 |
| Capacity-building workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for countries from the MENA region | CAIRO (Egypt) (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Third Roundtable convened by the Committee on Middle East Questions | Egypt January 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| 158 th session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians | GENEVA 29 January – 8 February 2019 |
| First meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament | GENEVA 8 and 9 February 2019 |

| | |
|---|---|
| First Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism | February 2019 (Venue and dates to be confirmed) |
| Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations | NEW YORK February 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| 44 th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO | BRUSSELS (Belgium) European Parliament February/March 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 63 rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women | NEW YORK March 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| 140 th Assembly and related meetings | DOHA (Qatar) 6-10 April 2019 |
| Capacity-building workshop on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Sahel countries | Niger (first half of 2019 - dates to be confirmed) |
| Workshop for parliamentary human rights committees | GENEVA (first half of 2019 - dates to be confirmed) |
| Second regional seminar on the achievement of the SDGs for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region | ULAANBAATAR (Mongolia) May/June 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for English-speaking participants | GENEVA May/June 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Fourteenth Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians | WROXTON (United Kingdom) 27-28 July 2019 |
| Parliamentary side event at the High-Level Political Forum for sustainable development (HLPF) | NEW YORK July 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| 141 st Assembly and related meetings | BELGRADE (Serbia) Autumn 2019 (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Regional seminar on the achievement of the SDGs for African Parliaments | Côte d'Ivoire (Dates to be confirmed) |
| Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians | Venue and dates to be confirmed |
| Leadership seminar on strengthening democracy through electoral processes | MEXICO CITY (Mexico) (Dates to be confirmed) |

Agenda of the 140th Assembly

(Doha, Qatar, 6-10 April 2019)

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
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