



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka (Bangladesh)

1 – 5 April 2017

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Introduction

The 136th IPU Assembly took place from 1 to 5 April 2017, at the *Bangabandhu International Conference Centre* in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Delegations from 126 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following six Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Parliaments of Brunei Darussalam, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated as observers with a view to future affiliation.

Other observers comprised representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA); (ii) the International Monetary Fund (IMF); (iii) the League of Arab States; (iv) the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), the Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC); (v) Liberal International, Socialist International; (vi) the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Of the 1,206 delegates who attended the Assembly, 608 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 42 Presiding Officers, 35 Deputy Presiding Officers and 192 women (31.6 per cent).

Opening of the 136th Assembly

SITTING OF SATURDAY, 1 APRIL 2017

The inaugural ceremony took place on the South Plaza of the Bangladesh Parliament on Saturday, 1 April 2017 at 7.30 p.m., with H.E. the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, in attendance.

The national anthem of Bangladesh was performed and extracts from holy scriptures were recited. A short film was shown about the life of the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, said that she was deeply honoured to welcome delegates to the 136th IPU Assembly. The Bangladesh Parliament, which had been an active partner in promoting democratic values, was proud to be hosting the event. She thanked all those who had provided guidance and support, including the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, parliamentary officials and the law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh. She hoped that participants would revel in the vibrant energy of the city of Dhaka.

Bangladesh had been born as a sovereign country in 1971 through the sacrifice of freedom-fighters led by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In less than 50 years, it had become a lower-middle income country with a young and innovative population. Bangladesh was the world's largest producer of ready-made garments and a prominent contributor to a number of other industries, including pharmaceuticals and shipbuilding. GDP was rising consistently by about 7 per cent and significant progress had been made in a number of areas, including poverty eradication, gender parity in education, women's empowerment, reduction of maternal and infant mortality, disaster management and strengthening the rural economy. Social and human development indicators demonstrated that Bangladesh, which had been recognized as a leader in many sectors of development, was well on the way to becoming a middle-income country by 2021.

Noting the importance of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, she said that the Constitution of Bangladesh upheld the pledge to build an equitable and inclusive society that was free from poverty and exploitation and ensured economic, social and political justice for all. The 10th Parliament of Bangladesh, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bringing about further substantive changes in the lives of the people.

The rapid pace of globalization was creating critical challenges that transcended national boundaries and were not to be ignored. The consequences of climate change would be felt by all nations. Inequalities within and between countries persisted. Diversity of background and opinion should be celebrated and challenges could not be tackled in isolation. Parliamentarians needed to take account of changing economic patterns that could deepen interdependence and create opportunities for human development and social inclusion. Young people must be involved in the democratic process. At a time of increasing instability, conflict and uncertainty around the world, parliaments could offer a source of hope. The IPU provided an exceptional forum for assembling parliamentarians and facilitating dialogue on how to take forward a shared vision and maximize the well-being of people in all nations. Democracy must deliver.

Mr. M. JENCA, *United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs*, read out the following message on behalf of the UN Secretary-General:

"It is my pleasure to greet the Inter-Parliamentary Union and all those from around the world who have come together for this timely and important gathering. I thank the people and Government of Bangladesh for hosting this event.

I attach great importance to close ties between the United Nations and the IPU. After all, I was once one of you – a parliamentarian in Portugal. So I have seen, first hand, the key role you play as representatives of the people, as standard-bearers of democracy, as legislators who turn aspiration to action, and as individuals who serve as crucial links between the local and the global. That rewarding experience from an earlier part of my career in public service makes me especially enthusiastic about what we can accomplish together today across the world, across our agenda.

In taking up my duties as Secretary-General, I have called for a surge in diplomacy for peace – and for a new emphasis on preventing conflict- and crisis. We are working to improve living conditions everywhere through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pressing ahead with implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – not only to meet this grave threat but to seize the great opportunities of a low-carbon, clean-energy future. We are also pursuing a series of major reforms – of the UN peace and security architecture, development system and management – in order to better serve the world's people.

One key to progress will be addressing global inequalities, and so I welcome your focus on this challenge as the theme of your Assembly. Inequalities feed exclusion, hardship and despair, thereby causing or perpetuating cycles of insecurity and violence. At this time of divisiveness and economic uncertainty, I look forward to your support for investments in solidarity and social cohesion. Together, let us create a more compassionate, inclusive and peaceful world".

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, said that it was a privilege and an honour to welcome participants to his home city of Dhaka. He was humbled that the Members of the IPU had chosen to have their Assembly in Bangladesh. It was the largest international event that Bangladesh had ever hosted. Attendance figures were impressive and the debates scheduled would tackle the most pressing current issues facing the global parliamentary community.

He thanked those present for coming to Dhaka. In so doing, they had chosen hope over fear and demonstrated their belief that unity and solidarity were the best antidote to those who wished to sow division. He also thanked the Parliament and Government of Bangladesh, in particular Prime Minister Hasina, for the excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality they had provided.

One advantage of the IPU Assemblies being hosted by different countries was the opportunity to understand more about the people, culture and successes of the hosts. Delegates could then take back to their home countries good practices that they had learned about. Bangladesh had been dismissed in the past; Henry Kissinger had famously called it a "bottomless basket". Now, it had a strong record in a range of areas, including: women's empowerment, resilience to the impacts of climate change, disaster risk management, international trade and energy security. Bangladesh had also increased the number of users of mobile phone, internet and mobile phone banking services, lifted millions of its citizens out of poverty, increased their life expectancy, immunized over 90 per cent of the country's children, decreased infant, child and maternal mortality rates, achieved gender parity and 100 per cent enrolment in primary education, and become food self-sufficient. Achieving Goal 16 of the SDGs, with its focus on institutions, good governance and the rule of law, would help Bangladesh to consolidate and build on its progress and make it sustainable.

The Parliament of Bangladesh had recently adopted a resolution by unanimity declaring 25 March *Genocide Day*. Genocides resulted from unchecked hatred, xenophobia, discrimination and racism. He called on all present to learn from history and ensure that the world would not witness another genocide ever again.

In 2015, the IPU and national parliaments had been closely involved with major international decisions, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The IPU and its Members had followed up on these decisions with seminars and events across the world. To implement the SDGs, the three branches of power had to cooperate more closely. That required "complementarity of powers", which should exist alongside the important principle of the separation of powers. The IPU relationship with the United Nations had also intensified through a renewal of cooperation agreement with that organization.

There were many advantages to living in a highly connected world where national economies were increasingly integrated. However, the connected world had also created inequality that must be reduced if alternative, often extreme, world views were to be prevented from gaining ground. Currently, 1 per cent of the world's population owned 99 per cent of the world's wealth. During the Assembly, Members should have candid discussions so as to find viable alternatives to that model of wealth distribution. The theme of the General Debate *Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all*, might help in that regard. The solutions might draw on the advantages of democratic frameworks such as parliamentary diplomacy and good governance.

The IPU must take a stand when efforts to secure peace were negated. It had strongly condemned the building of new settlements by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Organization reiterated its commitment to a two-State solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, peace in the Korean Peninsula, an end to conflict in Syria, a solution to the crisis in Yemen and, an

end to the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. The IPU was also concerned about news from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that the judiciary was assuming the powers of the legislature. The Organization was following the situation very closely.

The IPU was pleased to be welcoming two new Members: the Central African Republic and Tuvalu. The membership of the IPU now stood at 173 national parliaments, the largest number of Members ever recorded. That meant that over 46,000 MPs and close to 7 billion people had a connection to the Organization. Observer delegations were also attending in Dhaka from Brunei, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The IPU was committed to universal membership, and as a global organization, expected nothing less.

Regarding gender equality, he noted that all three of the guests of honour at the inaugural ceremony – the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the Leader of the Opposition and the Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament – were women. In Bangladesh, similar levels of gender equality could be seen at the community as well as at the government level.

Delegates would witness two ground-breaking initiatives during the present Assembly: a new mobile application for streaming proceedings of the Assembly called *IPU TV*; and a commitment to offset all the carbon emitted as a result of the Assembly. Given the strong impact of climate change on Bangladesh, it was important to ensure that the Assembly was as green an event as possible.

The President invited all those present to see Bangladesh as their home and to come back again and again, and wished them a successful Assembly.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, warmly thanked the host Parliament for its gracious hospitality. Women's empowerment, in particular women's economic and financial empowerment, and the fight against inequality, were key themes of the Assembly. Inequality, which deprived human beings of their dignity, lay not only in the social and economic realm, but also in the political arena. He was grateful to Bangladesh, where political leadership was firmly in the hands of women, for setting such a good example in promoting gender equality. He looked forward to robust discussions at the Assembly on how the global parliamentary community could work together to contribute to global efforts to fight inequality and improve well-being for all, and to specific, actionable outcomes on how to tackle all aspects of inequality.

Ms. S. HASINA, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, said that her country had never held such a large conference. It was deeply honoured to be hosting the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and valued its association with the IPU.

Bangladesh was proud of its democratic heritage, and regarded democracy as a means of securing prosperity and security for its people. However, the journey towards the establishment of democracy had not been smooth. The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had endured a lifelong struggle in order to realize the rights of the people and had been obliged to endure inhuman repression and persecution. Although the party he had led had won the elections in 1970 in the then Pakistan, the Pakistani rulers had not transferred power, choosing instead to launch "Operation Searchlight", one of the cruelest genocides in history, against the Bangalees on 25 March 1971. Bangabandhu had declared the independence of Bangladesh on 26 March 1971. Victory against the Pakistani junta had been achieved on 16 December 1971 at a cost of some three million Bangalees lives and the honour of some 200,000 women.

The Father of the Nation and most of his family members had been assassinated on 15 August 1975. Ms. Sheikh Shina and her younger sister had survived because they had been abroad. Undemocratic and autocratic rule had taken root in the country and, after six years in exile, she had returned and launched a vigorous movement for the restoration of democracy. She had become a member of parliament in 1986, but had endured great persecution, including house arrest, imprisonment and at least 19 attempts on her life. Thousands of members of her party, the Bangladesh Awami League, had sacrificed their lives for the right to food, the right to vote and the struggle for democracy.

Turning to the current situation in Bangladesh, she said that democratic institutions, including the national parliament and local government bodies, had been strengthened. The media was vibrant and independent, and the right to information had been ensured through the enactment of legislation and the establishment of an information commission. Considerable socio-economic progress had also been made: the poverty rate had decreased from 31.5 per cent in 2010 to 22.4 per cent in 2016; per capita income now stood at US\$ 1,466 and average life expectancy had risen to 72 years. Bangladesh was already recognized as a lower-middle-income country; the aim was to make it a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. Her country was building on the successes achieved with respect to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in its implementation of the SDGs and had incorporated the subjects of the SDGs in its seventh five-year plan.

Despite the tangible progress made with respect to the hunger situation in the world, some 800 million people still suffered from malnutrition. Many children from developing countries suffered from stunting because of a lack of nutrition, and were deprived of health care and schooling. Sympathy, support and mutual compassion could go a long way to establishing a hunger-free world. She appealed to countries to work together to combat terrorism and militancy, which had become global phenomena, and, noting that Bangladesh was one of the countries to suffer most from the adverse impact of climate change, she called for climate change commitments made at various fora to be implemented without delay.

She hoped that the Assembly's discussions would yield useful recommendations on eradicating poverty, establishing world peace and enhancing the welfare of humanity, which participants would strive to implement in their own countries. She formally declared the 136th IPU Assembly open.

To mark the occasion, the Prime Minister launched a new mobile app, IPU TV, and released a set of commemorative postage stamps.

The speeches were followed by a light and sound show about the history of Bangladesh and an official dinner, accompanied by traditional Bangladeshi music.

Sitting of Sunday, 2 April 2017 (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m., with Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT declared open the 136th Assembly.

Item 1 of the agenda

Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 136th Assembly

As recommended by the Governing Council, Ms. S.S. Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, was, by acclamation, elected President of the Assembly.

Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that she was honoured to serve as President of the Assembly and looked forward to a lively debate on the theme of redressing inequalities, which continued to widen within and among countries despite the lower levels of poverty as a result of economic growth and targeted actions. The poor, vulnerable and marginalized did not automatically enjoy the fruits of economic growth, which created a rise in relative poverty. More inclusive development might best be achieved through greater low-wage employment and a labour-intensive manufacturing-centred growth trajectory, coupled with poverty reduction strategies aimed at the most disadvantaged. Economic growth must furthermore be assessed in the light of income inequalities and policies that widened the rich-poor and urban-rural divide. Another critical factor to be considered was inequality of opportunity, which diminished prospects and led to unequal outcomes.

For the sake of social cohesion, inclusive development, democracy and socio-economic progress, inequalities must therefore be addressed through affirmative measures to remedy unequal access to benefits and services. A multi-pronged approach was required with the ultimate aim of establishing principles for achieving an appropriate distribution of benefits and burdens, including through transformative policies rooted in social justice. Other elements to be taken into account in the efforts to eliminate inequalities included taxation, savings, property rights, market structures and the production system. Parliamentarians must use their power to change the dynamic so that the disadvantaged were included in the development process, with equality and equal rights as the key focus.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on

Redressing Inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all (A/136/3-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to set the stage for the debate by addressing its theme from the gender and youth perspectives.

Ms. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia), *President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*, said in her opening remarks that the SDGs were central to the mission of parliamentarians to redress inequalities and deliver on dignity and well-being for all. In view of the interrelatedness of all forms of inequality, that process could be fast-tracked by placing gender equality at the centre of all undertakings. The first priority was to ensure that domestic legislation affirmed the principle of gender equality and addressed all forms of gender-based violence as the norm. The second was for parliaments to deliver on gender equality, which was crucial to the legitimacy, efficiency and effectiveness of political decision-making, and to implement the IPU *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*. The third priority was to make economic empowerment of all women a reality, particularly as it would promote children's enrolment in education, improve family nutrition and health, and add trillions to the world economy.

She thus welcomed the draft resolution to be tabled before the Assembly on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development, saying that women must earn equal pay for equal work and that the value of their unpaid work must also be recognized. A response to the needs of

all women in all groups and situations was indeed vital to successfully delivering on dignity and well-being for all, to which end parliaments must lead the efforts to eliminate gender biases and ensure that equality prevailed.

Mr. S. ALREMEITHI (United Arab Emirates), *President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, in his opening remarks, said that young people often felt disillusioned and marginalized as a result of discrimination and inequality, which could also turn them towards extremism and violence. Parliamentarians should therefore work to spearhead a comprehensive framework for action to combat all inequality, with compulsory education, equal job opportunities and participation at all levels of decision making included among its priorities. Young parliamentarians were committed to ending the manipulation of the young for political gain, while their dynamism, creativity and connections with other young people around the globe were assets from which politics stood to benefit enormously. The institutions of governance nonetheless remained unrepresentative of the youth who constituted such a high proportion of the world's population. With combating discrimination inherent to its work, the IPU was leading the way in terms of representative institutions and youth participation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, moreover, afforded a unique opportunity to correct past imbalances and ensure that no one was left behind.

Parliamentarians were well placed to develop legal standards for the elimination of discrimination against vulnerable groups, wealth redistribution would create a better future for all, and partnerships would help in building a people-centred economy. The private sector should furthermore be included in policymaking with a view to placing the economy at the service of the people, while environmentally unfriendly behaviour patterns must be changed and the fight against corruption vigorously pursued so as to build trust in institutions. For their part, parliamentarians must contribute to systematic reviews of government progress on the implementation of development plans with the aim of reinforcing transparency, access to information and human rights.

The PRESIDENT extended a warm welcome to the keynote speaker, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Honorary President of the Global March against Child Labour and co-founder of the Global Campaign for Education, and Nobel Peace Laureate.

Mr. K. SATYARTHI, in delivering his keynote address to the Assembly, agreed that the global prevalence of crises, threats and insecurity would be much reduced if women were empowered and treated equally as men and that the world would be more joyous and powerful if the youth voice was heard and heeded. As representatives of the people and custodians of the moral conscience, with the faith and trust of millions, parliamentarians had the highly responsible task of guiding the world along the path of righteousness and equality. It was time to awaken the global consciousness to the brutal facts about inequality: thousands of children died each day from hunger and malnutrition while the fortunes of the world's richest increased daily by millions. Indeed, the combined wealth of the world's eight richest individuals equalled that of the poorest half of humanity, signalling a gap that had simply widened over the years. The many millions of children who were missing an education, toiling to create wealth for others or being bought and sold as slaves were more than a faceless statistic; they were living individuals whose plight should appeal to the conscience of humanity as one that was intolerable and wholly unacceptable.

The feudalistic view of inequality as an inescapable fate had long since been demolished, giving way to dreams and aspirations born through the rise of democracy and further promoted by the digital revolution. The improvements realized since World War II in the figures relating to poverty, child labour, child mortality and school enrolment owed much to the efforts of visionary parliamentarians who legislated with an eye to the future of the next generations. The task was not yet complete, however, as indicated by the growing salary divide between the two ends of the workforce and the number of those with incomes below the poverty threshold, who were unable to provide for their children. Successes achieved by the Indian Children's Parliament in areas such as the school dropout rate, child marriage and girls' access to toilet facilities were an example for the parliaments of the world, which must accept the challenge of working to end child labour and exploitation and to secure education for all. It was through strong leadership and bold action – not business as usual – that they would safeguard people, the planet, peace and prosperity, including by ending inequality, which constituted economic violence and a major threat to peace, security and social harmony. Parliamentarians must therefore assume their collective responsibility for addressing such issues by, *inter alia*, prioritizing the relevant SDGs and ensuring the adequacy of budgetary allocations aimed at bettering children's lives.

Launched jointly with other Nobel laureates and numerous world leaders, his ambitious youth campaign "100 Million for 100 Million" was designed to harness the energy and idealism of 100 million youth in support of 100 million children who were left behind. In thus working to prevent the frustration that could drive such children towards intolerance, violence and radicalization, the idea was to create a new culture of global compassion and, in turn, a better and safer world. Noting that revolutions were achieved through small steps, he urged parliamentarians to unite in leading that cause, in particular by taking part, on 20 September 2017, in the campaign's "Parliamentarians Back-to-School Day" initiative, for which they could register their interest at: <http://100million.org/parliamentarians/>.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Satyarthi for his thought-provoking address and invited delegates to express their views on the theme of the debate.

High-level segment of the General Debate

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia), opening the debate, said that progress in addressing the challenge of poverty reduction had remained inadequate, particularly in Africa, where most of the least developed countries had been off track in meeting the MDGs, including their poverty-related targets. Indeed, the statistics pointed to serious and unacceptable levels of extreme poverty in those countries, where the high proportion of youth in the population was an exacerbating factor, economic booms notwithstanding. The lack of attention in the MDGs to inequalities had furthermore inadvertently encouraged a focus on those who were easiest to reach at the expense of the most deprived, thereby widening the gap between rich and poor. Neither had growth acceleration greatly improved job creation, food security, health service delivery or sanitation, with the result that existing inequalities had worsened. The adverse social consequences of the situation must therefore be urgently addressed, bearing in mind that they were otherwise likely to be long-lasting due to the nature of the coping strategies used by the poor to avert catastrophe, such as the disposal of household assets or the removal of children from school.

With respect to redressing inequalities in the light of those challenges, four major policy lessons had emerged from the Zambian experience of MDG implementation. First, not all patterns of economic growth led to equality of opportunities. Second, the SDGs should be reconnected to a more holistic and broad-based economic development strategy. Third, capacities for mobilizing domestic resources must be strengthened with a long-term view to reducing aid dependence. Lastly, the vital role of parliaments in addressing the challenges associated with inequality lay in producing well-conceived legislation and performing adequate oversight of the executive in regard to expenditure allocation and actual resource application.

Mr. E. MIYEGOMBO (Mongolia) said that, in the context of SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries, his country had set itself the noble goal of building a humane, civil and democratic society by promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in its Constitution. It had thus become a party to numerous international human rights instruments and incorporated many of the rights and freedoms articulated therein into its national legislation. It had also enacted laws aimed at ending poverty, creating job opportunities and reducing unemployment with a view to promoting attainment of the SDGs. In addition, it had set the ambitious goal of further reducing poverty to the point of eradication by 2030, to which end it had introduced tax breaks and customs duty exemptions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The expectation was that such policy actions would considerably reduce income inequality and increase upward mobility.

His country's journey towards sustainable development was premised on leaving behind no one, above all children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities. Indeed, the desire to redress social inequalities and build a just and civil society friendly to all was firmly demonstrated by the recent enactment of laws on domestic violence, maternity leave and support for older persons. Further ensuring women's right to political participation remained a priority, while the promotion of men's rights also deserved particular attention to reduce the social inequality stemming from the limited job opportunities available to those with nomadic lifestyles who had missed out on education. Parliamentarians must spare no efforts to ensure that sufficient budgetary resources were allocated to SDG implementation and to enhancing the participation of developing countries in international economic and financial decision-making. Collective commitments must also be effectively implemented as part of the endeavour to reduce inequalities among countries.

Mr. SYE KYUN CHUNG (Republic of Korea) said that the key to breaking the vicious cycle of low growth and worsening inequality was to focus on the quality rather than the quantity of growth. It was therefore appropriate that the SDGs should be aimed at redressing social inequalities as a prerequisite for economic growth. For its part, his country was engaged in multilateral efforts to achieve sustainable development accordingly by addressing imbalances in the labour market and resolving income disparities through reducing the number of temporary positions and raising the minimum wage. It was also working to protect vulnerable groups by improving the unemployment benefits and employment support available to them. It was furthermore increasing research and development investment in SMEs that created new jobs, taking action to increase their competitiveness, and implementing a range of measures for promoting gender equality.

His country also sought to address inequality among countries by increasing its official development assistance and actively participating in international aid programmes. In particular, it had played a part in building parliamentary capacities through its hosting of the World e-Parliament Conference, in partnership with the IPU, in 2014. It had furthermore provided humanitarian assistance to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and worked for economic cooperation with their Government, although its efforts on both those scores had since been constrained by the growing list of sanctions against that country. It nonetheless stood ready to provide such assistance as was required to enhance the quality of life for the inhabitants and was furthermore pursuing a parliamentary dialogue among the countries involved in the Six-Party Talks with a view to alleviating existing tensions. It also hoped for an opportunity to discuss matters relating to the Korean Peninsula at the IPU, in which connection it looked forward to active support and cooperation from the membership.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda), noting that humanity had fallen short of commitments made under various international instruments, asked how many countries had incorporated the provisions of those instruments into their domestic laws, developed related plans of action and set budgets for their implementation and evaluation. The question was pertinent, she said, in the light of features characteristic of the twenty-first century: rising levels of inequality and discrimination; socio-economic and political exclusion; the ever-widening gap between rich and poor; accumulation of global wealth by the few; exploitation of low-wage earners; and lack of social protection programmes. In Africa alone, the combined fortune of high net-worth individuals contrasted sharply with the millions still living in extreme poverty, particularly in rural areas and despite economic growth.

To reduce such inequalities and deliver on dignity and well-being for all, parliamentarians must take steps to even out the concentration of facilities and services country-wide, develop infrastructure and equity audits, and ensure access to financial resources for smaller economic actors. In addition to providing opportunities for all population groups, governments must address the issues of global economic governance and excessive liberalization, with particular reference to less developed countries. The drivers of inequality must also be tackled, including by holding corporations accountable for all environmental degradation of their making and monitoring their exploitation of natural resources and its impact on indigenous communities. The most obnoxious driver of inequality was perhaps corruption, which, among other things, increased infrastructure costs and led to job and other opportunities for non-locals at the expense of citizens. Parliaments must therefore be alert to what was tantamount to the official export of opportunities in order to take appropriate preventive action.

Mr. D. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that his country was working to reduce inequalities through its overseas development programme Irish Aid, which was strongly focused on eliminating poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In Africa, its rural livelihood activities took account of the experience, needs and rights of women farmers in particular and supported women's access to critical resources, such as land. It had also increased its support of social protection as a poverty-reducing instrument in its partner countries and was working to enhance the quality of education in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly for girls at secondary level, given the central role of education in promoting social equality and delivering economic growth. It furthermore worked to promote education rights for all children through its programming with civil society partners, bilateral countries and multilateral organizations. With gender equality a prerequisite to development and key to redressing inequality, Irish Aid was also committed to developing and supporting gender-responsive programming and policy in line with the aim of SDG 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. A proud supporter of the IPU Gender Partnership Programme, Ireland had made welcome progress in its own political system towards a representative parliament reflecting an equitable society.

He highlighted the importance of taxation as a policy tool for fostering equality, economic growth and sustainable development insofar as it provided funds for investment in development, poverty reduction and the delivery of public services in the long-term interest. As to strengthening national justice systems, parliaments and oversight institutions, Irish Aid provided annual funding in support of activities aimed at achieving that goal in numerous countries across Africa. It also had practical experience of promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation, in which context he described its three-year involvement in a pilot project for increasing parliamentary oversight of development processes and policies in two African countries.

Mr. A. ABD EL AAL (Egypt) said that women's empowerment and youth participation in politics and decision-making were prerequisites for the achievement of equality, which also called for the narrowing of social gaps and the elimination of social injustices. Equality furthermore implied that the voice of developing countries must be well represented and given ample consideration in international decision making, including with respect to financial and economic issues, which would enhance institutional effectiveness, credibility, accountability and legitimacy. All such requirements were closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was aimed at reducing disparities within and among countries.

In pursuing the goal of equality, parliamentarians must share relevant experiences and play a key role in tackling inequality by working to achieve social justice for all, without discrimination of any kind, and by legislating to protect the rights of ethnic and other minorities and ensure respect for their social and cultural specificities. Egypt recognized equality as the foundation of democracy and had thus taken measures in line with its Constitution to ensure the enjoyment of equal rights by all citizens and to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Women had consequently won an unprecedented number of seats in parliament, where youth representation had similarly increased. Vision 2030, the country's sustainable development strategy, was also designed to build a just society guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for all its members in order to achieve the highest level of inclusivity. Indeed, stability and progress would be realized only by engaging the whole of society in all aspects of national life. As symbols of democracy, parliamentarians must therefore channel genuine efforts into accomplishing the noble goal of equality for all.

The sitting rose at 1.30 p.m.

Sitting of Sunday 2 April (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Redressing inequalities: delivering on dignity and well-being for all*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. V. MATEU (Andorra) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prioritized the relationship between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection in a comprehensive manner that would enable inequalities to be fully understood. Through the SDGs, the United Nations had launched an appeal to all governments and parliaments to take the necessary measures to reduce inequalities within and between countries. Inequality meant unequal opportunities. While all people were different, and diversity was one of the world's great riches, dignity for each and every individual must be guaranteed and well-being must be acknowledged as a universal right. One of the main tools to achieve equality was education, which was essential for creating well-informed, critical thinking citizens. Politicians had a responsibility to ensure that every citizen had access to universal, high quality public education. Equality also meant equal access to institutions and services, without discrimination on any grounds.

The Parliament of Andorra was preparing a white paper on equality, to identify situations where inequalities persisted and propose policies to redress them. Research had broadened to address violence, which could only be eradicated by eliminating all forms of discrimination. The white paper was due to be published in June 2017. A law on equality had been drafted and an observatory for gathering data on vulnerable groups had been set up. Discrimination could only be overcome through awareness-raising, training, education and communication. Inequalities between countries must be addressed through international cooperation to maximize trade and eliminate market abuses and corruption. The international community must work together to meet the world's major humanitarian and environmental challenges, in spirit of courage and openness, to build a better world for future generations.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan) said that Jordan was located in a hotspot of tension, with neighbouring countries suffering from crises. The lack of justice for the people of Palestine had destabilized equality in the region. Welfare and prosperity could therefore not be achieved without resolving the situation in Palestine. The flames of terrorism were being fanned by the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and Jerusalem. Extremists could not be deterred unless Israel was deterred. The international community applied double standards when interacting with Israel. Arab leaders, through the recent Arab Summit, had unanimously agreed on the urgency of the Palestinian cause. The only foreseeable positive conclusion would be through the final status negotiations, which would guarantee full sovereignty and dignity for the Palestinian people in their own State, with east Jerusalem as the capital, and bring an end to the Israeli violations of Islamic and Christian holy sites that were traditionally under Hashemite custodianship. Jerusalem must be protected and all attempts to establish a new status quo, which would undermine attempts to foster stability in the region, must be prevented.

The issues of the Middle East region were interconnected; a scientific approach was therefore required when seeking a solution. The success of peace, after the situation in Palestine had been resolved through a two-State solution, would be instrumental in eliminating terrorism, and would bring an end to the chaos. The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic required concerted international efforts. A political solution was essential; the military approach had proven ineffective. That crisis went hand in hand with that in Iraq. The international community must support Iraq's efforts to end sectarian indoctrination, and must ensure justice, dignity and equality for all. Talk of dignity was meaningless unless equality and justice were truly achieved.

Ms. S. MAHAJAN (India) said that persistent inequalities in a society could jeopardize the well-being of large segments of the population. The notion of human dignity was central to societal progress. In India, the individual, society and the universe were considered as an organic whole, with the belief that the individual should grow to benefit society, which in turn would benefit the universe. Dignity could not be ensured merely through constitutional means, but rather must be

embedded in the basic value system of society. Considerable social, economic, political and legal efforts had been made to achieve an equitable society in India. Legislation had been enacted to empower women politically, through the introduction of a quota of 33 per cent for women's representation in local government. A bill proposing such a quota for women's representation in the national legislature was under consideration. Legislation had also been passed to end discrimination against vulnerable groups of the population, and promote their full and effective participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the country.

India had made significant progress towards meeting the MDGs; implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would bridge the remaining gaps to ensure equitable development. Democracy was essential in that regard, since it provided space for the articulation of opinions and encompassed the interests of all. Many existing inequalities had global links, and could only be overcome through sustained global efforts. Environmental concerns, in particular, must be addressed collectively. Peace was not merely the absence of war, but rather dignity and well-being for all, which would allow all individuals and groups to feel respected, valued and connected with others around them. The world's parliamentarians must commit to working together to achieve equitable development and protect the dignity and well-being of all.

Mr. P.H. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that the inequalities confronting many countries were a historical legacy. Despite Namibia's history of colonialism and apartheid, the people would not sit idle and accept the deficit they had inherited. Every effort was being made to overcome inequality. The Harambee Prosperity Plan had been adopted in 2016, outlining specific social and economic development measures, and a Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare had been established. Parliament continued to work with the executive to craft policies and legislation to facilitate economic transformation in order to overcome poverty and underdevelopment. In 2017, the national budget committed 47 per cent of government spending to social welfare and poverty eradication programmes, including education, skills development and health services.

To ensure economic development and thus improve the welfare of the people, fair and ethical investment should be ensured, with foreign investment encouraged along with local entrepreneurship. Value should be added to natural resources at the local level, and efforts made to protect infant industries. Public procurement should be used to economically empower the marginalized sectors of the community, and timely service delivery would be essential to meeting the needs and aspirations of the people. Democracy was dependent on the will of the people, who, if empowered to make decisions that affected their lives, would identify with and defend those initiatives. Innovative means must therefore be found to encourage communities, the private sector and civil society to engage with parliaments. As leaders and opinion drivers, parliamentarians must openly declare their support for redressing inequalities and restoring the rights of all people to live in dignity and well-being.

Ms. A. AL-QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that the 136th IPU Assembly was taking place in complex global circumstances: thousands of civilians were facing threats of conflict; the United Kingdom was leaving the European Union; the United States was imposing protectionist measures. Terrorism was taking hold around the world, conflicts in the Middle East were escalating and millions of people had been forced to flee their homes and leave their families. The United Arab Emirates had been among the first countries to take in large numbers of refugees, and had provided financial support to refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. The United Arab Emirates was paying dearly to help the people of Yemen regain their independence, through the provision of financial support and military personnel to fight against the militia, in line with international law and on behalf of the international community.

Daesh posed a serious threat in the region. In order to overcome that threat, terrorism must no longer be associated with a particular religion; the distortion of Islam was not acceptable. Islam was a religion of tolerance. Political disputes should be solved using the fundamental principles of international law. No one should be discriminated against on grounds of religion. International law must be respected. Parliamentarians had a considerable responsibility to oppose those who sought to violate the principles of international law and destabilize the Middle East, in particular by arming militias in Iraq and Bahrain. The United Arab Emirates was seeking to recover its own territorial integrity over the three islands in the Persian Gulf that the Islamic Republic of Iran had seized. Such attempts to colonize by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel were unacceptable. A durable solution must be sought to the conflicts in the Middle East. She called on all parliaments to endorse the Abu Dhabi Declaration, adopted by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in December 2016, and to work together to build a better future for all.

Ms. O. GHARTI (Nepal) said that unequal treatment remained the greatest threat to both sustainable development and global peace and security. In many developing countries, large segments of the population lagged behind in terms of economic, social and political participation in society. To eliminate inequality, those marginalized groups must be guaranteed equal opportunities. Parliamentarians, as the representatives of the people, had a responsibility to legislate and budget for equality, and to oversee the executive's implementation of programmes and policies. Social justice, dignity and protection must be granted to all those in need, in order to nurture human dignity and well-being for all. The benefits of development and growth must be shared equitably across the whole of society.

The Government of Nepal was doing its utmost to harmonize its policies and programmes with the SDGs in order to address poverty, reduce inequalities and create opportunities for all. Social and economic inequalities could lead to political unrest. With that in mind, efforts were made to ensure social justice, particularly for women, indigenous peoples, marginalized communities and disadvantaged segments of society. The 136th IPU Assembly would afford an excellent opportunity for a constructive exchange of ideas and the adoption of pragmatic resolutions to address inequalities across societies and nations.

Mr. P. Matibini (Zambia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. U. AHLIN (Sweden) said that poverty and inequality were not unbeatable, but could only be overcome with political will. Parliamentarians should consider whether they had sufficient strength and determination to make poverty eradication a reality. If not, there would be a lot of talk, but no results. Through the MDGs, much had been done to eradicate poverty. That agenda was being taken further by the SDGs. While globalization and free trade had lifted millions out of poverty, and were powerful tools in creating prosperity, if growth was not inclusive, while a small minority became incredibly rich, the majority would be left behind. There was no single quick fix, nor any one model that could apply to all. Every country must work with the SDGs in its own way, based on its specific conditions.

Parliamentarians must support the poor and marginalized, equipping them to create better lives for themselves and their children. Respect for the fundamental human rights of all individuals was essential; society was no stronger than its weakest link. Economic development, democracy, rule of law and human rights were interdependent. An equal society fulfilled its obligations to every citizen. The Swedish Government had launched its "Global Deal" initiative, which aimed to promote inclusive growth and shared prosperity through social dialogue, based on ratification of the core conventions of the International Labour Organization and to also promote decent work and strengthened industrial relations. Sweden was strongly committed to the SDGs, even though it was a fortunate, prosperous, democratic and predominantly gender equal nation, which did not suffer from wars or natural disasters. Sweden owed much of its fortune to close cooperation with neighbouring countries. Prosperous countries had prosperous neighbours. That prosperity was built on mutual engagement, support, cooperation and trade.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi) said that conflict in Burundi had come to an end through the negotiation of the Arusha Accords, which was based on the need to redress the social, economic and political inequalities that were rampant in Burundi at the time. The Arusha Accords had been incorporated into the Constitution of Burundi, which included provisions on the minimum quota of women's representation in politics. Several initiatives had been undertaken to promote women's health and well-being, including the provision of free health care for women during pregnancy and delivery. A women's caucus had been established in the National Assembly, to give women an opportunity to be heard. Microcredit schemes for women were also in place. For children, much had been done, including the provision of free basic education, free health care for children aged under five years, and a children's parliament, to which children were elected by their peers. A youth forum also gave a voice to young people in Burundi, and a youth bank was being established.

Despite having endured great suffering, the people of Burundi had engaged in ongoing dialogue, which had helped to make progress. Despite some setbacks in 2015, the political will was present to engage in dialogue and that was being taken forward by an initiative of the East African Community, headed by Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of Tanzania. The mandate given to the IPU Secretary General to hold a meeting to address the issue of Burundi risked failure, because the IPU could not replace the East African Community in that role.

Ms. E. MADZONGWE (Zimbabwe) said that overcoming inequality was essential for responsible political development and stability. Democracy could only function effectively when everyone played by the same rules. Parliament had a key role in ensuring that governments

adopted economically inclusive policies with a focus on the economic empowerment and integration of marginalized social groups, and created space for the objective articulation of the concerns of all citizens. The future lay in proactive and responsive leadership, rather than in avaricious capitalism.

The Government of Zimbabwe had taken various initiatives to redress inequalities; most of those inequalities were the result of the country's colonial history of racial discrimination and unequal development. The Government of Zimbabwe had developed a socialist programme, along the lines of a welfare State, with free education and health care for all. Education had been recognized as a tool for redressing inequalities and achieving empowerment. Zimbabwe had one of the highest literacy rates in Africa, with high numbers of university graduates and an increasing human resource base.

Land reforms had been undertaken, resettling around 300 000 landless and marginalized black families. Economic reforms had been extended to mining and manufacturing and measures taken to redistribute the ownership structure of national wealth between indigenous people and foreign firms and investors. Companies in the diamond and platinum sectors were obliged to invest in the development of the local communities where they mined. Legislative enactments redressed gender disparities, addressed discrimination against women, and granted women inheritance rights. The principle of equality was enshrined in the Constitution. All of those initiatives had enabled historically embedded socioeconomic inequalities to be addressed, and although challenges remained, every effort was being made to create a nation imbued with equality, freedom and justice for all.

Mr. A.K. PIMENTEL III (Philippines) said that poverty, inequality and instability were intergenerational problems in the Philippines, which threatened to jeopardize economic sustainability, reverse progress and undermine global security. Despite strong growth overall, there was still a significant gap between the rich and the poor. Progress had yet to be felt by the majority of the population. The richest areas in the Philippines were the capital and areas closest to it, while the poorest were the most geographically remote. In the most recent presidential election, the people had voted for a candidate from the remotest part of the Philippines, the island of Mindanao, who embodied the change they wanted to see. The new Government intended to address instability and inequality through structural change, with the adoption of a federal system of government, which would mean greater involvement of regions in decision-making, accelerated economic development at the regional level, peace in Mindanao, and the preservation of the culture, languages, practices and beliefs of the various ethno-linguistic groups.

The adoption of the federal system of government would take time; it required the revision of the Constitution. In the meantime, efforts were being made to address problems that perpetuated inequality, through policy change. Education was a great equalizer; tuition in State universities and colleges was now provided free of charge to deserving students. Steps were being taken to promote micro- and small businesses, by cutting red tape. Loopholes in labour legislation would be addressed, and a progressive system of income taxation was being developed, which would be beneficial to all. Change would not be easy, but inequalities must be eliminated as a matter of urgency. Innovative solutions must be found to intergenerational problems.

Mr. O. TINNI (Niger) said that the commitment to redress inequalities under Sustainable Development Goal 10 was crucial to improve the well-being of the community as a whole. The measures taken by States at the domestic level also needed to be translated into international relations and trade. Inequalities that had prevailed as a result of unbalanced economic relations could not be overcome merely by making statements of principle; a new economic system was required, based on the sustainability of natural resources. At the national level, leaders must continue to advocate for the well-being of their populations. Judicious choices must be made to promote sustainable development.

The Government of Niger had mobilized resources to tackle the structural causes of poverty and provide all citizens with a suitable standard of living. A programme for economic renewal had been adopted, to improve agricultural production, enhance basic social indicators, and strengthen infrastructure. A dam was being built, which would enable Niger to become self-sufficient from the perspectives of food and energy production. Health and education sector reforms had also been enacted, and the agriculture sector had been restructured. Schools would be built throughout the country, and education up to the age of 16 would be made compulsory and free of charge. Measures had been taken to eliminate gender inequality, including the adoption of legislation on quotas for women's representation in public institutions and the civil service. Budgetary resources were being allocated to social sectors, especially those promoting the rights of women and

children. Territorial entities were encouraged to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized. The global parliamentary community should work together to protect human rights and ensure the right to a decent standard of living for all.

Mr. Y. RETA (Ethiopia) said that the Government of Ethiopia put poverty eradication at the centre of its development agenda. Its national development plan was fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and would underpin efforts to help Ethiopia become a lower middle-income country by 2025 by sustaining the rapid, broad-based and inclusive economic growth that had made it one of the fastest growing economies in the world. That growth had improved the well-being of the Ethiopian people, created millions of jobs and enhanced country's competitiveness. Development programmes had been implemented in rural areas, with investments in essential social services that had contributed directly to poverty reduction. In developing countries, women faced a multitude of challenges. The national development plan therefore provided for women's empowerment, in particular through ensuring their active participation in political, social and economic processes. An inclusive pro-poor development strategy was also in place, which aimed to create jobs for those in need, in particular women and young people, as a top development priority.

The denial by military rulers of Ethiopia's diversity had left a legacy of inequality. Efforts had been made to rectify that situation by adopting a new Constitution which ensured all people equal and effective protection without discrimination on any grounds. Under the new Constitution, the upper house of Parliament had the authority to determine the allocation of federal subsidies, by which it was making efforts to equalize the fiscal capacities of regions to enable them to provide a comparable level of public services. He welcomed the opportunity afforded by the 136th IPU Assembly to discuss issues that were crucial for all Member Parliaments, and expressed his delegation's readiness to continue to share its experiences and work towards ensuring equality for all.

Mr. K. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka) said that parliamentarians had a duty to take decisive action to reduce inequalities by empowering all of society, without discrimination. The world was facing numerous challenges, posed by economic, food and energy crises, disease outbreaks, crime and armed conflict, terrorism and mass displacement. Women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups were not being heard. Persecution, corruption, impunity and erosion of the rule of law were undermining well-being. Overcoming inequality was crucial for poverty reduction and improving the livelihoods of the poorest members of society. Governments must ensure equal opportunities for all through policy and legislation, and by fostering peace. Ethnic and religious conflicts around the world were widening inequalities. Conflict resolution was therefore essential.

Despite a prolonged armed conflict, Sri Lanka had preserved its democratic values and succeeded in sustaining State social welfare policies, including universal free education and health care. Since the 2015 presidential elections, a new era of democracy had been launched. The Constitution had been amended to include a new vision of sustainable development, peace and reconciliation. Terrorism had been eliminated, and Sri Lanka had useful experience to share in that regard. Sri Lanka was experiencing economic growth, and living conditions were improving, yet more remained to be done. Large-scale infrastructure projects for energy, highways, railways, ports and aviation were being implemented as a development priority. Despite efforts at the provincial level, inequalities between the provinces persisted; a new and innovative strategy would be required to advance their development. Peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka required international support, to create an environment where all people could live in dignity.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that every individual had equal value and deserved to be afforded equal respect. No one deserved to be subjected to exploitation, manipulation or slavery. Millions of people, however, continued to live in poverty, ill-health and insecurity, the causes of which were man-made and thus easily avoidable. Inequalities had been initiated, nurtured and tolerated, to the detriment of peace and well-being for all. Peace must be fostered through respect for the dignity, rights and capacities of every individual. As representatives of society, parliamentarians must agree on how best to ensure that people lived in dignity.

Wars persisted within countries and inside their institutions, and could degenerate into chaos that affected the dignity and rights of people. For people to live a dignified life based on equal rights, leaders, such as parliamentarians, must ensure the provision of services, including high quality education and affordable and effective health care, and must also ensure the observance of human rights for everyone, without discrimination on any grounds. Parliamentarians were strategically placed to influence respect for all and provide an enabling environment through their three traditional functions of legislation, budgeting and oversight.

In Malawi, there had been instances of grave violations of human rights, such as attacks against people with albinism. The laws in place had not been sufficient to prevent such cruel treatment. Parliament had therefore legislated for considerably harsher punishment for such offences and the number of cases had decreased significantly as a result. In 2016, Malawi's maize production had suffered as a consequence of drought, which had resulted in serious food shortages and disease outbreaks. Parliament had set aside funds for the purchase of maize from external sources. Those funds had, however, fallen into corrupt hands. Parliament had instituted an inquiry, which had exposed corruption.

Mr. A.H. DA COSTA (Timor-Leste) said that the world belonged to every individual, yet inequality persisted and was the most prominent challenge to society; everything had been reduced to competition. Large swathes of the population were exploited, as if disposable, which undermined their sense of belonging and well-being. The excluded were treated like the waste of society. Although it was a widely held belief that economic growth based on the free market could produce greater equity and social inclusion, that opinion had never been confirmed by facts but rather simply served the interests of the minority that held economic power. Society was becoming increasingly incapable of taking an interest in others; responsibility for others' well-being was being shirked. The recent economic and financial crisis had exposed the imbalances in society.

The greatest challenge to overcoming inequalities was that society had become anaesthetized to them by indifference. Inequalities were accepted. The full realization of SDG 10 was therefore crucial, but would only be possible through a change of mind-sets. Fundamental rights, as enshrined in international law and the fundamental texts of the United Nations, must be upheld at all times, everywhere in the world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized dignity and equal rights for all as the foundations of justice and peace. Parliaments must ensure that the fundamental principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration were upheld at all times. The time had come to revitalize commitment to those principles.

Mr. M.F AHAM ALSULAMI (Arab Parliament) said that the Arab Parliament had prioritized sustainable development as one of the ongoing issues on its agenda. In the Arab countries, substantial obstacles persisted to the attainment of the SDGs: the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, and violations of international law committed by Israel against the people of Palestine. Terrorism and threats at the national and international levels posed challenges to sustainable development and international security. The global parliamentary community should support the Arab countries in overcoming those challenges, in particular by encouraging the State of Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in keeping with the resolutions adopted by the international community. A sovereign and independent State of Palestine should be established, with Jerusalem as its capital. The sovereignty of Arab countries must be respected and interference in their internal affairs must cease. The training of militias on Arab territories must be brought to an end and Islamic countries must be supported in their fight against terrorism. The initiative of Saudi Arabia to establish an Arab military coalition against terrorism was a welcome example of cooperation in that regard. Those that had not yet joined the coalition were encouraged to do so.

The situation of young people must be a priority if the SDGs were to be met. Women's empowerment, in particular their participation in decision-making, was also particularly important. The Arab Parliament had therefore adopted declarations on youth and the eradication of poverty among women. Migration was also a key factor that must be properly managed. The Arab Parliament was committed to building an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for all.

Mr. J. DA GRAÇA DIOGO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that all people shared a common objective: well-being. Inequalities persisted around the world as a result of economic, social and political injustice, and could give rise to dissatisfaction and unrest. Inequalities were manifest when it came to access to education, health care, justice and employment, and caused high levels of poverty. Lack of investment in social inclusion tended to affect developing countries and paved the way for other types of inequality, such as discrimination, particularly on grounds of race or gender.

The global parliamentary community, through the IPU, had a great opportunity to share experiences and different points of view, and reach consensus on how to redress inequalities in the poorest areas. Although poverty eradication posed a significant challenge, parliaments must find solutions through supervising, regulating and overseeing the implementation of reforms in areas such as health, education, security and justice. Regional policies on sustainable development

should be developed and implemented, prioritizing investment in infrastructure and creating better conditions to attract private investment to the poorest regions. Creation of decent jobs could lift people out of poverty, and good quality education was essential in that regard.

Mr. D.F. KIDEGA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that despite the emergence of new major economies, which had helped to raise standards and close economic gaps, inequality remained a challenge to global development. While the East African Community had been founded on a treaty that enshrined equal opportunities, a report issued in 2016 showed that not everyone in the region had felt the benefits of increasing GDP; if anything, life was getting harder. The economic boom had not generated as much employment as expected, and levels of poverty and malnutrition remained high.

Inequality stemmed from many factors, including disparity in income levels, gender stereotypes, under-representation of marginalized communities, imbalance of economic power and failure of development to impact on the lives of those most in need, political issues such as disputed elections and uncertainty, and a culture of corruption and impunity. Limited education opportunities, particularly for girls, lack of shelter and a sense of insecurity led young people into radicalization and terrorism.

Parliamentarians must optimize opportunities to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular by paying greater attention to economic stimulus programmes that addressed social challenges and supporting local value chains to narrow poverty gaps. Legislation should be enacted to protect societies and address inequalities. The East African Legislative Assembly had taken measures in that regard. Parliament should also allocate adequate resources through national budgets to redress growing inequalities and hold the executive accountable. Gender mainstreaming in legislation was crucial, and parliamentary committees must monitor uptake of the SDGs and report back to parliament regularly. Each parliament must ensure that the executive reaffirms its commitment to redressing inequalities, and was afforded adequate resources to achieve that.

Mr. F. ZON (Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption - GOPAC) said that in its Jogyakarta Declaration GOPAC had reaffirmed its vision of an equitable world where all citizens could live in equality of opportunity and prosperity. Corruption, unequal distribution of power and unequal distribution of wealth together formed a vicious circle. Corruption could impose substantial limitations on developing countries' efforts to redistribute wealth through taxation and other poverty alleviation measures. As a result, people were excluded from decision making, deprived of basic rights and economically disadvantaged. The powerful and corrupt clung to resources to sustain their lavish lifestyles, while the majority were left to share a small proportion of the country's wealth. Nearly US\$ 1 trillion had been amassed through corruption, mostly by persons in positions of high authority, monies that could be used to support the attainment of the SDGs. While the world's poorest economies were bleeding, the corrupt few were hiding their assets, laundering money and evading tax, all of which was made possible by the lack of transparency in the global financial system.

The 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit had reached commitments and agreed on areas of action, including the development of beneficial ownership registries in some countries. In order to eradicate corruption and eliminate inequality, an open regime should prevail. Corruption drove inequality and disparity. Parliaments must use their authority to harness resources to create prosperity and welfare for all. Aware of the importance of the legislative and oversight roles of parliamentarians, GOPAC and UNDP had issued a handbook on the role of parliamentarians in attaining the SDGs. The handbook addressed the issue of corruption; that alone could end the inequalities that threatened attainment of the Goals; the handbook also presented examples of experience and best practice from parliaments around the world.

Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the 136th IPU Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. D. BOÉRI (Monaco) said that inequality was often only seen in monetary terms. There were, however, many types of inequality. Policies could be adopted to guarantee equal opportunities which in turn would result in dignity, mutual respect without discrimination, employment, and redistribution of wealth. Redistribution of wealth could only occur when wealth accumulation was evident. Issues of morality surrounded how far wealth accumulation could be monitored. Demographic considerations also had a bearing on the distribution of wealth: if the population grew faster than the economy, there would be further need for wealth redistribution.

Monaco was unique in many ways: it had a geographic area of two kilometres, and 132 nationalities living on its territory, with a total population of 39 000 inhabitants, 9 000 of whom were Monegasque. Every effort was made to ensure that everyone lived in dignity, in particular through the provision of one of the most generous social security systems in the world. Monaco had an advanced system of social housing and excelled in education, and comprehensive employment opportunities. Every individual was granted the possibility to meet his or her own needs and achieve fulfilment. Monaco also demonstrated international solidarity, with a focus on financing long-term projects with official development assistance, to ensure that the SDGs were met. Those projects focused on health care, access to education and literacy programmes. Overcoming inequalities would allow all individuals to be liberated from the constant struggle to survive and achieve dignity and well-being.

Mr. A. LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United Arab Emirates had delivered false and baseless allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was absurd for the representative of a country, whose jet fighters were bombing innocent civilians in Yemen, to accuse Iran of interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries. The policy of the United Arab Emirates with regard to the current crises in the Middle East had proven the irresponsibility and immaturity of the regime. Iran had always sought to foster friendly relations with its neighbours and to that end he reiterated his delegation's call for dialogue to dispel any misunderstandings and restore friendly relationships.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda (A/136/2-Inf.1.rev.2 and A/136/2-P.1 to P.3 and P.4.rev.1 to P.7)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, as set out in document A/136/2-Inf.1.rev.2, stating that the delegation of Argentina had since withdrawn its request relating to *Preoccupation about recent events in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*. Three requests thus remained, pertaining to: *Tougher migration policies around the world and the risk of human rights violations*, submitted by the delegation of Mexico; *The legalization of settlements by the Israeli Regulation Law: A violation of international law*, submitted by the delegation of Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group; and, *Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen*, which was a merged request submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

The SECRETARY GENERAL added for clarification that, as three of the requests originally submitted had addressed the same subject, they had been merged into one, following consultations. All of the remaining three requests now before the Council had been deemed to meet the criteria for inclusion as an emergency item under the Rules of the Assembly, and would be subject to a vote by roll call.

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

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico), in presenting the proposal submitted by her delegation, outlined the rationale behind it as described in the explanatory memorandum annexed to document A/136/2-P.1, highlighting the ever-increasing number of international migrants fleeing their countries due to numerous reasons, and the discriminatory nature of some of the tougher policies being introduced to combat irregular migration. Citing the example of the United States of America in that regard, she added that the proposed construction by that country of a wall on its southern border with Mexico would have adverse environmental and social impacts on both sides of the border. States should seek to address the root causes of migration rather than pursue divisive and discriminatory policies that ran counter to human rights and must be condemned. She called on all parliamentarians to stand up against such actions.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine), presenting the proposal submitted by his delegation on behalf of the Arab Group, pointed to the information contained in the explanatory memorandum annexed to document A/136/2-P.4.rev.1, saying that the new Israeli law allowing expropriation of legitimately-owned Palestinian land was in violation of international law and of the time-honoured principles espoused by the IPU. That law furthermore sabotaged the ongoing efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including by means of the two-State solution favoured by the

international community. Parliamentarians had a democratic duty to react against such unilateral actions involving encroachment by one State on the territory of another. Recalling that the IPU had issued a statement deploring the adoption of the law, he looked forward to support for his delegation's proposal.

Mr. D.E. ETHURO (Kenya), presenting also on behalf of the delegations of Belgium and the United Kingdom the merged proposal referred to in document A/136/2-P.6, said that the fundamental right to adequate food and to freedom from hunger was widely articulated in many international and regional instruments and also formed the premise for SDGs 1, 2 and 3, relating, respectively to no poverty, zero hunger, and good health and well-being. That right was under threat, however, in parts of Africa and Yemen where the current unprecedented scale of famine and drought had the potential to create the worst humanitarian crisis since the mid-1940s. The global community, including IPU Members, must therefore take the actions described in the draft resolution, which is annexed to document A/136/2-P.6, to address the plight of the affected millions, who would otherwise starve to death.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in taking a vote by roll call on the three requests.

A vote by roll call was taken.

With 256 votes in favour, 347 against and 515 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegation of Mexico failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.

With 459 votes in favour, 193 against and 466 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegation of Palestine on behalf of the Arab Group obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

With 932 votes in favour, 136 against and 50 abstentions, the merged request submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom also obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the merged request submitted by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom was added to the agenda of the Assembly as Item 9.

The SECRETARY GENERAL requested the prompt submission of nominations for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing a draft resolution on the chosen emergency item.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.

Final agenda

- Item 1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 136th Assembly
 - Item 2 Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 - Item 3 General Debate on *Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all*
 - Item 4 The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
 - Item 5 Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
 - Item 6 Reports of the Standing Committees
 - Item 7 Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 138th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 - Item 8 Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
 - Item 9 Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen
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Sitting of Monday 3 April

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 a.m., with Mr. A.H. da Costa (Timor-Leste), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 9 of the agenda

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:
*Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought
in parts of Africa and Yemen*
(A/136/2-P.6)**

The PRESIDENT said that nominations had been received for membership of the drafting committee to be established in order to finalize the draft resolution submitted on the emergency item by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom, as set out in the annex to document A/136/P.6. He requested the prompt submission of any other nominations to the Secretariat.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Kenya and the United Kingdom, said that the merged request submitted by those two delegations and his own for the emergency item had been motivated by the fact that the famine declared in March 2017 in parts of Africa and in Yemen threatened to create the largest humanitarian crisis faced since the creation of the United Nations. It was moreover high time for urgent action to combat famine by addressing its causes: drought and climate change factors; lack of development cooperation and aid; and conflict situations. Those engaged in conflict, he added, must abide by international law, avoid any infringement of human rights and create safe corridors for the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected populations.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) placed emphasis on lasting solutions to prevent recurring situations of grave famine, which she said were partly attributable to the effects of climate change. Tree-planting programmes funded through the public purse offered a means of countering those effects, while measures to promote food security included boosting agricultural productivity; improving farming input supplies; facilitating irrigation; introducing new farming technologies; enhancing post-harvest food storage facilities; and investing in value addition, as well as in soil regeneration and land reclamation. Food assistance and other relief must be provided to those in need, to which end she appealed to Governments in Africa to honour the pledge made in the Abuja Declaration to allocate a sum equivalent to 15 per cent of national budgets in support of the agricultural sector. Governments must also work to create the stability and peace needed for agricultural activities to flourish, with parliamentarians fulfilling their responsibility to their electorates by pursuing all such objectives through efficient planning and budgeting.

Mr. B. KELECEVIC (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that efforts must be scaled up to prevent a further escalation of the humanitarian crisis affecting populations in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, where children were increasingly suffering from acute malnutrition. The ICRC had launched an urgent appeal aimed at securing millions in essential aid for the populations concerned, to whom it was already delivering assistance in cooperation with others to provide the basics for survival and avert a worsening of the famine. The root causes of famine were man-made and often a by-product of intractable conflict. The methods employed in waging war were therefore an issue to be addressed, and this included ensuring that warring parties complied with the norms of international law.

Ms. D. SEN (India) said that the Indian dictum that the whole of humanity should be treated as a single family was highly pertinent to any discussion of proactive measures for mitigating the suffering of those enduring famine in Africa and Yemen. In that context, she cited examples of successful measures taken to control the famines experienced during colonial times in her country, where the fundamental right to food was enshrined in the Constitution. Rooted in the principle that prevention was better than cure, such actions included the operation of a robust system for the distribution of food staples at low cost; microfinancing and loan rescheduling schemes targeted in particular at marginalized farmers in drought-hit areas; and action for a green revolution to increase crop yields. Her Government had frequently provided food aid and other supplies in response to calls from international organizations, including the three Rome-based United Nations agencies dealing with agriculture, which it saw as best placed to deliver such aid.

Ms. M.N. LARJOK WOUL (South Sudan) said that almost one half of her country's population were suffering as a result of the famine declared in those parts of the country, where lack of rainfall persisted. With millions thus in urgent need of food and many thousands in imminent danger of starvation, she called on the international community and non-governmental organizations operating in the region to provide urgent assistance aimed at preventing the deaths from hunger occurring daily among the women, children and other members of her community.

Mr. N. OAKESHOTT (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that prolonged conflict and drought had together fuelled the food insecurity and famine now affecting so many millions in Africa and Yemen. In Somalia, many thousands were fleeing drought and insecurity, which called for urgent and substantial action and adequate funding to preclude a repeat of the high death toll, especially among under-5s, from the earlier famine in 2011. With millions in need of life-saving assistance, the situation was similarly dire in Yemen, where UNHCR had conducted scores of high-risk relief missions to help the many thousands of internally displaced persons. It was also working with the International Organization for Migration to help the large numbers of Somali refugees and asylum-seekers in dire straits. He therefore welcomed the forthcoming high-level pledging conference in Geneva as a means of raising much-needed financing to respond to the worsening emergency situation in Yemen. Such complex situations would, however, require a political solution in the longer term.

Mr. M. JERE (Zambia) said that conflict could lead to famine when public funds were diverted into military expenditure. Other causes included climate change, which affected crop yields and thus food production, and failure to devote adequate resources to poverty reduction. Famine was not experienced, however, by countries with functioning democracies, which were better equipped to deal with problems that might otherwise lead to famine. It was therefore vital to promote democracy and, in tackling famine, to provide financial assistance for immediate food purchases to avoid the procedural delays often associated with food relief. Women's empowerment and their education were also instrumental to preventing unplanned pregnancies: having fewer children would mean fewer mouths to feed and, in turn, reduce poverty.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) said that famine prevention required strong political will, which implied respect for humanitarian law, access to food aid for all and good governance frameworks that promoted peace, bearing in mind the close causal link between famine and conflict. Emergency responses were not enough, however. A long-term global strategy was needed to develop sustainable agriculture, which was key to combating famine and poverty through enhancing food security and enabling access to food for all. It would also create jobs to replace those destroyed by the introduction of intensive farming, which had thus exacerbated rural exodus. It was the combination of emergency and long-term measures would help to eradicate famine and ensure full enjoyment of the right to food security.

Mr. M. TEIXEIRA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his compatriots were experiencing their own economic and other woes but were aware of the dire famine situation faced by those in Africa and elsewhere, with whom they therefore wished to express full solidarity. Inasmuch as world belonged to all, such problems and their resolution should be of concern to everyone in the interest of creating a better world.

Ms. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) likewise expressed solidarity with the people of Africa in their tragic situation, saying that famine was painful and heart-breaking. Notwithstanding the land appropriation and settlement construction to which it was subjected, her people could not fail to express such solidarity. She hoped that peace and food security would soon prevail the world over.

Mr. A.-F.I. AL-MANSOUR (Sudan) said that the famine and hunger were particularly severe in South Sudan, from where the daily influx of refugees continued into his own country, which treated the tens of thousands it was hosting as brethren and neighbours. The Government faced an immense task, however, and was incapable of singlehandedly providing the support and facilities needed to cater for those living in its refugee camps. He therefore called on the international community to address the root cause of the worsening famine by acting decisively to end the conflict in South Sudan and indeed in the Horn of Africa.

Ms. D. MONI NAWAZ (Bangladesh), citing Mahatma Gandhi, said that the world had enough for everyone's needs but not enough for everyone's greed. While some countries suffered famine, others were immensely wasteful and it was therefore time for everyone to behave responsibly

towards their only planet. Her country had worked hard to achieve food self-sufficiency through improvements in agriculture and food distribution, which were among the factors to be considered in addressing the problems experienced by those enduring famine in Africa, with whom she expressed solidarity.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the wealth of but a handful of the world's richest individuals could change the lives of billions in poverty. Access to resources and economic growth were not the full answer to poverty, however, as long as the rich continued to grow richer and wealth was concentrated in the hands of the few. Sustainable economies and the redistribution of wealth were instead needed, and this demanded political will. The North must stop pillaging the South for its own enrichment, on the one hand, and investment should be channelled into health and education, on the other, so as to make a true difference to lives.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), speaking as one of the co-authors of the draft resolution, said that the debate had yielded valuable suggestions. The situation in parts of Africa and Yemen was a genuine emergency, and millions more in neighbouring countries were also on the brink of starvation. As Stephen O'Brien, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, had said, people would simply starve to death without coordinated global efforts to avert the crisis, for which huge amounts of funding were instantly required, together with safe access to assist those in need. In South Sudan, the famine was exacerbated by numerous other factors, including conflict, forced migration, poor governance and inadequate international cooperation, and the development gains slowly achieved over decades were likely to be swiftly reversed. Parliamentarians were well placed to help the poor, dying and starving out of a situation for which they were not to blame but which had been inflicted on them by the twenty-first century. He thus urged them to engage in more concerted efforts to create peace in the affected regions and hence the conditions for a sustained response to the disaster, failing which the blame would lie with governments. Indeed, parliamentarians must do their utmost to accelerate that response, including by raising the profile of the debate and seeking to determine whether international development aid donated by or to their countries was being fully utilized in the best possible manner or being diverted to other purposes. Charity began at home and there was a moral obligation to help fellow human beings born in the wrong place and time by acting to prevent their deaths from thirst and starvation. Parliamentarians must work resolutely to that end if such deaths were not to be in their name.

The PRESIDENT thanked all those who had contributed to the productive discussion, which conveyed the strong message that concerted efforts to combat all famine must continue.

Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on

Redressing Inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all

(Resumption of the debate)

The PRESIDENT invited special guest speaker, Ms. Gerda Verburg, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Coordinator, to address the Assembly.

Ms. G. VERBURG, *Guest speaker*, said that parliaments were among the stakeholders supporting the SUN Movement in recognition of the fact that hunger and malnutrition would be eliminated only through country-owned and country-led initiatives involving all sectors. Good nutrition was the most important gift that could be bestowed on a child in its first 1,000 days of life, as it laid the foundation for the mental and physical development that would allow the child to achieve its full potential. Well-being, dignity and equality therefore began with improved nutrition from the very start of life and would be promoted through implementation of the SDGs, in which parliaments had an active part to play in order to make the world a better place for living. Investment in nutrition – a cross-cutting issue at the heart of the SDGs - was in fact crucial to efforts for peace, poverty reduction and the avoidance of famine, among others.

She called on parliamentarians to perform their oversight role in working to overcome malnutrition as a matter of priority; ensure that nutrition-related activities were adequately funded; and join up the efforts of ministries in the area of nutrition, which included those responsible for health, agriculture, education, women's affairs and social protection. Other stakeholders - from

educators and mothers to farmers and food producers - must also be involved in advocating for equal access to education for all and in likewise championing dignity, equality and prosperity for all, with no one left behind. For their part, countries facing such challenges in their population as undernutrition, overnutrition and nutrition-related obesity and chronic disease should seize the opportunity to work in partnership with those fighting malnutrition and hunger to achieve the shared goal of improved nutrition. Parliamentary action on malnutrition should be determined with the help of disaggregated data from official sources and be regularly reviewed, together with funding requirements, in order to attain the goal of a prosperous and thriving future for all, with dignity and equality as the norm. By placing nutrition high on their agenda, parliamentarians would significantly contribute towards that goal for the benefit of the coming generations.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Verburg for her excellent presentation and invited speakers from the floor to resume the General Debate.

Mr. D.E. ETHURO (Kenya), resuming the debate, said that inequality threatened the achievement of development goals, complicated the challenge of creating and maintaining accountable government, and perpetuated the fragility of social institutions, leading potentially to anarchy and social unrest. As manifested in its political and socio-economic indicators, Kenya ranked high among the world's most unequal nations. Its new Constitution therefore enshrined human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized as guiding principles. It also treated human rights and devolution, both of resources and administrative powers, as pillars critical to the realization of equity, to which end it incorporated a bill of rights; established an equalization fund; introduced revenue sharing as a means of reducing economic disparity; and provided for affirmative action to ensure that women, youth and persons with disabilities were represented in parliament. National institutions had been created expressly to promote equality, while the Kenya's development policy envisioned the transformation it into a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. For its part, the Kenyan Parliament had created an enabling legislative environment in support of the nation's new development paradigm.

The challenge of the Millennium was indeed to redress inequality and ensure that no one was left behind. To that end, parliaments must scrutinize national budgets from both the inequality and gender perspectives and hold governments accountable in terms of the impact on such groups as women, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities and the disenfranchised. Parliamentarians must furthermore engage with their national reporting processes in relation to agreements designed to redress inequality to which their countries were a party, which would help in monitoring achievements with a view to addressing any gaps.

Mr. S. KINGA (Bhutan) said that inequalities should first be redressed at the margins of society, where they were more visible and acutely experienced. In Bhutan, a small, mountainous and land-locked country with a population dependent mainly on subsistence farming, poverty was most acutely experienced in rural areas. Action to redress inequalities therefore began in the villages, where the landless, needy and poor had been granted land titles as a means of ensuring decent livelihoods and of bridging inequality between the haves and have-nots in a growing economy. The financial exclusion of those same groups at the margins was also set to end with the launch of accessible and affordable rural credit schemes for financing agricultural enterprises and small and cottage industries.

Most SDG targets had been integrated into the country's development programmes some two years in advance of their global adoption. Thanks to a series of ongoing interventions, the poverty rate had already halved in Bhutan in only five years, while serfdom and capital punishment had been abolished long before the introduction of parliamentary democracy so as to deliver on human dignity and well-being. Women had always been accorded equal status with men under the country's socio-cultural traditions and legal instruments, but Bhutan had nonetheless signed and ratified various international and regional agreements for promoting the elimination of gender and racial discrimination, as well as for protecting the rights of children and persons with disabilities. Its parliament had also enacted vital legislation on domestic violence and child protection. Rather than waiting for the trickle-down effect to redress inequalities, Bhutan tended to focus on direct interventions at the community and household levels. In the just and harmonious society that it envisaged, inequalities should be neither visible nor experienced, even at the margins.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESU (Equatorial Guinea) said that inequality had always existed but had turned into a social, economic and political problem involving discrimination against individuals on numerous grounds and in all areas of life. Redressing inequalities called for priority measures

aimed at creating a society of equal rights and building a new social, political and economic order based crucially on a fair distribution of wealth and on equal opportunities for well-being. It was a matter of social justice, which the United Nations had defined as an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations, stating that the pursuit of social justice for all was at the core of its global mission to promote development and human dignity.

A fair society was essential to promoting development, equality and dignity, while the model for well-being must be one that guaranteed social rights enabling the individual to build an independent life on a basis of equality and to have the wherewithal to attain goals. Fundamental rights in a just and cohesive society included education, health and access to a decent livelihood. In that vein, the Constitution of Equatorial Guinea enshrined such values and principles as justice and equality; respect for the individual and his or her life, integrity and physical and moral dignity; protection of labour; and promotion of economic, social and cultural development. It also guaranteed women the same rights and opportunities as men. Concerning the most vulnerable groups, they were provided with essential facilities, such as housing, electricity and water, with a view to promoting their independence and personal development. The country's socio-economic development plan was furthermore designed to achieve progress towards a more just society.

Mr. M. TIMBINE (Mali) said that the efforts to build a robust modern economy with the aim of reducing unemployment and ensuring a fair distribution of created wealth coincided with the burgeoning technological revolution that was transforming the patterns of production and consumption alike. It was a new scenario that presented both opportunities and risks in an instability-prone world marked by painful political upheavals. Other challenges weighing heavily on the future included those relating to climate change, growing inequalities, migration pressures and borderless pandemics. The future could nonetheless be brightened through good decision-making in the pursuit of dignity, prosperity, justice and partnership for attainment of the SDGs. It was only by tackling the causes and consequences of inequality, injustice and discrimination that progress would occur towards true equality, which called for behaviour and lifestyle changes to ensure that no one felt poor or discriminated against.

Mali had long been implementing policies aimed at fighting social exclusion, supporting vulnerable groups and encouraging women to stand for election. Political parties were required by law to have a one-third quota for women candidates, with the result that women had won over one quarter of seats in the recent local elections. Two parliamentary committees were dedicated to overseeing protection of the rights of the most vulnerable, including women and children, in such areas as health, social development and labour. Mali was indeed ready to support all initiatives for combating the injustices done to the weakest.

Mr. H. ZWAK (Afghanistan) said that the pain and problems of any one member of the global village were shared by all. It was by moving from words to comprehensive action for achieving equality and dignity that positive changes would be wrought in the lives of citizens. In his country, however, the combination of protracted war, external interferences and terrorist threats had destroyed normal life and created major challenges and obstacles to the work of maintaining justice and guaranteeing the welfare and equal rights of citizens. As to redressing equalities among countries, it would take united efforts and close cooperation to tackle the present socio-economic disparities, some of which were a function of geography. Parliamentarians must therefore keenly engage in the long and difficult process towards minimizing the sharp differences in living standards around the globe, including by bringing pressure to bear on governments to act against extreme poverty, hunger and deprivation.

More attention should also be directed to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities, of the poorest nations faced with hunger, and of nations destroyed by conflict and the proxy wars fought on their soil, as in Afghanistan. He called on the IPU membership to help his country out of its deadlock so as to prevent yet more sacrifices of its people to causes not their own. He furthermore called on the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end their support of the Taliban; on those of Pakistan to refrain from killing Afghan children; and on those of the Russian Federation to eschew negotiations with the Taliban, who were killing the Afghan nation.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that growing inequality the world over was a key factor behind political instability and potentially constituted an existential threat. It was incumbent on parliamentarians to heed the concerns of citizens about inequality and ensure that the silent voices of the helpless and disadvantaged were amply reflected in policymaking so that no one was left behind. All vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, must be involved in public decision-making if inequalities were to be rectified. The Japanese experience following the earthquake in 2011 had, for example, taught the importance of

engaging women in all decision-making relating to disaster prevention, relief, recovery and reconstruction after it had emerged that the evacuation shelters were not equipped with separate facilities, such as restrooms and changing rooms, for women. Parliamentarians must pledge to work for an equal and therefore happier society.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia), speaking first with reference to gender equality, said that, rather than institute a quota system for promoting women's representation in public institutions, his country had chosen to create an enabling environment for women to make their own choices in life. The positive results of that choice were evident in the figures for their active participation in politics, particularly as a follow-on from involvement in non-governmental work, and in business. A gender-inclusive approach was reflected in the national welfare policy and gender equality issues were a regular topic of parliamentary discussion. Latvia was also actively engaged in pursuing those issues through various regional and international forums.

As to youth participation, Latvia was proud that almost one quarter of its parliamentarians were 45 years of age or under, which implied that the young generation was ready to assume responsibility for improving lives. Young people were also able to voice and defend their ideas through the country's elected Youth Parliament. Concerning persons with disabilities, the legislative framework guaranteed their social protection and a social enterprises bill aimed at providing them with job opportunities was soon expected to become law. Low-income earners were another vulnerable group whose dignity and well-being were similarly being reinforced through tax reforms and other measures aimed at reducing income inequality. Those measures also promised to reduce the grey economy, thereby improving social protection guarantees for those in need. In short, inclusiveness was the key to redressing inequalities and delivering on dignity and well-being for all.

Mr. K.I. GAYA (Nigeria) said that inequality was rising worldwide, undermining human rights and well-being and causing social tension, strife and even war. Embedded in the targets under SDG 10, on reducing inequalities within and among countries, were the fundamental rights of citizenry to protection from undue exploitation and marginalization, as well as the guarantee of equal opportunities through the elimination of discrimination, notably with respect to education, health care and political participation. To that end, governments must safeguard the public interest by continually improving their monitoring processes.

The fight against inequality remained a cardinal issue in Nigeria, the continent's largest democracy, where the parliamentary system was a shining example of a crucible that synthesized the concerns and interests of the country's many different ethnic groups into a coordinated national development agenda. Members of the bicameral legislature were legitimate representatives of constituencies that held them accountable for the delivery of their stated needs. The system had thus commendably managed the challenge of inequity in polity by operating the principle of unity in diversity with qualified success. The legislature was committed to promoting equality among all citizens and to ensuring dignity for all, with bills on disability, children's rights, and gender and equal opportunities at various stages of passage through parliament. Parliamentary committees acting as ombudsmen had also achieved countless successes in investigating complaints against public officials, free of charge. Parliament was equally committed to addressing gender-based inequality and to achieving gender equality within its own ranks, as evidenced by the increasing number of women members and speakers of parliament.

Mr. D. OPREA (Romania) said that his country's legislation and public policy were aimed at building a well-balanced society, on the basis of inclusiveness, with a view to stimulating smart and sustainable economic growth and expanding the middle class. In the efforts to achieve sustainable development, respect for children's rights was a priority, as was the principle of equal access to decent living conditions, health care and quality education. Children and adolescents were indeed the nation's most valuable and strategic resource, but policies guaranteeing adequate social protection and decent incomes for older persons were also deemed essential in well-deserved recognition of their contribution to society through their life's work. As to persons with disabilities, they were treated equally and with dignity as valuable members of the community.

Given their status as powerful agents of change, parliaments were largely responsible for ensuring that inequalities were comprehensively tackled in the process of working to implement the SDGs. For its part, the Romanian Parliament had made it clear that success in driving forward sustainable development hinged on whether the proposed objectives effectively addressed public expectations and needs. Crucially, furthermore, decisions relating to implementation must lead to improvements in the quality of life and in individual and collective well-being. He added in

conclusion that the incidence of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion would be reduced only through coherent and realistic socio-economic policymaking leading to a dynamic, flexible and better-performing labour market.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) commented on the great progress achieved in Bangladesh in recent decades, saying that extreme poverty there had almost halved as a result of the priority focus on increasing wages and on switching social protection from food aid alone to a safety net involving cash transfers. While global wealth had grown considerably, it was far from true that the creation of wealth always went hand in hand with its fair distribution. The rising inequality manifested itself as a gap not only between a rich North and a poor South but also within individual societies. The real issue, however, was unequal opportunities. An inclusive and mobilizing policy was needed to focus on creating opportunities for the development of talent, with a special emphasis on the full social participation and equal treatment of vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities.

In many societies and cultures, however, equality remained unacceptably elusive. Better access to education and measures to facilitate the combination of work and family responsibilities would help to promote women's empowerment. Vulnerable groups must not be forgotten either; in Belgium, for instance, the enrolment of children with disabilities in mainstream schools had been a positive experience. Inequalities must also be addressed across borders through international cooperation, including for development. Other factors indispensable to breaking the infernal cycle of discrimination and poverty included entrepreneurship, education, and access to sexual and reproductive health care.

Mr. A. KARLSBOECK (Austria) said that one per cent of the world population owned just over one half of global wealth and that opportunities to accumulate wealth through labour had dwindled to almost zero. Indeed, the capital return in developed countries was consistently greater than the rate of economic growth, meaning that the only way to make money was through money, which further increased wealth inequality. In most countries, moreover, the tax burden on labour was significantly high whereas taxation on wealth and high incomes was relatively small. Global inequality trends indicated that top income shares were increasing in practically every country, in contrast to public property, which was declining. The negative public wealth in rich countries limited the ability to implement adequate policies, and the rise in private property had implications for income and wealth inequality. Money transferred to tax havens by wealthy individuals who evaded taxes was money missing from the public purse. In short, societies were disintegrating as a result of income inequality.

The main challenge with regard to inequality concerned the fair – rather than equal – distribution of wealth and the need to ensure that no individual suffered from poverty. Governments must intervene to alleviate the widening equality gaps and political polarization by introducing a fair taxation system and providing basic social protection. They must also respect the principles of transparency and integrity; be overseen by strong parliaments and independent audit institutions; and provide equal and free access to education. Parliaments must strive to respond to challenges and work in tandem to develop a model for fair and sustainable development to ensure a decent life for all and preserve the planet for the benefit of future generations.

Mr. I.R. AL-KUWARI (Qatar) said that his Parliament was committed to continuing its engagement in all inter-parliamentary and international efforts to spread peace, the rule of law and equality and eliminate the causes of conflict. It had hosted numerous international and regional conferences to those ends and established itself as a global role model for human rights, the symbol of civilization. Its endeavour to create an enabling environment for strengthening women's participation in public life had borne fruit, with women now serving in ministerial, judicial and administrative positions and as elected municipal officers. Intercultural bridges and dialogue were the way forward to peaceful coexistence among peoples through breaking down barriers and building tolerance and respect for others. As to sustainable development, it was aimed at meeting the socio-economic, institutional and environmental needs of the present while also conserving biodiversity and ecosystems so as not to compromise the ability of future generations to live decent lives.

The escalating violence and tensions around the globe created complex situations, with grave repercussions for innocent and peace-loving peoples. In that context, he pointed to the long-standing tragedy and suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of an occupier that disregarded international law and had no moral standards. Parliamentarians must take a firm stand and urge the international community to exert pressure on Israel to comply with the relevant United

Nations resolutions and cooperate on the initiatives for a just peace in the Middle East, restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ms. E. SCOLARO (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that health-related inequalities, both within and among countries, adversely affected lives and well-being, with women and girls in particular frequently paying the highest price as the most vulnerable group. Indeed, women and girls were all too often victims of discrimination, human rights violations and other structural barriers in the many domains determining their personal situation. The interaction of multiple domains, moreover, could create extreme disadvantage, as in the case of poor uneducated girls living in rural areas. Without action in their favour, such groups would continue to fall further behind, in turn curtailing the national potential.

Critical inequalities leading to death and ill health, including in connection with pregnancy and birth, could nonetheless be reduced through proven interventions to promote and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women and girls. There was, however, marked resistance on that score, as evidenced by, *inter alia*, the lack of funding; stigmatization of both users and providers of the related services; widespread tolerance of gender-based violence; restricted access to accurate information and to contraception; and imposition of legal barriers. The achievement of equity in health thus demanded political commitment above all. Through their key enabling roles in legislation, oversight, budgeting, accountability and advocacy, parliamentarians could be instrumental in promoting health and well-being, including by way of developing evidence-based laws and policy. To that end, an open, transparent and interactive dialogue must be maintained between health experts and policymakers to bridge the gap between the availability of evidence and its use for policy. WHO remained committed to cooperation to ensure the right to health for all so that no one was left behind.

Mr. A.I. AL-MANSOUR (Sudan) said that parliaments must combat discrimination of all kinds by addressing its causes, and must guarantee to all the right to dignity and well-being. International cooperation was vital to implementing the commitments made with respect to equality and non-discrimination in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be effectively safeguarded at country level by the constitutional and legal mechanisms in place. Aimed at building a multicultural and multiethnic nation, the Sudanese Constitution enshrined and protected rights and freedoms, including those articulated in the international human rights conventions ratified by the Sudan. The Constitution also emphasized the commitment to improving social justice, education and health and to empowering women and youth. Women in the Sudan indeed enjoyed equal rights and duties with men and played an important role in public life, holding one third of parliamentary seats and occupying senior positions in the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

Sudan had been significantly involved in the regional efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in South Sudan, where the acute food crisis was a matter of grave concern. Its leadership constantly advocated peace through dialogue, which had been behind its own success in finalizing a comprehensive peace agreement based on the principles of freedom and democracy, rule of law, justice, equality and the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity. For its part, the Sudanese Parliament supported the work of national institutions and civil society organizations in the field of human rights, which were furthermore safeguarded by the courts. It also engaged in harmonizing national legislation with the human rights instruments ratified by the Sudan.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) thanked the many well-wishers for their messages of support and condolence received in the wake of the recent terrorist attack on the United Kingdom Parliament, which had left many dead and injured and symbolized an attack on democracy itself. All were united, he said, in the wish to defeat the scourge of terrorism adversely affecting the quality of life in so many different ways.

The achievement of equality implied eradication of the poverty to which many more would be condemned unless its root causes - war and conflict - were robustly tackled. He cited the Syrian Arab Republic as a prime example of a previously thriving economy where fates and fortunes had been swiftly reversed by the advent of war, which had furthermore provoked mass migration, with negative consequences of its own. The prevention of war and conflict called for measures in a range of areas, among them governance, access to food, water and medicines, climate change, education for all, corruption, unemployment, and the rights of women, youth and minorities. He added that large corporations must be required to pay taxes in the countries where their profits were made and that the developed world must pay a fair price for raw materials and other goods sourced from the developing world.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that full compliance with the IPU principle of working for peace and cooperation, in accordance with the purposes of the United Nations, would rid humanity of such ills as war, occupation, annexation and human rights violations. Regrettably, however, the failure of some to comply with that principle had led to breaches of international law and created hotbeds of tension in certain parts of the world. Ukraine, for instance, had now experienced four years of aggression and occupation at the hands of a State whose parliament was an IPU Member. The proven facts about that State's activities in Ukraine were readily available, as were statistical data showing the immense human and economic price paid. The international community had furthermore adopted numerous resolutions expressing solidarity with Ukraine and firmly condemning the Russian aggression against it.

The decision to hold the 137th IPU Assembly in a country that violated the principles of the IPU and the Charter of the United Nations was therefore without reason or logic. Taking the view that aggression should not be rewarded, the Ukrainian Parliament had resolved not to participate in that Assembly and urged other delegations upholding those principles to follow suit. The signs were that the Russian propaganda machine would aim to distort the proceedings to the advantage of the host country. Indeed, the invitation to host the Assembly in October 2017 was a cynical ploy to involve the IPU in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, an event that had brought suffering to millions. He called on the IPU to urge the Russian Federation to implement the two resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, in 2014 and 2016, on the situation in the Ukrainian Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Mr. V. Mateu (Andorra), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. THI PHONG TONG (Viet Nam) said that her country had implemented sound policies for achieving a strong nation and a wealthy population in a democratic, just and modern society. It had consequently attained most of the MDGs ahead of the deadline and was now developing a national action plan for the SDGs aimed at, *inter alia*, promoting social welfare and creating equal opportunities and shared benefits for all. Its National Assembly was continuing to enact, review and amend laws in line with the Constitution and to monitor implementation of the socio-economic development plans in place. Viet Nam faced numerous challenges, however, and therefore looked forward to continued international assistance for enhancing the quality of governance in the interest of achieving its development goals.

Redressing inequalities and delivering on dignity and well-being was an important and long-term mission requiring concerted efforts. The role of the United Nations must be promoted to that end and reforms initiated to ensure that developing countries had a say in the work of global economic and financial institutions. A regional network must also be built to coordinate action on non-traditional security issues, all countries should work to improve their institutions, policies and governance, and developed countries should continue to assist developing countries through knowledge-sharing and technology transfer in support of sustainable and inclusive development. All countries must furthermore develop tools for measuring inequalities as an aid to priority-setting, and all parliaments must increase their legislative and monitoring activities to support the attainment of SDG 10. Cooperation mechanisms between the IPU and the United Nations, as well as between IPU Members and international organizations, should be promoted to facilitate the exchange of experiences in addressing inequalities. Lastly, communication activities must be improved to raise public awareness of the rights and responsibilities entailed in working to achieve social equality.

Mr. YANG SEM (Cambodia) said that the new era of independence, peace, unity, sovereignty, democracy, rule of law and territorial integrity ushered in with the overthrow of the Pol Pot regime represented his country's first steps towards addressing inequalities among its people. To that end, a wide range of measures had been implemented as part of a national social protection strategy for improving livelihoods and food security for the poorest and most vulnerable. Parliament continued to play a significant role in reducing inequalities by developing appropriate legislation and regulatory frameworks and by communicating the needs of the people to the executive. It had also actively developed legislation in conjunction with other regional and international legislative bodies with a view to ensuring common ideals on various issues, including equality and human rights. The Cambodian Constitution recognized and respected the human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all human rights treaties. Cambodia was a party to several such treaties and was committed to the ratification of additional treaties in the near future.

Parliamentarians must seize the important opportunity to establish a long-term vision and work together on behalf of their Governments. They must also work to fulfil their obligation to enhance sustained growth through the development of democracy, sustainable development and peace. At the same time as forging closer ties and cooperation with others, they must further strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations. By working hand in hand and mobilizing efforts for the sake of humanity, they could deliver lasting peace, democracy, development and well-being to the world.

Mr. C. LOHR (Switzerland) highlighted the importance of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities, saying that those rights were all too often neglected. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was aimed at promoting respect for the inherent dignity of individuals with disabilities and had been widely ratified. Its provisions, however, would remain a dead letter unless translated into concrete policy measures to respond to the needs of those persons and promote their independent living, including through access to training and job opportunities. Persons with disabilities wished to be treated as equals and with respect for their diversity and individuality, which called for a more humane approach focused on their strengths rather than their weaknesses. It lay with parliamentarians to discharge their responsibility for improving the lives of persons with disabilities and to work with conviction to build public awareness of the rights to which those persons were entitled.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) said that the rising levels of inequality undermined human rights and opportunities for all, had a direct impact on human well-being and set the stage for socio-economic and political instability. Bangladesh was thus working to redress inequality and create a better world for future generations through the action plans for reaching the SDG targets in partnership with stakeholders. An inter-ministerial committee had been established to develop a unified approach to SDG implementation and monitoring, while civil society efforts were being coordinated by a citizens' platform. Yearly achievements were also to be measured by specially trained officials.

Significant progress had been made towards increasing access to all education and bettering school enrolment rates, particularly where women and girls were concerned. While true that literacy skills had improved tremendously, more robust efforts were needed to achieve the goal of universal education. Numerous safety net programmes had been instituted to provide allowances for disadvantaged groups, as had measures to promote the inclusion of women, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities in socio-economic and political life. Remittances played a major role in both direct and indirect poverty reduction, while information and communication technology was helping to transform the rural economy.

In working to implement the SDGs, the Parliament of Bangladesh would fulfil its legislative, representative and oversight roles and looked forward to learning from the national experiences and successes of others in tackling inequalities. It also aimed to communicate on the subject with grass-roots constituents by way of e-dialogue, e-deliberation and e-consultation, among others. For their part, parliamentarians should identify and include specific SDG targets in hearings with relevant ministries.

Ms. M. VARGAS BÁRCENA (Mexico) said that her presence at the Assembly was symbolic of the role of women in her country, which had ratified numerous conventions on women's rights and incorporated their provisions into the domestic law. Women were thus able to participate in public life on a basis of equality with men, yet discrimination against both women and girls persisted, as did infringement of their rights. Instances included unequal pay for equal work, unequal access to education and health care, unequal opportunity to exercise the right to vote, and unequal involvement in decision-making. Many women were also victims of trafficking and abuse.

Twenty years on from the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a change in attitude was overdue. Parliamentarians should therefore seek to educate the public on the rights of women and girls and raise awareness of gender equality and equal opportunities, including with the help of information and communication technology. They must also ensure that adequate resources were allocated for that purpose so as to create a gender-equal society in which women and girls were able to exercise their rights freely, make their own decisions and take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. By taking such steps, parliaments could contribute significantly to shaping the future of equality to which all should aspire.

Mr. J. MOKHTAR (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said it was preposterous for anyone to claim that his country supported the Taliban, especially as it was a major victim of Taliban activities. It had instantly warned of the devastating consequences of the re-emergence of the Taliban and had paid a huge financial and moral price for the crisis in Afghanistan. It had, moreover, been host to millions of Afghan refugees for over three decades. The baseless allegation against his country had been made with no heed to those facts and did nothing to resolve the problems faced by Afghanistan and its people. The Islamic Republic of Iran had been instrumental in the establishment of the new political process in Afghanistan, to which it was providing development assistance, as well as helping in the reconstruction. His brotherly advice was that speakers should refrain from making unfounded and damaging remarks and avoid being influenced by those wishing to undermine good relations.

The sitting rose at 1.20 p.m.

Sitting of Monday 3 April (Afternoon)

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

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Redressing inequalities: delivering on dignity and well-being for all*

Resumption of the debate

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) said that although progress had been seen in many countries, growing disparities in income, education and opportunities threatened social peace; Occupy Wall Street, Idle No More and Black Lives Matter were three examples that illustrated the focus on the need for increased equality and social integration. A holistic approach was needed to reduce inequality within and among countries. Moreover, inequality and well-being could not be considered purely economic concepts; addressing underlying factors such as education and health was key. Canada had recently improved its child benefit contributions to help with the high costs of raising children and had increased financial assistance for university students. A range of training and employment programmes had also been developed for the unemployed and underemployed. Parliamentarians had a duty to hear the concerns of, respond to the questions of and help all of their constituents, including women and young people. Canada had taken a number of steps to achieve gender equality, including proposed legislation on establishing a Gender Equality Week; legislation to require publically traded companies to disclose the number of women on their corporate boards and in senior management; and the creation of the United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. On the occasion of International Women's Day 2017, young women from around the country had been invited to the House of Commons to share their concerns. Intergenerational interactions such as that helped to foster new ideas and more inclusive perspectives. Canada had also undertaken reconciliation efforts with its indigenous communities and was committed to implementing, without reservations, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Respect for human rights was critical for an inclusive and lasting development process and human rights obligations should therefore be embedded in national and international development efforts in order to guard against marginalization, exclusion and arbitrary decision making.

Mr. G.G. SORIAL (Italy) observed that the economic difficulties faced by many countries and the tools being used to address them often limited productive investments and policies supporting collective well-being. As a result, the income gap was increasing and unemployed persons were frequently forced by circumstance to commit acts of desperation as they were unable to support themselves or their families. Economic measures, like a basic income, could help people that were struggling financially and lead to an increase in the consumption of primary commodities; this had a direct impact on small and medium enterprises. Studies on the development of technology had predicted that in the coming years, there would be a progressive loss of certain jobs due to increasing automatization, even in sectors such as fast food and delivery of goods and services, which would have an impact on those on middle and low incomes. Therefore, more commitment was needed from the State to support those affected and to overcome economic inequalities. The majority of ongoing conflicts were the result of longstanding divisions, which had created a vicious cycle of violence and conflict; young parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in helping overcome those mentalities and ensuring prosperity and security for the people.

Ms. J.d'A. GAKUBA (Rwanda), highlighting the decision of her country to focus on redressing inequalities and enhancing dignity for all following the 1994 genocide, said that women and youth were involved in planning and ownership of government programmes. Moreover, all legislation was gender-sensitive, with legislation guaranteeing equal property rights for married couples, equal inheritance rights for men and women, equal access to land ownership, and equal pay. Policies had been developed to address the needs of vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, women, survivors of genocides, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Steps had also been taken to facilitate women's and young people's access to affordable finance. As a result, living standards had substantially improved, with significant reductions in child mortality and near universal primary school enrolment. It was the responsibility of parliamentarians to find solutions to the challenges faced by their citizens and ensure that no one was left behind.

Mr. R. EL ABDI (Morocco) observed that in the present economic and political situation, moral and ethical values such as solidarity were often overlooked in favour of self-serving coalitions. The increasing levels of racism, xenophobia and insecurity were the scourge of society; without security, human life was endangered. Young people, women and the poor were suffering the most from the insecurity and economic slowdown that plagued the world. Terrorism was a significant issue, particularly in the Arab region, resulting from deteriorating economic conditions. Nevertheless, some countries, such as Morocco, had managed to preserve their development model and social equilibrium, through the introduction of reforms to reduce social inequalities, particularly between men and women, and to modernize State institutions. Efforts had also focused on redressing inequalities between different regions within the country. Parliamentarians had played a prominent part in the adoption of those reforms and policies to help marginalized groups. In terms of regional stability, parliaments had a responsibility to act in response to conflict, famine, human trafficking and terrorism. International solidarity was crucial and as an international meeting of parliamentarians, the Assembly should consider its moral responsibility to attend to the needs of the millions living in unbearable conditions.

Mr. CHANGZHI CHEN (China) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be fully implemented to achieve common and shared development. Priority should be given to livelihood-related issues, such as poverty, the need for social equality and justice, and gender equality. Furthermore, a new type of global development partnership should be built, with cooperation with the United Nations at its core, and South-North cooperation and South-South cooperation as complementary elements. Developed countries should fulfil their development aid commitments, and international organizations should prioritize development in their global agendas. Global economic governance should be improved to develop an impartial, equal, reasonable and ordered system, which was a pre-requisite for a balanced, stable and healthy global economy. Such a system should include an open and transparent global trade and investment governance framework to ensure that all countries could benefit equality from globalization. Parliaments should be fully involved in development efforts, through the improvement of legislation on sustainable development, the elimination of legal barriers that result in inequalities, and oversight activities. The IPU should build platforms to facilitate the exchange of information and lessons learned between Member Parliaments. China was endeavouring to integrate sustainable development into its medium- and long-term national development strategies and had held regional parliamentary capacity-building workshops on the SDGs, in collaboration with the IPU. It also supported industrialization and the development of inclusive finance in developing countries.

Mr. A. LOPEZ CLAROS (World Bank), *Guest speaker*, highlighting the progress made in areas such as life expectancy, mortality rates and poverty, said that nevertheless progress in redressing inequalities had been limited. The World Bank had developed a number of indicators that had demonstrated the degree of inequality within and between countries. Inequalities between countries were continuing to increase. For example, the combined GDP of the Netherlands and Switzerland, with a total population of 25 million people, was significantly higher than that of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, using the Gini coefficient revealed that inequalities within countries were also on the increase. Furthermore, although many developing countries were presently growing at a faster rate than industrialized nations, at the current rate of convergence, it would take 200 years for the developing countries to catch up. In order to reduce inequalities, a number of steps could be taken. Firstly, money spent on energy subsidies should be redistributed to education, public health and infrastructure. Globally, 6 per cent of global gross national product was spent subsidizing consumption of gas, coal and carbon, which was bad public policy given that 60 per cent of the subsidies went to the richest 20 per cent of the population. Research had shown that eliminating subsidies would lower greenhouse gas emissions. Secondly, it was important to create a more friendly business environment and improve regulation of the private sector, although steps should also be taken to prevent over-regulation. Thirdly, empowerment of women was essential. To that end, legal provisions that were discriminatory against women must be eliminated. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of solidarity.

Mr. V. MACEDO (Portugal) said that social inequalities had a direct impact on human well-being and were a breeding ground for political, social and economic instability. It was important to draw on the progress made on the MDGs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inequality was a global issue, which therefore required concerted global actions. The vision of the SDGs recognized poverty as a multidimensional issue, and was based on three main areas of action: eradication of poverty, reduction of socio-economic inequalities, and

combating all forms of discrimination; cross-cutting actions were therefore needed. Achievement of Goal 10 was essential for the achievement of all other Goals. It was also important to involve beneficiaries of relevant policies in the design of said policies, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of society. In developed countries in particular, technology had changed labour relations and the education systems had not kept pace with the changes. Education would always play a fundamental role in the reducing inequalities as it was a key contributor so social mobility, access to employment and economic growth. Taxation was also an important element for redressing inequalities; less progressive tax systems only served to enhance inequalities. In many countries, indirect taxes were gaining prominence, motivated by political reasons to create the illusion of a lower burden on the taxpayer. Portugal provided social subsidies to the poorest in society to help social mobility. Nevertheless, such an instrument should be used cautiously to prevent misuse.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile) stressed that sustainable development was an essential, global task. As such, Chile strongly supported the SDGs, which required a united approach and did not simply grant developed countries a collaborative role; social equality, economic growth and environmental protection were key elements of the Goals. As part of its sustainable development efforts, Chile had established a ministerial group on the SDGs. Economic, social and environmental factors were closely linked, particularly in regard to redressing inequalities resulting from migration. Although poverty had been reduced at the global level, there had been an increase in inequalities when it came to access to goods and services in developing countries. Moreover, it was important to consider the impact of global warming and other environmental factors, and of gender inequality, particularly in terms of the large wage gaps in some countries. Transparent and reliable data were essential so as to enable parliaments and citizens affected could to play a direct role in implementing relevant policies. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to represent the voices of their citizens and raise awareness of the challenges faced in the achievement of the SDGs. Parliaments should therefore strongly encourage citizen participation. Parliaments should strengthen their oversight role with regard to international commitments and ensure the availability of transparent information for their constituents. To that end, Chile had joined the Open Government Partnership and had developed an open government portal and increased links between civil society and government bodies.

Mr. F. ZON (Indonesia) expressed concern that the economic growth achieved by his country had only benefited the rich, a situation that was also reflected at the global level. Millions of people were unable to provide for their families, and a decent education remained a pipe dream for many, whereas the world's wealthiest people led lavish lifestyles. Elimination of inequality meant providing equal access to services for all, including education and health care. Indonesia allocated 20 per cent of its budget to education and 5 per cent to health care and had developed a universal social security system. However, that system was costly and was being supported through fiscal reform. Job creation alone was not sufficient to close the wealth gap; it needed to be accompanied by fair wages. Therefore, countries should regulate minimum wages and promote entrepreneurship. Land ownership also required attention, and Indonesia was exploring ways to redistribute land to the poorest segments of society. Global stability was not possible if inequalities prevailed; wars and conflict continued unabated because the collective power of the international community to maintain peace was concentrated in the hands of the few. Therefore, political inclusion and a more democratic international community, with better representation in multilateral institutions, were essential.

Mr. J. MASSIMA (Gabon), noting that global inequalities were among the main barriers to sustainable development and poverty eradication, said that his country had undertaken a number of social reforms in order to redress inequalities and help the poorest and most disadvantaged sections of the population. Initiatives included a health insurance fund to provide access to health care and medicines and financial support for the poorest citizens for school enrolment. Legislation had been adopted on the protection of widows and orphans and programmes had been introduced to encourage the development of agricultural cooperatives so as to spur rural job creation and the economic empowerment of women and young people. In terms of gender equality, a quota system had been introduced for elections and high-level State positions, and initiatives had been launched to improve the number of women and young people involved in decision making and the creation of businesses. It was important for the international community to intensify efforts to combat inequality and consolidate the gains already made.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand), underscoring the importance of equality for the advancement of human rights and dignity for all, said that her country played an active role in facilitating international cooperation in order to create partnerships to drive successful implementation of the SDGs. Thailand had established a National Committee on Sustainable Development and the country's approach to development was based on the philosophy of "sufficiency economy", which complemented and reinforced the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thailand was keen to share its experiences in that area with interested parties. In order to achieve greater equality, the Thai National Legislative Assembly had also adopted legislation in a number of areas, such as gender equality, homelessness, inheritance tax, labour protection and human trafficking.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that people in his country were living under occupation, and were experiencing oppression, arrests and destruction of their land and homes. The actions of another country continued to undermine peace efforts and were in disregard of United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334, which called for the implementation of all resolutions on the subject and withdrawal from Palestinian lands occupied in 1967. Israel continued to occupy Palestinian land and had adopted racist laws, including a law on the call to prayer, which was discriminatory, hindered freedom of religion and fostered racial separation. Parliamentarians should discharge their responsibility with regard to the occupation of Palestine and strive to bring about tolerance, security and equality among all peoples. They should hold their governments accountable regarding the implementation of resolutions adopted by international organizations on the issue. It was time to put an end to interference in the matters of sovereign States and against the will of the people. To achieve sustainable development, it was necessary to do away with double standards and policies of oppression, as well as the sequestering of resources. The building of walls, for example, would only lead to more oppression, injustice and conflict.

Ms. B. ALCALÁ RUIZ (Latin American Parliament) said that joint efforts were needed to achieve the SDGs; parliaments had a key part to play in that regard. It was essential to strengthen the rule of law in order to build inclusive, equal and responsible societies. Peacebuilding, security and respect for human rights were also vital. Latin America was one of the most unequal regions in the world; while progress had been made, much remained to be done, and parliamentarians should identify what their responsibilities were and commit to taking action; all issues, including gender equality, poverty and climate change, could be addressed by parliaments through legislation, allocation of sufficient budgetary resources for the implementation of public policies, and oversight. Coordinated action was needed to respond to the challenges faced. The Latin American Parliament had established five groups that would analyse the situation within member countries with regard to the SDGs and develop model laws for their use. Political and ethical commitment was essential for realizing the Goals, together with dialogue and participation, both of which were key instruments for achieving democracy.

Ms. H. FOGSTAD (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health), noting that inequality particularly affected poor, undereducated girls and women living in rural areas, who were subjected to discrimination, human rights violations and other structural barriers related to cultural, economic, environmental, social and legislative issues, stressed the importance of addressing those issues. Although significant progress had been made in any areas, women, children and adolescents constituted significant unexploited human capital and more investment was needed in issues that affected those groups. To that end, implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health 2016-2030, and increased investment in women and children was essential. A new approach was required that ensured integration within and across sectors, with a focus on quality of care and equity, and the development of gender-responsive health policies and interventions. A detailed analysis of barriers to the achievement of women's health, such as ethnicity, class, geographic locations and sexual orientation, would be crucial for the latter action. Moreover, combating child marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-based violence should be key priorities for all States. She commended the IPU for its longstanding commitment to improving women's children's and adolescents' health and called for continued action. Parliamentarians had a key role to play through their legislative, oversight, budgeting and accountability roles. Her Organization stood ready to provide any assistance required.

Mr. J. ELLEMANN-JENSEN (Denmark), while acknowledging that the Danish approach as a whole might not be effective in all parts of the world, highlighted that citizens in his country were recognized as being some of the happiest in the world. The main factors that had been found to support happiness were caring, freedom, generosity, honesty, health, income, trust and good

governance; moreover, research had shown that there was a clear connection between corruption and inequality. Turning to aspects of the his country's social welfare system, he highlighted the establishment of so-called nature kindergartens, through which children spend some of their days playing outside in the countryside, regardless of the weather, as a successful scheme that contributed to happiness and well-being. Moreover, when caring for the elderly, it was important to ask them what they needed, rather than telling them what the Government thought they needed. Denmark had a voucher programme for the elderly; the vouchers could be used for extra services, such as making purchases or going to the cinema, and put the choice in the hands of the elderly themselves. The main aim of that scheme was to help ensure that people remained in charge of their own lives for as long as possible; that helped to improve their well-being. However, it should be noted that dignity and well-being had many different forms, and the challenges faced differed from country to country.

Mr. K.P. MOLATHEGI (Botswana) said that parliaments were best placed to make meaningful contributions to effecting the changes needed and redressing inequalities, for example through identifying and amending legislation that served to perpetuate all forms of inequality. Botswana was experiencing rising income inequality, which had created numerous social, economic and political challenges. As a result, a number of strategies and policies had been developed in areas such as poverty reduction, care for orphans, agriculture development, youth development, and support for persons with disabilities. Education was a crucial empowerment tool and gender disparities in the education sector in Botswana had been reduced significantly, and policies and laws had evolved to facilitate women's access to and control of production resources and access to decision-making positions. Nevertheless, ownership, particularly of agricultural assets such as cattle and farmland, continued to be dominated by men, as a result of cultural norms and practices in relation to inheritance. The number of women in politics was another key area that required improvement. He encouraged Member Parliaments to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations to address inequality and stressed the importance of devising a system for detecting inequalities and responding where necessary.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France), expressing concern that inequality continued to affect a large proportion of the global population despite the economic, social and scientific progress made, stressed the importance of being ambitious in the fight against inequality. Education was a key step in that direction and school enrolment, particularly for girls, should be a priority for all countries. Climate change and access to water, food, energy and the Internet were other key causes and he urged parliamentarians from the 60 States that had yet to ratify the Paris Agreement to call on their governments to do so. Moreover, policies and legislation should be developed to redress existing inequalities through compensatory measures or interventions, and to give all citizens equal opportunities to enable them to meet their basic needs. Taxation was the primary tool States could use to redress inequalities; in that respect, an effective tax system was vital, something that was incompatible with the existence of tax havens. France had a welfare system in place, which had proved to be an effective means of fighting inequality; parliamentarians had a prominent role to play in developing such systems. International solidarity was also essential and he drew attention to the Airline Ticket Levy introduced by France, and taken up by a number of other countries, the proceeds of which were donated to UNITAID. Moreover, representation of developing countries at the international level was also vital and France supported reform of the United Nations Security Council in that regard. Lastly, he stressed the importance of gender equality and the role of parliamentarians in achieving that.

Mr. N. PREA (Seychelles) underscored the importance of unleashing the full potential of women at work for the achievement of the SDGs and reducing inequalities within and between countries. In the Seychelles, women occupied a number of high-level political positions and his Government and the National Assembly were committed to the principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and social justice in order to address inequalities and eliminate poverty. Both the two main political parties had strong representation in the National Assembly and were working together to address the issues.

Mr. M.E. KILIC (Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Member States - PUIC) expressing concern at the increase in hate speech around the world, stressed the importance of dialogue between cultures and religions for peace, security, respect of human rights and co-existence. It was the responsibility of all countries to refrain from using or threatening to use violence and extremism against other independent States. To combat terrorism, increased regional and international cooperation was needed, through agreements and conventions.

Continuous measures were needed to prevent the funding of terrorism and it was also necessary to criminalize the direct or indirect collection of funds in that regard. The Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Member States had adopted a charter on terrorism, which called on its member parliaments to implement the resolutions included in that document. Terrorism threatened the social fabric of affected countries and was an underlying factor in migration, displacement, human trafficking and the spread of disease. Some States responded to cases of terrorism based on circumstances and cause, and that had led to instances of human rights violations, and he asked whether the massive flows of refugees the world had seen at present required the development of a new refugee convention. It should be noted that many developing countries received refugees with generosity.

Ms. M. BOROTO (South Africa) explained that to address the high levels of inequality in the aftermath of apartheid, the South African Government had introduced programmes to provide education for all, together with social grants to foster distribution of resources to combat poverty. South Africa was in the process of introducing a national minimum wage to continue that work. To combat poverty and inequality, it was essential to work together. Her country had devised a national development plan, which asserted that it was not possible for a political democracy to survive if masses of people remained in poverty, without the prospect of a better life. In that regard, it was essential to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination, particularly where it manifested itself in ownership and control of the economy. Moreover, persons with disabilities must be afforded equal rights as all other citizens, including the right to education, health care, housing, food security and family life, and the empowerment of women living in rural areas, through access to productive assets, was essential. In addition, discrimination against women and girls, including through child marriage, must be prevented, and the participation of women in politics needed to be increased.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) said that although it was not possible to attain a situation where people found themselves in equally privileged positions, it was essential to offer all citizens equal opportunities to allow them to reach their full potential. To that end, minimizing welfare gaps, for example through the provision of quality health care and education to all, was a key step. A welfare state that adapted to the ups and downs of the economy was needed. Although that was expensive, it should be noted that countries could introduce such a system at one level and always improve on it when possible. Reducing inequalities was not a question of wealth but of the way resources were distributed. Gender equality was also crucial, and the principle of equality should be embedded in education and the upbringing of children from an early age. Empowerment of women and girls had significant positive impacts on the health and education of not only families but also the community as a whole. Drawing attention to the progressive tax system in his country, in which there were higher tax rates for those on higher incomes, he observed that people in Norway appeared to find it fair to give something back to the community and were willing to invest heavily in social cohesion through income redistribution. Fighting corruption was also a key element for redressing inequalities, and members of parliament had a leading role to play in that regard through the development of legislation and monitoring of its implementation, development of an efficient system of income redistribution, development of initiatives to promote the interests of different groups in society, and ensuring a free and independent media and an active civil society sector.

Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. S. CHIHEB (Algeria) highlighted the importance of poverty eradication as a means of redressing inequalities. Algeria had had some success in that respect through ambitious government programmes in areas such as housing, social justice, health care and infrastructure improvement. The provision of equal access to healthcare was particularly important in that regard and Algeria had developed new national plans on cancer and noncommunicable diseases. Education was also a priority; education in the country was now free and compulsory up to the age of 16, and school materials were provided free of charge to many children. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the national budget had been allocated to the implementation of a five-year national development plan, which demonstrated Algeria's commitment to meeting the needs of its citizens and building trust. Moreover, gender equality, impartiality of the judiciary and other key principles were enshrined in the country's new Constitution. In terms of international commitment, Algeria had reduced the debt of a number of African countries. The global financial crisis had led to a cut in development aid, thereby depriving developing countries of funds that they desperately needed. It was time to breathe new life into the international system through the development of an innovative multilateral system that would enable the building of new relations and ways forward for

democracy. Peacebuilding efforts were also needed, as armed conflict and violence posed a significant threat to the achievement of sustainable development. Good governance was also essential.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), emphasizing the inter-connectedness of the world, cautioned against isolationism and the use of justifiable fears, such as terror and violence, as a justification for exclusion and division. She highlighted the numerous international instruments that demonstrated the common aims of all countries on issues such as displacement, torture, genocide, war crimes, destruction of cultural property, climate change, and injustice. The crises affecting the world touch all countries. It was time to build bridges, not walls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an important and radical new approach, which should help to change political structures, methods of consumption and production and the way business was conducted. It was no longer appropriate to divide the world into different groups, such as industrialized and developing; sustainable development was a global task and all countries had a role to play. All States, including Germany, were developing countries to some degree and must take steps to address global issues, such as poverty and hunger, for example through the development of a fairer global trade system and the ending of arms sales. Truly sustainable development began at home.

Mr. J.I. ECHÁNIZ (Spain), highlighting the important role of international forums, such as the Assembly, explained that his country was seeing increasing economic growth, which was contributing to the creation of wealth and jobs and the improvement of well-being. Dignified and stable employment was the key for social improvement, well-being and social mobility. A person that worked contributed to their psychological, economic and social well-being, to the situation of their family, their country, and through international cooperation, the situation of other countries. In response to the 2007 financial crisis and the resulting rising inequalities and poverty, Spain had introduced new economic and social policies that had produced positive results. However, the crisis had raised significant questions regarding inequality, social exclusion, distribution of wealth and the limitations of existing mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth. Spain had developed a plan for social inclusion as part of its efforts on the SDGs, to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion; strengthen employment and employability and ensure the inclusion in society of the poorest and most vulnerable. To date, global progress had been unequal and patchy, and it was important to be prepared to face any new challenges that might arise and to respond promptly to threats and peoples' needs. The world was increasingly interconnected, but countries did not always fulfil their commitments, and their responses to global issues were not always timely. Moreover, new technologies often served to widen gaps between countries. Nevertheless, although the world was not failing to address issues such as poverty, more could be done and increased cooperation was needed. Humanity was at a crucial juncture and it was essential that everyone stepped up and did more to raise awareness and address the challenges faced.

Mr. C. ÇAKIR (Turkey) said that his country was pursuing a humanitarian approach to combating global inequalities, through significant donations to humanitarian aid and an open door policy towards refugees. Turkey was doing all it could to help those in need, but had mostly been acting alone, as the contribution of the rest of the international community had, to date, been inadequate. Regional and international development cooperation was of particular importance, and he highlighted the efforts of the Turkish Red Crescent Society to respond to the ongoing drought and famine in Somalia in that regard. Sustainable development was essential for a more equitable world order; inclusive economic growth, with the active participation of women in economic and political life, was of particular importance. Global threats, such as terrorism, irregular migration and poverty, together with the worrying trend of stigmatizing people on the basis of race, colour, religion, descent or origin, as well as the use of racist propaganda in politics posed significant challenges. Anti-migrant discourse, hate speech and intolerance all served to reinforce social exclusion of migrants and hindered integration, thereby contributing to the rise of violent extremism. As such, effective policies for redressing inequalities, and combined efforts at the national and international level were essential.

Responding to concerns raised during the first meeting of the Governing Council, he added that referenda were key democratic tools. The Turkish Parliament had unanimously adopted a package of reforms to the electoral system, and that package would be the subject of a referendum for the Turkish people. Concerning the July 2016 coup attempt, Turkey was taking the necessary measures, in complete transparency, to protect its democracy, the rule of law and the rights and freedoms of its citizens.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Asian Parliamentary Assembly) observed that without the efforts of the IPU and other parliamentary organizations, the world would be a more vulnerable place to live. Nevertheless, war, conflict and terrorism continued to affect many countries on a daily basis. Peace and security were prerequisites for democracy and sustainable development, and more should therefore be done to condemn terrorism and find a peaceful solution and improve well-being, by tackling hunger poverty and inequality. It was essential to work together in that regard. Parliaments had the power to deliver social justice and promote equality in their societies.

Mr. N. OAKESHOTT (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR) said that the present scale of global displacement was unprecedented and numbers were likely to increase during 2017 if the circumstances driving displacement persisted. Such levels of forced displacement created significant challenges in terms of redressing inequality and ensuring dignity and well-being for all. Statelessness was another issue that had an impact on equality, as stateless people lacked the protection of the nationality of any State and often lived marginalized and excluded lives. In 2014, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had launched a campaign to end statelessness within 10 years. The commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind provided an excellent basis for the inclusion of refugees, the internally displaced and stateless people in economic development planning and other measures related to the SDGs. The Agenda would help to address the inequalities caused by displacement and its root causes. In addition, the New York Declaration arising from the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants had reaffirmed the obligations of States to fully respect the rights of refugees and migrants and had acknowledged the burden that the large movement of refugees imposed on national resources, particularly in developing countries. The Declaration also contained ground-breaking commitments on international solidarity, and burden and responsibility sharing, together with a call for a paradigm shift in the response to large-scale refugee situations, through the engagement of a broader coalition of actors in addressing the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and host communities. It should be noted that international financial institutions were developing new financial instruments for engagement in displacement situations. New, innovative approaches were vital to redressing the inequalities faced by forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that in her country in recent days, the power of the Parliament had effectively been removed and handed to the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, putting members of parliament in a difficult situation. Should they ignore the ruling and continue their work, or should they accept the ruling, which essentially constituted a coup d'état? Ultimately, it had been decided to adhere to the Constitution and respect the will of the people; the legislative power of parliaments must be respected. If parliamentary powers were removed by the courts, then there was no democracy. In her country, parliamentarians had been imprisoned on executive orders, and members of parliament, including women members, had been assaulted by police during protests. She expressed concern at the crisis situation in her country and called for support from other countries.

Mr. R. ALNUSF (Kuwait) stressed the importance of addressing the sources of and ethical crisis behind inequalities and the different forms of justice being applied to different groups. The situation in Palestine was of particular concern owing to the contradictions between the words and actions of another country's parliament. He expressed concern that when Member Parliaments acted in a manner contrary to the IPU statutes, it was not possible to suspend their membership of the Organization. The IPU should be able to take sanctions against Member Parliaments that systematically and deliberately engaged in actions that ran counter to international law and to human rights.

Mr. P. HIGIRO (Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region) observed that economic growth and technological progress had enabled a portion of the global population to develop, but the benefits had not been shared. Extreme poverty and ongoing conflicts continued to affect many countries and were linked to poor economic and political governance. Such inequalities had contributed to the aggravation of conflicts and violent extremism. The Great Lakes region had experienced significant challenges in that regard, including poverty, conflict, marginalization, and economic stagnation. Parliaments had a significant role to play in redressing inequalities through the implementation of appropriate programmes and policies. The Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region was working with member parliaments to develop policies on poverty, universal health care, agricultural reform, education, corruption, national reconciliation and the political and economic participation of women.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that all stakeholders should be involved in efforts to redress inequalities; parliaments in particular had a key role to play. Legislative action, for example, was important to ensure the protection and respect of citizens' rights. Environmental challenges and the emergence of conflicts between the privileged and the excluded were issues that urgently needed to be addressed. Parliaments should play a guiding role in that regard and increased economic investment, better international coordination, promotion of solidarity and redefinition of commercial and financial conditions were also essential. A transparent development model was needed that fought against corruption and encouraged social cohesion, as well as multicultural and interreligious coexistence. Lastly, it was important to work together with marginalized groups to respond to the issues that affected them. Although particular focus was often placed on women and young people in that respect, other groups, such as the poor and persons with disabilities should also have their voices heard. All parliaments needed to rediscover the value of human dignity.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary), stressing that a child born in one region was just as important as one born in another region, said that implementation of the SDGs should focus on issues that could be changed; many issues had been caused by misguided thinking, inappropriate value judgements, irresponsibility and a lack of integrity. Without integrity, there was no democracy and without integrity and knowledge, there could be no sustainable development. Highlighting programmes in her country that provided three meals a day to 90 per cent of kindergarten-aged children and care for the homeless, she underscored the need for joint and different actions to respond to the diverse crises and needs that arose. Local governments and local communities could play a crucial role in providing immediate assistance to those in need. Education was also vital for redressing inequalities and for sustainable development; in Hungary, improved education had had an impact on, among other things, infant mortality rates. As a result, there had been increased focus on reducing school dropout rates, particularly among Roma children. Hungary had also implemented a social land programme to teach people, particularly in rural areas, how to provide for themselves; this had facilitated their integration into the economy and was a means of life-long learning.

The sitting rose at 6.35 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 4 April

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Other matters

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *President of the IPU*, said that the IPU and its Member Parliaments had been shocked to hear the news of the terrorist attacks in St. Petersburg. At the 134th Assembly in Lusaka, the news had broken of the bomb attacks in Brussels. A year later, the issue of security continued to loom large on the international agenda. He wished to thank everyone present for having come to Bangladesh, having chosen hope over fear, and having sent a message of solidarity by attending the Assembly in Dhaka. Thus far, it was known that at least 10 people had died in the terrorist attacks in St. Petersburg, and that some 30 people were injured. The IPU strongly condemned any act of terrorism, anywhere in the world. The global parliamentary community must stand tall, in solidarity with those who had been the target of terrorism. Terrorism had no place in society; it was a threat to democracy and as such, must not be tolerated. On behalf of the IPU Member Parliaments he condemned the attacks and expressed deep condolences to the victims and their families, and called for the global parliamentary community to investigate and eliminate the root causes of terrorism

A minute's silence was observed in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in St. Petersburg.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) expressed his delegation's sincere appreciation for the minute of remembrance and mourning. He and his delegation were deeply shocked by the events that had unfolded in St. Petersburg. The President of the Russian Federation had instructed the State security services to do their utmost to locate those responsible and take appropriate measures to prevent recurrence of such acts in future. The IPU's gesture of solidarity was greatly appreciated. The IPU and its Member Parliaments would be heartily welcomed to St. Petersburg for the 137th IPU Assembly in October 2017.

Item 9 of the agenda

Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen (A/136/9-DR)

The Assembly PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution on the emergency item (A/136/9-DR).

Mr. D. PKOSING LOSIAKU (Kenya), *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the plenary debate had afforded an opportunity to share concerns and underscore the need for urgent action for those affected by famine and food security in many parts of Africa and Yemen. The resolution before the Assembly was the outcome of a proposal submitted jointly by the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom. The drafting committee had comprised members of the delegations of France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria and the United Kingdom. The draft resolution reflected the genuine alarm of the global parliamentary community at the increasingly serious famine and food insecurity in parts of Africa and Yemen. It recognised the need for the international community to provide sufficient support to those affected, in order to save more than 20 million people from starvation and death.

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

It was so decided.

Ms. D. SEN (India) said that preambular paragraphs (5) and (6) referred to the report of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, which had been issued very recently. Delegations required more time to study that report in view of its financial and administrative implications. Operative paragraph 6 was too broad in scope, and operative paragraph 11 violated the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. Her delegation therefore wished to register its reservations regarding those four paragraphs.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that due note would be taken of those reservations.

The PRESIDENT announced that the resolution had been adopted by consensus.

Item 3 of the agenda**General Debate on
*Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all****Resumption of the debate*

Ms. M.Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that the global political and economic order remained unfair and unsustainable, and excluded the legitimate interests of countries of the South. Poverty could not be eradicated without a change to the irrational models that kept poor countries indebted while protecting the rich. Unequal distribution of wealth had led to considerable inequalities: 43 per cent of the world's wealth was in the hands of one per cent of the global population, while millions of people lived in extreme poverty and suffered from chronic hunger. In order to meet the SDGs, the root causes of underdevelopment must be tackled.

Full respect for the dignity of all people was the founding principle of the Cuban Constitution. The Cuban people had chosen to build a socialist, prosperous and sustainable society. Much had been achieved with regard to education, participation in society, political participation, tackling discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for women. Despite having been subjected to cruel economic and trade embargos imposed by the Government of the United States, the Cuban Government had maintained its development model with positive results. The lives of billions of people could be substantially improved if developed countries honoured their commitments with regard to official development assistance, rather than spending enormous sums on building their military capabilities.

In 1979, Fidel Castro had said that trade based on inequality and policies of protectionism were leading the people of Cuba into poverty, and must stop. The debts of least developed countries could not be borne and must be written off; indebtedness held back all developing countries. The economic gap between developed countries and those that wished to develop was widening, and must be bridged. Although it had been nearly 40 years since those words had been spoken, the situation had not changed.

Mr. F.M. AMORUSO (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean) said that although the international community had made progress towards reducing poverty, inequalities and disparities persisted, with eight of the world's richest individuals holding the same amount of wealth as 48 per cent of the world's population. Youth unemployment worldwide was expected to rise. The overall inequality was the result of a combination of various phenomena. The response to the problem therefore should not be confined to simple redistribution measures, but should be based on creation of decent work, access to quality services at affordable prices, and investment in education. Economic growth alone would not be sufficient to eradicate poverty; social and environmental aspects must also be included in development models. The whole global community had a responsibility in regard to making development choices.

Alongside the recent global economic and financial crisis, the world was facing a crisis of morals, values, justice and culture. Solidarity was being lost. Refugees and migrants, often the victims of ruthless traffickers, were being left to die. Equality for a future of dignity and well-being would mean guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms. With that in mind, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean conducted regular initiatives for education, integration and the promotion of universal rights, with a view to guaranteeing a future of dignity and well-being for all. Social equality and human dignity also depended on security. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean was doing its utmost to rise to the challenges of promoting balanced and sustainable development for the benefit of all humanity.

Mr. S. SAYALAT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had been amended to provide for a governance system that would support the expanding economy. The Constitution clearly stated that all Lao citizens were equal before the law and had equal political, economic, social and cultural rights. Women's participation in public life had been encouraged and quotas had been set for women's political representation at the local and national levels. The Eighth national socioeconomic plan was in place for the period 2016 to 2020, which enshrined the goal of graduating from a least developed country by 2020 and reducing poverty in line with Sustainable Development Goal 10. The living standards of the Lao people had been gradually improving, and economic growth had been steady over recent years. The National Assembly had made concerted efforts to legislate in line with international law and seek solutions to minimize gaps within society and promote gender equality. A sustainable development plan had been adopted, which sought to increase investment in education, public

health and infrastructure in rural areas, along with building human resource capacity, with a view to enhancing the living standards and well-being of all people in Lao People's Democratic Republic and graduating from the status of least developed country.

Mr. H.B. HAMOUDI (Iraq) said that, through enormous sacrifice and with the support of allied nations, the people of Iraq had achieved a great victory over Daesh. Terror crossed borders and knew no nationality, religion or human value. To eliminate poverty and inequality and foster sustainable development, terrorism must be eliminated in all its forms. The victory over Daesh had liberated the land, people and culture of Iraq, yet an extremely high price had been paid in human lives and property. Daesh could not be eliminated without eliminating the root causes of terrorism, as well as the culture of hatred and ignorance that fuelled extremism. The world would be a better place after Daesh, and Iraq would become a stronger nation through its experience. Those who were seeking to undermine democracy would run out of means to do so.

A new, inclusive, civilian government had been formed, based on democracy and the rule of law. The Iraqi Parliament was striving to legislate on promoting gender equality, fundamental freedoms, human rights and development. Opportunities for cooperation with allied nations were being broadened through agreements based on mutual respect and common interests. All nations should optimize opportunities to invest in Iraq, to enable infrastructure to be rebuilt and agriculture to be developed. Daesh had occupied cities, banished people from their homes and caused untold destruction. Those cities had been liberated, refugees would be able to return, and their rights to live in dignity and stability could be restored. Iraq lacked the resources to support that transition to stability; the assistance of partners and allies would be essential. The global community should work together to overcome Daesh, while maintaining respect for the sovereignty of States. In fighting Daesh, the people of Iraq had shed their blood for the good of the world.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that whereas all of humanity had the same aspirations – i.e. a life without struggle and a life with dignity – the unacceptable fact of the matter was that a mere handful of people had made the task of delivering on dignity and well-being for all an impossible task. If that imbalance was not redressed, the words spoken during the General Debate would be just words that made no difference. A very small number of powerful individuals owned the world. Even representatives of powerful nations were powerless to change that, unless the global community as a whole deemed the situation unacceptable and took concerted action to redress it.

Unequal wealth distribution had become so extreme that 1 per cent of the world's population held more wealth than the other 99 per cent. The question was how to change that reality on a global scale. The global community must work together if a solution was to be found. Yet, some of the countries represented in the IPU were responsible for extreme wealth accumulation and exploitation of some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Would they act to rectify that situation? If tax havens were eliminated, the Charter of the United Nations implemented effectively by all States, and all of the resolutions adopted by the IPU over the years put into practice by all Member Parliaments, there would still be hope. Time was running out, however, and irreversible destruction had been caused. She urged all participants to take a moment to think of all the infants and children who would die during the course of the day as a result of famine and poverty, and to consider how to prevent such tragedy from happening time and time again.

Mr. A.J. CHENGE (United Republic of Tanzania) said that extreme economic and social inequality were not only making poverty reduction more difficult, but were also fuelling global terrorism, militancy and conflict. To reduce inequality sustainably, political will must be translated into tangible policies, underpinned by comprehensive legislation and strong institutions, taking due account of the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society. The Parliament of Tanzania had enacted laws that safeguarded the rights of children, persons with disabilities, women, young people and the elderly. Tanzania was also party to the majority of regional and international instruments that protected the rights of those groups. Social welfare had been enhanced, and primary and secondary education had been made free of charge, to ensure that all children had access to education. Student loans had been made available to all students eligible for higher education, to ensure that they were not excluded on financial grounds.

The Constitution of Tanzania therefore provided a quota for a minimum of 30 per cent of seats in Parliament and local councils to be held by women. Half of the judges in the Tanzanian judiciary were women, and Tanzania currently had a female Vice-President. The principles of dignity and equal rights for all citizens were also enshrined in the Constitution. Most people lived in rural areas and were engaged in subsistence farming, small scale fishing and animal husbandry. Since the land they used for that purpose was not registered, the Government had embarked on a

property formalization programme for the poor, through land registration and land titling. A healthy investment climate was crucial for sustainable economic growth, wealth creation, job creation and poverty alleviation. As the late Nelson Mandela had said, as long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality existed in the world, no one could rest.

Mr. J. ABDUL (Malaysia) said that Malaysia hosted large numbers of migrants, who contributed fully to the Malaysian economy and society. The national economics programme had been designed to alleviate poverty and ensure that economic functions were no longer associated with ethnicity. The average household income for the bottom 40 per cent household income group (B40) had doubled since 2002. Economic empowerment programmes and education opportunities had afforded indigenous people the possibility to develop their skills and work their way out of poverty. Affordable housing schemes and health care services, as well as increased quality of life and provision of social welfare had improved the standard of living for B40 households. Microfinance schemes for entrepreneurs had provided funding for hawkers and petty traders. Rubber and oil palm plantations, as well as cash crops, had been provided to indigenous communities. Consideration was also being given to the possibility of granting land titles to indigenous people to enable them to benefit from agricultural development. They would also be given better access to infrastructure and public services.

The minimum wage for workers in the private sector had been increased in 2016, and programmes were in place for skills development and training. Capacity and capability enhancement programmes were also being implemented for B40 households. Despite challenges stemming from overwhelming demand for housing and scarcity of suitable land, efforts to provide affordable housing would continue. Good quality health care facilities and services were in place, with rural clinics being upgraded and services extended through mobile facilities. Parliament played a pivotal role in promoting equality and delivering on dignity and well-being for all through collaborative and participatory decision-making processes. Parliament steered the inclusive development agenda to ensure that all Malaysians benefited from development.

Ms. P. SECK DIENG (Senegal) said that all individuals and all peoples were seeking well-being and happiness. All people were endowed with dignity, which meant that no human being should be treated as a commodity. All forms of inequality must therefore be redressed to ensure dignity and well-being. Despite the assertion in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all people were born equal, vast inequalities persisted between social groups, women and men, and between generations, countries and continents. Those disparities were apparent in all aspects of life, and could result in conflict when victims rose up in protest against them. Social cohesion could only exist when well-being was afforded to all.

Collective well-being differed from individual well-being; part of humanity could not live in true well-being if another segment of society was living in abject poverty. That state of affairs could explain mass migration flows, whereby thousands of people fled poverty and war in search of dignity and well-being. In a globalized world, that interconnectedness between peoples and generations was even greater than ever before. New policies and approaches were therefore needed to foster equality.

In Senegal, a social inclusion policy was being implemented, which included social security for families, universal health coverage, an emergency community development programme, an urban development programme and initiatives for equal opportunities. Those responsible for public policies must strive to redress inequalities so as to ensure that people enjoyed as much well-being as possible.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon) said that the IPU had always worked to give peace a chance and bring together the various parties to disputes to negotiate settlements. Despite those efforts, justice, humanity and democracy were under serious threat. Lebanon was located in a region that was suffering through considerable conflicts and large-scale terrorism, which had resulted in humanitarian crises. Terrorism was spreading throughout the world, and no country was spared. There was conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, which had forced many people to flee their homes. Large-scale refugee flows placed great strain on neighbouring countries. The Arab-Israeli conflict had been ongoing for many years and showed no signs of abating. Israel continued to build settlements in Palestinian territory and refused to seek a fair solution to the conflict. For six years, the Syrian Arab Republic had been suffering from conflict that had given rise to an immense flow of refugees.

Lebanon was hosting more than 1.5 million refugees, and could not cope with the humanitarian burden singlehandedly. The plight of refugee children was particularly worrying. Education was essential, in order to prevent an entire generation from being lost. The State schools in Lebanon had opened their doors to all refugee children. The numbers, however, were vast. Displaced persons accounted for half of the population of Lebanon, which was placing great strain on the country's infrastructure and threatening stability. He called on all IPU Member Parliaments, in particular those from the more resource-rich countries in the region, to extend their support. All acts of terrorism must be condemned. The global parliamentary community must work together to eliminate the root causes of terrorism, for the safety, security and well-being of all.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that the twentieth century had been marked by the fight for social justice, without which inequality, poverty and lack of access to services prevailed. Poverty eradication and elimination of inequalities were preconditions for sustainable development. Only concerted, global, coordinated actions by governments, civil society and the business community would be effective. Progress had been made; on a global scale, the number of people living in poverty had gone down, malnutrition had declined and under-5 mortality rates had dropped. Despite that progress, millions continued to live in poverty and hunger, and the gap between rich and poor was growing.

In the Russian Federation, social equality was enshrined in the Constitution. The Russian Federation was a welfare State, and while much remained to be done to ensure the well-being of every individual, progress had been made in ensuring access to good quality education and health care, and to foster scientific and technological progress. The territory of the Russian Federation spanned over several time zones and types of climate, which posed a challenge with regard to ensuring that the whole population benefited from all available services. Every effort was made to ensure a high standard of living for all. Despite the economic sanctions recently imposed against the Russian Federation, the Government met its obligations to its population, and new programmes for poverty eradication, with targeted initiatives for the marginalized, had been launched. The establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union would increase opportunities to reduce poverty and improve the well-being of Russian citizens in other Eurasian countries. International parliamentary platforms had a key role to play in sharing opinions and experience; poverty could only be truly eradicated through global partnerships and cooperation to eliminate inequalities.

Ms. M.H. RODRIGUES (Brazil) said that the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 10 on eliminating inequality was crucial for the attainment of the other 16 Goals. All development objectives depended on fair conditions for all citizens and nations. Despite global efforts, inequality was increasing, according to statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In Brazil, much had been done to reduce inequalities through social protection and wealth redistribution programmes. Despite the recent economic crisis, Parliament was committed to ensuring the continuity of those programmes, as well as to guaranteeing access to education at all levels. Investment in education was one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty and ensure more equal opportunities on the labour market.

Promoting gender equality remained a major challenge in Brazil. Despite their equal participation in higher education, women were still not afforded the same career development opportunities as men. Steps were being taken to increase women's participation in politics, which would lead to greater equality and justice. The elimination of all forms of discrimination was also essential. Parliamentarians were responsible for approving public policies that promoted parity between all citizens, without discrimination on any grounds. Reducing inequalities would have a positive impact on economic development, which would in turn improve a country's situation on the international stage. By improving conditions within countries, other problems would be overcome, such as the scale of disordered migration driven by the search for better living conditions. International trade would also increase, as would tourism, and that would have a multitude of long-term benefits. Inequalities between nations must also be reduced; less well-off nations required financial, technological and educational support, and capacity building to leverage domestic development, which would result in a global society that was fairer, more humane and more mutually supportive.

Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that the international community must spare no effort to ensure equal opportunities and equity for all. In Bahrain, the Government had undertaken reforms to guarantee equal enjoyment of individual rights for all, without discrimination on any grounds. The equality of all citizens before the law had been enshrined in the Constitution. Much had been done

to enhance development in Bahrain and progress had been made, despite economic crisis. A strategic development plan had been adopted, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aimed to increase household income by increasing employment opportunities and raising wages. The standard of living in Bahrain had thus improved.

The world was beset with many challenges, which were faced by developing countries in particular. Solidarity between the world's governments and parliaments was essential to address those challenges. Developing countries remained underrepresented in global economic, social and political fora. She called on all parliaments and governments to step up their combined efforts to address terrorism, extremism and the abuse of new technologies to wage cyber warfare. The considerable flow of refugees and displaced persons around the world must also be addressed. States with developed economies must offer support to countries receiving large numbers of migrants.

Bahrain had suffered external interference from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which constituted a threat to stability and should be stopped. Respect for international law was crucial. Similarly, the decision by Israel to build new settlements in occupied territories ran counter to international law and several United Nations resolutions. The decision should be condemned and must be repealed.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname) said that Suriname had a diverse but united population. The State was party to various human rights treaties, and the principles of equality and freedom for all were enshrined in its Constitution. That notwithstanding, levels of poverty remained high and significant inequalities persisted, in particular between coastal areas and the rural interior. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization had estimated that 10.2 per cent of the population was undernourished. Yet Suriname was the 17th richest country in the world in terms of natural resources, which included gold, oil, bauxite and diamonds. That wealth was not equally distributed, and its potential was not used for the benefit of all.

Young people, many of whom lived in poverty, had a key role to play in the development of nations and must therefore be encouraged to participate in governance and decision-making. Children must be able to grow healthily and in safety, with good education to develop their potential. Women's empowerment was also crucial. Gender equality remained a challenge for the Surinamese Government. Efforts were being made to improve the situation, in particular by developing the investment environment through the provision of better facilities for entrepreneurs and promoting business opportunities for women. Slow but steady progress was being made towards achieving the SDGs. The road ahead was long, and all forms of cooperation would therefore be welcome.

Mr. L. FOFANA (Guinea) said that in a world beset by conflict, parliaments must react swiftly to defend the interest of the people they represented. Disparities between countries and within countries continued to grow. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must work to ensure that all people were equal citizens of the world. Cooperation was essential. In the current global model, developed countries bought natural resources from developing countries, and used their own technologies to add value to those resources. The countries of the South needed those resources and their added value.

The many causes of inequality, which differed from country to country, included famine and lack of food security, inadequate access to basic health care, education, information, water supplies and electricity, corruption, unequal distribution of wealth, lack of empowerment and mistreatment of women, including female genital mutilation, and the use of force by a minority over the majority. Parliamentarians must play a key role in addressing those issues at the national level, and should share experiences in that regard.

Bangladesh was an inspiring example that with sufficient political will, development could be achieved. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an ambitious global endeavour, which could be successfully achieved if all States assumed their responsibilities. The position on climate change recently adopted by the United States could impede the attainment of the SDGs. Efforts were being made in Guinea to reduce inequalities by building schools and health centres, and taking affirmative action to promote education for young girls, empower women, bring an end to female genital mutilation and address corruption and impunity. Lessons would be learned from the past and Parliament would pass legislation to effectively redress inequalities and ensure dignity and well-being for all.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that inequalities could not be redressed overnight. The time had come to take action to bridge the wealth gap, based on the principles of unity, complementarity, harmony, dialogue, justice, peace, equity, inclusion and equal opportunities for all. The current economic model, under which capital was concentrated in the hands of a few, must not be allowed to continue. Wealth must be redistributed, based on the basic needs of the people. Bolivia had changed its economic model in 2006 by nationalizing natural resources and bringing privatized basic services back into the public sector. New rules for investment had been established to ensure that profits were invested back into basic services such as health, education and other basic services, such as water, sanitation, telecommunications and housing, the right to which was considered a basic human right. Steps were being taken to industrialize natural resources to ensure that domestic demand was met, and that they were prepared for export. As a result of those changes, Bolivia had regained absolute economic sovereignty. Support and cooperation from partners had been essential.

It would be impossible to attain the SDGs without equal distribution of resources. The allocation of 0.7 per cent of GDP to official development assistance had proven insufficient, particularly when States were allocating 15 times that amount to military spending. States must therefore invest in the well-being of their own people, as Bolivia had done. Wealth had been redistributed, and economic growth had continued, in spite of challenges. It was hoped that the new model adopted in Bolivia would result in the elimination of inequality, provision of better living conditions and guaranteed access to basic services. Chile was, however, attempting to undermine human rights in Bolivia and had illegally detained nine Bolivian nationals, who should be released immediately.

Mr. P.M. AKEC (South Sudan) said that the world was facing many challenges that exacerbated inequalities and undermined the dignity and well-being of all. Those challenges must be converted into opportunities. South Sudan had been in a situation of armed conflict since 2013. With the support of the international community, a peace agreement had been concluded between the Government of South Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. As a result of the agreement, the National Legislative Assembly had been formed, along with the Government of National Unity. Efforts had been made to integrate Liberation Movement forces into the national army and to resettle internally displaced persons. United Nations Security Council resolution 2304 was being implemented, under which 4000 regional forces were being deployed in South Sudan for the protection of civilians.

Despite those positive efforts, serious challenges remained. The remnants of Dr. Riek Machar's forces were still fighting the government and causing insecurity in some parts of the country. The group continued to unleash terror on South Sudanese citizens, and had kidnapped foreign oil workers and murdered international aid workers. The international community should deem Dr. Riek Machar and his group a terrorist organization. Economic difficulties had been exacerbated by the decline in oil prices worldwide, and the proliferation of conventional weapons and small arms, which were falling into the hands of civilians, was leading to even greater insecurity. The President had called for a national dialogue to foster a peaceful political settlement to the conflict and promote plural inclusivity.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) said that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association brought the voices of the people of the Commonwealth to the centre of the discourse on development. The Association was committed to the principles of parliamentary democracy and good governance. It aimed to build an informed parliamentary community that was able to deepen cooperation between legislatures. It sought to foster youth engagement in politics, and leadership and was committed to promoting gender equality.

The current global climate was characterized by political uncertainty, with a growing populist movement that was questioning the very foundation of democratic institutions and the values of inclusion and diversity. It was therefore particularly urgent for the world's parliamentarians to join in solidarity to reaffirm the shared values of tolerance, inclusivity, peace and democracy. Challenge should be turned to advantage by joining together to eliminate inequality and violence. Inequalities could only be eliminated by collective efforts and giving a voice to the vulnerable and marginalized, who suffered discrimination and oppression. Every individual must be afforded a life of dignity. The SDGs were ambitious, but achievable. The essence of any great ocean began with one drop of water. Each unique drop had been created for a purpose. The drops merged to and allowed their environment to change, develop and flourish. Rivers merged to create oceans of great potential.

Mr. RI JONG HYOK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that nations must stand together to bring an end to imperialist tyranny, aggression and violations of sovereignty. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was a socialist State, with the individual at its centre, and where the population enjoyed dignity and well-being. The population as a whole participated in the exercise of power, State management and labour activities as equal members of society with equal political and economic rights, and with all basic services, such as housing, clothing and food, provided by the State.

The United States and other forces were attempting to undermine the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by labelling the measures taken in self-defence as a threat to international peace and security and thereby instigating a series of sanctions in a bid to suffocate the national economy. The right to self-defence was the legitimate right of a sovereign State; the People's Democratic Republic of Korea was acting to safeguard peace against the escalating nuclear threat from the United States. Its actions were not in contravention of international law. If nuclear tests constituted threats to international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council should have adopted resolutions condemning the actions of the United States.

The United States and the Republic of Korea had begun aggressive joint military exercises against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on an unprecedented scale, in the full admission that they aimed to launch a pre-emptive nuclear strike. The army and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had built a righteous nuclear power. No nuclear threat or economic sanctions could frighten them. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was committed to working with its allies to build a new, independent world where dignity and welfare were guaranteed for all.

Mr. G. JAFARZADEH IMENABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that dignity was an inherent right for all human beings. The misuse of human rights by certain global powers to serve narrow-minded political aims had led to the expansion of oppression, injustice and inequality. Their instrumental use of terrorism in certain parts of the world served to highlight their double standards. The disastrous conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories was the result of racist and expansionist policies implemented against the innocent Palestinian people, in violation of the right inherent and inalienable rights. Crises and challenges in other parts of the world stemmed from lack of a prudent and human perspective on the part of certain powers. The representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain had levelled baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran; the authorities in Bahrain should focus on policies that served the interests of their people, rather than on warmongering interventionism.

The large-scale formation and organization of terrorist groups was being facilitated by intelligence agencies in certain countries, and the expansionist policies of big powers had laid the political and social grounds for the emergence and reinforcement of such groups. It was deeply regrettable that such inhuman acts were perpetrated in the name of religion, with the intention of tarnishing the image of Islam. Serious efforts were needed to rectify the current international order, which was based on injustice, inequality and the excessive demands of certain powers. Without redressing balance, it would be impossible to eliminate inequalities, eradicate poverty and deliver on dignity and well-being for all. Efforts thus far had not been sufficient. Constructive cooperation at the international level was therefore crucial.

Ms. H. KÜTT (Estonia) said that meaningful measures to redress inequalities and improve well-being could only be made if certain rights and freedoms were accepted as universal and beyond question. Evidence showed that food security, education and general well-being could be achieved in States that functioned on the basis of the rule of law and respect for human rights. Access to education and training was crucial for reducing inequalities and promoting people's self-worth. While new technologies had reshaped the ways in which information was sought and knowledge was acquired, the belief in education's transformative ability to inspire and empower was timeless. Vast disparities persisted, however: in some countries education meant a high school diploma or a university degree, while in others, it might mean a household owning a single book. A major step towards delivering on dignity and lessening inequalities would be to give every person the ability to explore, study, and grow in a safe and stable environment.

In the early 1990s, Estonia had regained its independence and begun a transition to democracy. At that time, there had been very few computers. A government programme had been launched, by which at least one computer with an Internet connection had been introduced into every school in Estonia. That ambitious plan had been fulfilled, and Estonia remained at the cutting edge of IT and online solutions. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in leading discussions and

offering solutions for reducing inequalities in the world, with the ultimate goal of giving every individual the opportunity to lead a safe and fulfilling life, through complete commitment to human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

Ms. C.L. CREXELL (Argentina) said that inequalities persisted not because resources were lacking, but rather because they were used inefficiently and not equally distributed, with the majority of the world's wealth in the hands of a small minority of people. A multitude of international reports showed that poverty reduction levels had stagnated. Although the root causes of inequalities were well understood, public policies and programmes to address inequality had failed to tackle its root causes. The way that resources are distributed and used must be recognized as a political problem. States must shoulder the responsibility of providing infrastructure and must rectify the deterioration of resources and the environment, which had rendered short-term progress difficult to achieve.

Despite enormous scientific and technical progress, the quality of life for the majority of the world's population had not improved. Millions of people lived in poverty without guaranteed access to food, drinking water or health care, and the world's politicians remained indifferent. Progress would not be made unless policies were adapted to perceptions. In order to overcome inequality, political institutions, governance models and policy implementation must be reviewed to ensure transparency in the use of public funds; persistent inequalities had been caused by political systems that put interests before values. Institutional behaviour that guaranteed an inclusive development policy was essential and would allow for a political order that fostered productive economic growth, based on the principles of sustainability, human rights, equal taxation and distribution of wealth. Parliamentarians must fulfil their role of monitoring State policies.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland) said that in Switzerland, efforts were being made to enhance gender equality: some 54 000 childcare places had been created; an agreement had been concluded to guarantee equal pay for all Swiss civil servants; a 30 per cent quota had been set for women's positions on the boards and management of publically listed companies; and funding was being prioritized for civil society organizations that fostered equal representation of women and men. Every effort should be made to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The nongovernmental organization Peace Women, of which she was a member, would be organizing an exhibition on implementation of the Convention at the next IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg, in October 2017. Globalization had not only enabled millions of people to move out of poverty, but it had also contributed to a steep rise in income inequalities. All political, economic, social and fiscal reports should take account of the GINI coefficient, which highlighted inequalities in wealth distribution. Switzerland had abolished damaging tax regimes and instituted comprehensive regulations on transparency, in particular through sharing information with other countries, to prevent tax evasion.

Mr. M. SATO (Japan) said that social unrest, caused by poverty and inequality, was the root cause of terrorism and conflict. The attainment of the SDGs was therefore essential to reduce inequality and build an inclusive society. Without peace and stability, there could be no sustainable development; without sustainable development, there could be no peace and stability. The Government of Japan had established an authority for the SDGs and prepared guiding principles for their implementation. Initiatives had been undertaken on refugees and on women's empowerment. In response to the crisis in the Middle East, Japan would provide some US\$ 6 billion in support by 2018, including for human resource development. Japan was also promoting women's participation in decision-making processes and conflict prevention, peace-building and disaster reduction, as well as providing support for girls' education. Parliamentary initiatives were also required to attain the SDGs. He had conducted country visits to study the impact of Japan's official development assistance. Such activities were an effective means of overseeing government initiatives and ensuring that the voices of wider society were heard.

Ms. C. NOONE (Ireland) said that women accounted for 50 per cent of humanity and should therefore have a 50 per cent say in the decisions affecting them. In recent years, women had sought to be heard and included in decision-making processes, and to be included among the world's most high-profile leaders. Although those efforts had not always borne fruit, the general trend was positive: women's representation in national parliaments was on the rise. The use of quotas for women's representation had proven effective. In Ireland, the first election under gender quotas had taken place in 2016 and had yielded 35 female members of parliament. Women's representation in business must also be increased. Studies had revealed that gender parity in business in all countries would amount to an additional US\$ 28 trillion in global GDP by 2025.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) said that 2018 would mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined the principle that all persons were born free and equal in dignity and rights. Much progress still remained to be made for that principle to become a reality. Parliamentarians had a great responsibility in that regard and must legislate on education, health, the right to decent work, justice and gender equality. Economic policies tended to focus on profit; natural resources were plundered and wealth was not distributed equally, all of which impeded the attainment of equality and dignity for all. Parliaments must enshrine the principle of non-discrimination in law, and must strive to redress inequalities for those who were marginalized as a result of their state of health or place of birth.

Mr. J.G. CORREA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that inequality and injustice could be found in many countries. The problems faced by Venezuela went beyond national borders. The international community had urged the Government of Venezuela to hold elections. Members of parliament had been imprisoned without charges, some had been injured and others had been deprived of their identity documents. A mission of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians should be undertaken in the coming 30 days. Peace could not exist without equity, justice and solidarity, or a free parliament.

Ms. P. LOCATELLI (Italy) said that despite remarkable progress in many fields over recent decades, inequality was increasing. Redressing the imbalance required a global political and social commitment involving all stakeholders. Inequalities led to distortions in countries, where the gap between rich and poor, different ethnic groups, men and women, the educated and uneducated, and girls and boys was widening. The situation was the same in all countries, irrespective of their level of development. Gender inequality affected all spheres of life, and most countries in the world had legislation in place – on marital status, personal status, sexual and reproductive rights, economic status, access to services, inheritance, intellectual property rights and access to the labour market, among others – that contained discriminatory measures. Equality under the law was essential to the recognition of each individual's value and fundamental rights. Women's access to decision-making had been, and continued to be, a major challenge. Women accounted for 23 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide, which was not sufficient. Parliaments could play a powerful role in changing laws. Gender inequality was a social determinant that adversely affected the health of women and girls the world over. One in three women continued to experience physical or sexual violence, mostly committed by intimate partners. That must stop.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles) said that as representatives of the people, parliamentarians the world over must lead by example. The representatives of small island States should take the initiative to meet and share their experiences and close the gaps between remote locations. Small islands were the first to feel the effects of exogenous shocks. The Seychelles had been involuntarily categorized as a high middle-income country, which precluded it from official development assistance; yet, overnight it could be relegated back to abject poverty by global and regional disasters, such as the effects of climate change or acts of piracy in Seychelles waters. The Government of the Seychelles had taken initiatives to promote people-centred development with equal opportunities for all, economic empowerment, inclusive participation and a focus on education for children. Parliament would have a responsibility to oversee the implementation of those initiatives, ensuring that no one was left behind, and to ensure that good governance and the rule of law were upheld, and that the principles of transparency and accountability were used to strengthen sustainable growth and the resilience of the people.

Ms. A.A. SIGURBJÖRNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that gender equality and education were vital to reducing inequalities within and between countries. Gender equality was an important policy priority for the Icelandic Government, and considerable effort had been made to advance public debate and research on gender issues, as a means of strengthening social well-being and securing equal opportunities for men and women. Iceland ranked as the country with the narrowest gender gap in the world, ranking particularly high on women's educational achievement and political empowerment. The promotion of gender equality was also a priority in Icelandic development cooperation, and had been at the heart of Iceland's SDGs negotiation strategy.

Education was the single biggest transformative factor for both individuals and the nation as a whole. Societies could not develop unless all children and young people, girls and boys alike, had a good quality education, based on fundamental values such as equality, respect for diversity, care and empathy. Schools had a key role to play and must condemn stereotypes and any form of violence. Prevention should begin in early childhood; young boys and girls should be educated on

respectful relationships and gender equality. For the sake of future generations, every effort must be made to translate the SDGs into action. Parliaments must honour their responsibilities in that regard.

Ms. F. THIAM (Senegal) said that inequality was largely the cause of many of the world's problems and must be redressed in order to build peace and stability. Inequality took many forms and constituted a threat to human dignity. In Senegal much had been done to redress inequalities through legislation, including on gender parity in politics. Progress had been made towards achieving a gender balance in Parliament, and it was hoped that women's representation would reach 50 per cent by the next elections. Specific measures were in place to empower young women; those measures included microcredit schemes to foster entrepreneurship. Policy-makers must take measures to achieve strong, sustainable growth. A variety of social policies had been developed in Senegal to that end, including the provision of universal health coverage, benefit schemes for low income families, online university courses, special assistance for day-care for low income families, and access to basic infrastructure, including sanitation and electricity, with a view to fostering prosperity for all and enabling every individual in Senegal to live in dignity.

Ms. B.F. GUZMAN GOMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that Bolivia had approved a new Constitution in 2007, based on dignity, integrity, complementarity, harmony and equitable distribution of wealth to allow the whole in society to lead decent life in dignity, with social, political and cultural diversity, and with access to water, food, health, education and employment for all. Inequality could only be redressed if conflicts could be eliminated. Democracy as a whole must not be rejected simply because domestic democracy was not respected. Democracy must be upheld in order to redress inequality.

The sitting rose at 6.20 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 2 APRIL
(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda
(C-I/136/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2016)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT announced that the necessary elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee had taken place at the Standing Committee's previous session and that no further elections were to be held during the current session.

Briefing by the President of the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that she wished to inform the Standing Committee about two new self-evaluation toolkits, one on gender sensitivity of parliaments and the other on parliaments and the SDGs, which the IPU had produced. The first would help parliaments evaluate the gender sensitivity of their practices and policies, identify potential areas for reform, and establish mechanisms to monitor progress, while the second would provide a framework for parliaments to evaluate their readiness to engage with the SDGs, and identify good practices, opportunities and lessons learnt to institutionalize the Goals and mainstream them into the legislative process. She also mentioned the Common Principles for Support to Parliament which aim to improve the quality of the support available to parliaments and to encourage the parliamentary community to work together more effectively when planning to design and provide support. All parliaments that had not yet done so were encouraged to endorse those Common Principles.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliaments for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament - PNND), presenting the progress made with regard to the implementation of the resolution *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the contribution of parliaments*, adopted by the 130th IPU Assembly in March 2014, said that his organization had been working closely with IPU delegations at the national and international levels to consider what action parliaments could take, on a cross-party basis and in cooperation with each other, to promote the implementation of the resolution. The resolution called for nuclear risk reduction measures, the establishment of additional regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, the reduction and elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, and support for negotiations for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons through a nuclear weapons convention or package of similar agreements. It had also described the role of parliamentarians in working towards promoting the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world, including through public events on September 26, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. His organization had been working to prepare a draft parliamentary action plan for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Consultations were under way through the United Nations and with national governments to prepare the draft action plan. The input of IPU Member Parliaments would be appreciated. The draft plan, in its current form, could be found on his organization's website.

**(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum
prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**
(C-I/136/DR; C-I/136/DR-am and C-I/136/M)

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft resolution was devoted to one of the core principles of international relations and international law, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and numerous multilateral and bilateral agreements. The submission of 143 proposed amendments by more than 18 national delegations illustrated that the choice of subject matter for the discussion and resolution was timely. The resolution had been drafted in a spirit of consensus and compromise, taking account of the opinions and positions of all Member Parliaments of the IPU. The vast majority of the amendments that had been proposed were in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and would strengthen the resolution.

The legitimacy, scope and limits of foreign interference in the affairs of sovereign States should be high on the international agenda. The draft resolution affirmed that people had the exclusive right to determine their own political future, based on the specific features of their country. It condemned attempts to overthrow elected governments by military or other means of outside interference. It stated that decisions of the United Nations Security Council had universal legitimacy; any derogation from those decisions might run counter to international law and the stable conduct of international relations. It also underscored the responsibility of parliaments to strengthen democracy, promote human rights and support dialogue and negotiations to settle internal disputes peacefully. The principle of non-intervention provided an essential shield to protect the vital and most delicate domestic interests of sovereign States.

He thanked all members of delegations to the 135th IPU Assembly, who had contributed to the preparatory discussion and said that the co-Rapporteurs had done their utmost to take account of all of the contributions to that discussion when drafting the resolution. Although it would be impossible to reach full agreement on some of the provisions, the adoption of a resolution on non-interference would be an historic moment in international parliamentary cooperation. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the resolution should be adopted.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus), *co-Rapporteur*, said that mutual respect and equality were the basic values that governed international relations. All States were equal members of the international community, and must be treated as such. Every sovereign State had the primary right to conduct its own affairs without outside interference of any kind. Mutual respect among independent States dictated that no State would intervene in the domestic matters of another. In order to uphold peace and cooperation in the world, respect for States' sovereignty, political interests, socio-political systems and development models was fundamental. Despite decades of discussion by an array of governments and international organizations the world over, interference continued to cause problems in many countries, including her own. The Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus had been in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and numerous resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. All States should respect each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

All international actions to preserve peace and security should be in line with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. While that principle might seem straightforward, in practice it was complex. All States operated in their own national and economic interests, which were not necessarily aligned with higher universal principles or international commitments. Double standards thus persisted. Establishing what constituted intervention or non-intervention was a challenge, which depended on the circumstances and relations between the States concerned, and their level of political development. In contemporary international relations, balancing the importance of the protection of human rights in other States, on the one hand, and respect for the principle of non-intervention, on the other, was a sensitive issue. Although human rights must be protected at all costs, the principle of non-intervention must be equally preserved. The right to self-determination should not be to the detriment of respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. Parliaments should be at the forefront of efforts to uphold both principles.

Parliamentarians must fulfil their responsibility to strengthen democracy, promote human rights and support dialogue at both the national and international levels, as well as ensure the necessary legislative framework to prevent the outside interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States. Parliamentary diplomacy was thus a vital tool. The proposed establishment and effective functioning of an IPU observatory with a mandate for early warning and prevention would be a practical and realistic approach that would yield specific results. Adoption of the resolution before the Standing Committee would facilitate the global parliamentary community's efforts to work as an opposing force to unilateral interference in the affairs of sovereign States.

The PRESIDENT said that some 143 amendments had been proposed to the draft resolution as prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, which the Standing Committee was invited to discuss.

(b) Debate

Mr. K. OLSSON (Sweden) said that he warmly welcomed the important opportunity to discuss how parliamentarians could work together to ensure international peace and security, in particular with regard to external interference in international sovereignty, which was timely given the current situation in Ukraine. While it was useful to recall the basic notion of sovereignty as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, it was equally important to stress that human rights were also enshrined in that Charter. The United Nations had been created at a time when conflicts had mostly taken place between sovereign nations; however, in recent decades the nature of conflicts had changed. Recent threats to international peace and security had come from civil wars and internal conflicts. In that context, the lessons from Rwanda and Srebrenica were particularly relevant in that they underscored the need to find more flexible tools to deal with multifaceted, complex and challenging conflicts, such as those currently ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Arab Republic.

National sovereignty came not only with rights, but also with responsibilities and obligations. There were thus situations when the notion of respecting sovereignty could clash with the need to uphold human rights. Those situations had been defined by the United Nations as genocide, ethnic cleansing, the use of weapons of mass destruction against civilians, and the use of mass rape. Such atrocities were unacceptable, regardless of the pretext under which they were committed. It was therefore necessary to clarify, in the resolution, how possible conflicts between national sovereignty and massive human rights violations could be addressed. He requested clarification of the scope of the word "reaffirming" in preambular paragraph 3 of the draft. If it referred only to the principle of non-interference, the paragraph should be amended to ensure that a balance was struck with the promotion and protection of human rights, which were also enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Preambular paragraph 5 also required further explanation. Operative paragraph 14 was worrying, given how hard some States had fought to obtain recognition of the responsibility to protect. His delegation therefore could not support the resolution in its current form.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the Twelve Plus Group had met to discuss the draft resolution, and had agreed that while the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of sovereign States must be respected, universal values also deserved respect. The group therefore felt unable to accept the draft resolution. Human rights were not an issue of national sovereignty, but rather were a matter for the whole of humanity. Curtailing the activities of parliaments, or exerting control over nongovernmental organizations, was unacceptable. While the principle of non-intervention must be upheld, it must go hand in hand with respect for international law, human rights and humankind. It would be difficult to amend the draft resolution to take sufficient account of those concerns, hence why the Twelve Plus Group wished to reject the draft altogether. He requested that a vote be held on the rejection of the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT said that since one of the proposed amendments was the deletion of the whole draft resolution, that proposal would be discussed, with the other amendments, in the Standing Committee's forthcoming drafting meeting.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) said that even the title of the draft resolution gave cause for concern. Preambular paragraph 8 gave the impression that civil and political rights were secondary to economic and social rights. Operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 were also particularly problematic. The work of nongovernmental organizations should be based on their own principles; they did not need encouragement from parliaments, especially not to participate in parliamentary efforts to prevent outside interference in the internal affairs of independent States. His delegation therefore could not support the resolution in its current form, and would support the proposed amendment by the German delegation, and the statement made by Mr. Pacheco (Portugal), requesting that the resolution be rejected altogether.

Mr. C. TIKARAM (Nepal) said that his delegation firmly believed in the principle of non-intervention and respect for the sovereignty of independent States. All sovereign nations were equal, and the interference in their domestic affairs constituted a serious threat to the order established by international law. Parliament was the cornerstone of democracy, and

parliamentarians as the representatives of the people had a duty to speak out against foreign interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States. One of the key principles of democracy was preventing conflict through political dialogue. The role of democratic institutions in preventing outside interference was therefore fundamentally important. The Constitution of Nepal enshrined the sovereign right of the people to autonomy and self-rule, and Nepal's foreign policy was based on the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, international law, with full respect for the value of global peace. His parliament remained committed to working with the IPU in safeguarding the sovereignty of every nation and achieving international peace.

Mr. M. REZAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that interference in the internal affairs of States, as well as occupation and extremism presented a significant threat to global peace, security and development, and to international cooperation. In such challenging circumstances, full commitment to international law and the Charter of the United Nations – in particular the principles of sovereignty, equality of States, non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from the use of force or threat against the territorial integrity or political independence of another State – was essential. Global peace and security were, however, continually undermined by the tendency of some States to resort to unilateralism, and their failure to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as their failure to uphold their economic and social commitments.

The IPU should take the necessary measures to achieve a peaceful and just world order, and ensure respect for the rights of nations to decide their own economic, social and political systems. All States should refrain from implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures, including economic sanctions, intimidation, and arbitrary travel restrictions that sought to exert pressure on other countries. Those measures threatened the sovereignty, independence and freedom of trade and investment, and constituted flagrant violations of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, multilateral trading systems and the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States. The classification of countries as "good" or "evil" based on unilateral and unjustified criteria, and the use of "pre-emptive attack" used by certain States was contrary to international law. The global parliamentary community had a responsibility to seek a comprehensive approach to ensuring international peace and security.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that while in favour of the draft resolution in principle, her delegation had submitted several proposed amendments. Legal precedents should be used as a reference point, to ensure that the scope of the terms used in the resolution was well defined. Different countries had different legal systems and schools of thought on what constituted interference. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all States were deemed equal, and the use of force by one State against the territorial integrity of another was prohibited. Chapter VII of the Charter stipulated that the United Nations Security Council would determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. There was a legal distinction between non-intervention and non-interference. The resolution must therefore include a clear definition of the term "outside interference". The establishment of an IPU observatory had not been agreed, and terms of reference for the observatory had not been drawn up. It was therefore not appropriate to include a reference to the observatory, which as yet had no mandate, in the resolution.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that her delegation supported the position of the Twelve Plus Group. She urged the co-Rapporteurs to heed the concerns that were being expressed. If the proposal to reject the resolution out of hand was not accepted, every effort must be made to find a means to assuage those concerns. It would be necessary to reconsider the understanding of collective international values, given different countries' different understandings of the concepts enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. In reality, there was always interference, including in elections. The global parliamentary community should consider whether it would stand back and deem such interference acceptable, or whether it would go beyond the interests of the various geopolitical groups and honour the Charter of the United Nations, instead of trying to find loopholes in language.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that non-interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States was a fundamental principle of international law, which was key to the very existence and dignity of a nation. With the advancement of globalization, however, it was increasingly difficult to draw boundary lines between domestic and non-domestic issues: economic borders had been dismantled, while political borders were becoming blurred. Since not all interference was

considered illegal, it was necessary to define precisely what constituted prohibited interference. The uncertainty as to what constituted illegal interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign State was problematic, particularly in circumstances of domestic conflict between governments and anti-government entities, in which civilians became entangled and third parties got involved. While the rights of every person must be protected, it was important to consider to what degree intervention could be considered within the concept of the responsibility to protect.

Japan advocated the concept of human security, to ensure that all people were free from fear and famine, and were able to live in dignity. That could be achieved by focusing on protecting the individual and enhancing his or her capabilities. The international community was facing unprecedented challenges, which would be difficult to overcome using only a State-focused conventional approach. A new approach that took account of each and every individual was therefore essential. While economically, borders between nations had become meaningless, politically, nations should be built on hope, security and the ideal of leaving no one behind. IPU Member Parliaments must consider how to ensure the independence of each country while maintaining political, economic and social security for all.

Mr. R. MACHINGURA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments had a key role to play in the prevention of interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States by ratifying and ensuring the domestication of international law, and monitoring its implementation. Through the IPU, the global parliamentary community had the opportunity to create peer review processes, engage in open discussion and issue recommendations on practical matters of interference that were actually taking place. Interference by superpowers that used organizations such as the United Nations was often the result of perceived violations of human rights. It was therefore essential that national parliaments do their utmost to ensure that their governments upheld their own constitutions and generally-accepted international human rights standards. Parliaments must strengthen democracy, promote human rights and support dialogue and negotiation as a mechanism for the peaceful settlement of internal disputes. Such an approach would avert the forceful overthrowing of elected governments, which often resulted in foreign intervention and interference. Parliaments should also encourage the State to adhere to the principles of good governance and use State institutions, such as the police, courts and prison services, to deliver justice and do away with the culture of violence and impunity.

At the regional level, parliamentarians should ensure that international law was fully incorporated into the work of regional parliamentary associations, thus giving them the legislative powers necessary to monitor the implementation of that law. They should endeavour to foster agreements between the parties to potential conflicts, and ensure that civil society was involved in conflict prevention. Every opportunity must be given to local people to solve local problems, before superpowers intervened in the name of peace-making. Despite Africa's young population, young people were underrepresented in politics. Ensuring their involvement would avoid the disenfranchisement that could lead to conflict and result in foreign interference.

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India) said that some delegations participating in the discussion appeared to be asserting the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other sovereign nations and to pass judgement on other countries. Behind that message was the attitude that they somehow knew better than the rest and had the right to judge others. His delegation rejected that attitude, and wished to assert its firm belief that all sovereign States were equal and that all nations should have the right to decide their own destiny in their own way, and to develop their own society according to their own culture. No one had the right to prescribe to others what their culture should be. India had been colonized, and the Indian people had fought for their freedom.

Sovereignty was the guarantee of peace; wherever problems of insecurity arose in the world, sovereignty had been disturbed. Foreign interference had led to crises in countries such as Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and had given rise to the likes of Daesh. Human rights must of course be upheld, but international action should only be taken in the order established by universally recognized international standards, such as those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The resolution took due note of the importance of that Charter, and of the opinions raised during the Standing Committee's preliminary discussion on the topic, during which the majority of participants had stated that respect for the principle of non-interference was of paramount importance. It was ironic that the issue of human rights was being raised by certain delegations now, when they had remained silent on that very same issue during discussions about Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. The right of non-interference should apply not only to democratically elected governments, but to all governments.

Mr. N. LAMMERT (Germany) said that everyone present agreed that the subject was of the utmost importance, and on the indispensable principle of the sovereignty of independent States. What the delegations present did not agree on, however, was the text of the draft resolution, which his delegation considered did not take an appropriate approach to addressing the principle of non-interference. Looking back over the course of history, there had been hundreds, if not thousands, of violations of the principle of sovereignty of States. Nearly all major States had violated that principle. Germany in particular had played a prominent and unacceptable role in that regard. However, it was not parliaments that had violated the principle of non-interference: governments had violated it. He did not recall a single example of parliaments interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. From time to time, there was a need for external interference to ensure respect for international law; to ensure respect for human rights; to uphold the principle of a free civil society; to maintain respect for the immunity of freely elected parliaments. Yet the draft resolution was silent on those aspects. Among the examples of more recent violations of national sovereignty, the situation in eastern Europe was not mentioned. The resolution did not take an appropriate approach to seriously addressing the principle of the sovereignty of States, hence why his delegation moved that it be rejected.

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France) said that the issue of State sovereignty was essential, hence why it had been chosen by the Standing Committee to be the subject of a resolution. The very fact that 143 amendments had been proposed demonstrated, however, that the text proposed by the co-Rapporteurs could not be considered fully satisfactory. Regardless of whether or not the draft resolution would be accepted, the debate on the subject was crucial. Her delegation could not support the contradiction of international law in the resolution, in particular the failure to take account of the responsibility to protect. The co-Rapporteurs, in their introductory remarks, had referred to "the people" having the exclusive right to determine their own political future. The resolution should focus on individual rights, rather than rights of peoples. The co-Rapporteurs had also mentioned the need to prevent the overthrowing of "democratically elected governments". Just because a government had been elected did not necessarily mean it was democratic. Operative paragraphs 10 and 14 on the role of parliaments in conflict prevention and resolution, and on the use of responsibility to protect as a pretext for interference, were particularly worrying and should be completely redrafted. If the resolution could be amended to satisfy the concerns of all those present and consensus could be reached, it had the potential to be a fundamentally important text.

Mr. WANG XIAOCHU (China) said that everyone present recognized non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States as a fundamental principle of international relations, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and as a crucial aspect of maintaining peace and international security. Over recent years, the international community had witnessed multiple instances in which countries or regions had been led into turmoil and war by the interference of foreign powers. Power politics and hegemony were not acceptable. Every State had the inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system without interference. All nations were equal. He cautioned against the idea of the so-called necessity to interfere in another country's sovereign affairs. In 2003, war had been declared against a country on the grounds of its government's development and possession of weapons of mass destruction. It had been admitted later that no such weapons had been found in the country. More than a decade later, that country remained in deep political, social and economic crisis as a result of that foreign interference. The resolution was a very important document, which merited serious discussion and should be adopted with appropriate amendment.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) said that his delegation fully supported the position of the Twelve Plus Group. Previous discussions of the same topic at the IPU Assembly had afforded ample opportunity to present a balanced view on the subject. It was unnecessary to take the topic up again, in particular given that the text currently before the Standing Committee was less balanced than previously adopted documents, such as the resolution on *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights*, adopted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 132nd IPU Assembly.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that he agreed with Ms. Taqawi (Bahrain) that the resolution should include a clear definition of what constituted "outside interference". Consideration should be given to the nature of interference; in some circumstances humanitarian assistance might be used as a cover for outside interference. Mr. Fukui (Japan) had raised an interesting point about the differences between economic and political borders: globalization and high-speed communications had blurred the boundaries. International instruments were in place to prevent and prohibit the external interference in the affairs of sovereign States, which must be

respected. With regard to the establishment of an IPU observatory, his delegation would support any endeavour to secure international peace and justice. He also agreed with Ms. Durrieu (France) that the concept of "peoples" was too general; all citizens should benefit from the protection of international law. Clear definitions must therefore be included in the resolution as a matter of priority.

Mr. KIM SE YEON (Republic of Korea) said that violations of human rights and large-scale refugee flows constituted major global challenges. The international community remained divided on the issue of outside interference; one side asserted the necessity of intervention to uphold human rights, while the other claimed that indiscriminate humanitarian intervention was against international law standards regarding sovereign equality and non-intervention. Such a lack of agreement meant that each instance of intervention must be addressed on a case-by-case basis. At the 2005 World Summit, Member States of the United Nations had endorsed a global political commitment on the responsibility to protect, as an institutionalized safeguard for universal human rights. Resolutions previously adopted at IPU Assemblies had also emphasized the responsibility to protect civilians. Preambular paragraph 1 and operative paragraphs 1 and 14 of the draft resolution should be revised to reaffirm the responsibility of countries and the international community as a whole, to protect human rights.

International standards were required on the responsibility to protect and in particular the circumstances in which State sovereignty should be prioritized over that responsibility. The debate on the responsibility to protect versus State sovereignty should go beyond the question of whether to move forward with military intervention in an extreme situation, and rather focus on preventive measures to avoid human rights violations by encouraging the peaceful prevention and resolution of conflicts. The countries and regions where conflicts broke out tended to be experiencing political instability or in an economically tenuous position. Along with efforts to prevent conflict, the IPU should also study and monitor the situation in conflict-ridden countries in an objective manner.

Ms. L.I. CERİTOĞLU KURT (Turkey) said that she wished to point out to Ms. Koutra-Koukoma (Cyprus) that the situation in Cyprus was not a question of invasion or occupation; it was an ongoing process under the auspices of the United Nations and was therefore not relevant to the current discussion.

Mr. T.M.A. HAMID RADWAN (Egypt) said that his delegation would present sub-amendments to operative paragraphs 8, 13 and 14 of the draft resolution during the drafting discussion.

Ms. A. SHKRUM (Ukraine) said that non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States was one of the basic principles of international law. That notwithstanding, she could not support the proposed wording of the draft resolution. The principle of non-interference meant that one State could not interfere in the domestic affairs of another using force, aggression, intimidation, military intervention or occupation, all of which Ukraine had experienced. It was unfortunate that certain States persisted in forgetting that commitment, which they had undertaken to uphold under the Charter of the United Nations. Some States used the violation of that principle of international law as the basis for their foreign policy and international ideals. The present discussion was therefore hypocritical, particularly since one of the co-Rapporteurs was a representative of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine had resulted in the loss of more than 10,000 lives, the annexation of Crimea, a bloody war in the Donbass, and the fall of the Malaysian Airlines aircraft that had been shot down by a Russian missile. That aggression had received the legislative blessing of the Russian Parliament, as had Russia's military intervention in the Syrian Arab Republic, which had been marked by war crimes. The draft resolution lacked a firm stance on the responsibility to protect basic human rights. The principles of State sovereignty and the responsibility to protect should be presented in a more balanced way. The international community had a responsibility to stop acts that endangered international security and world peace, or constituted gross violations of human rights, genocide, apartheid or foreign occupation. National sovereignty came not only with rights, but also with responsibilities to protect universally accepted human rights. Her delegation therefore could not accept the resolution in its current form, and agreed with the position of the Twelve Plus Group. She called on those present not to undermine the credibility of the IPU and to maintain a balanced position on the principles of sovereignty and the protection of human rights.

Mr. M.M. MOJIGOH (Malaysia), recalling Chapters VI and VII of the Charter of the United Nations, said that the draft resolution required a proper definition of the boundaries between human rights protection and respect for the sovereignty of nations. Malaysia remained committed to upholding the principles of international law; however, the brotherhood of man transcended the sovereignty of nations. It was therefore essential to promote international peace. With that in mind, a "zone of peace" had been established in South-East Asia, with the aim of ensuring a diplomatic approach to addressing potential conflicts in the region, in particular with regard to the delivery of humanitarian aid. The draft resolution should provide for a case-by-case approach, whereby if diplomatic solutions could not be found, the right to protect could be upheld. The world's parliamentarians had a duty to work together to ensure that peace was the priority, and was achieved diplomatically wherever possible.

Mr. M.S. MBATHA (South Africa) said that ever-lasting security would only be fully achieved when nations were able to live side by side in peace and when the sovereignty of each State was guaranteed. State sovereignty was of the utmost importance, and should be considered a sub-principle of democracy. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, had a duty to uphold that principle. The establishment, by certain western countries, of military bases in other regions, which threatened peace and stability, and thus the sovereignty of nations, was particularly worrying.

Mr. A. CARONI (Switzerland) said that his delegation supported the position of the Twelve Plus Group on the outright rejection of the draft resolution. The draft was a wolf in sheep's clothing; a poorly masked attempt to misuse the IPU for the benefit of certain States. If it must be discussed, however, it would need considerable amendment. The title would need to be changed, and a clear definition of the scope of the resolution would be required as a matter of utmost priority. Switzerland, as a sovereign State and a democracy, stood by the principle of non-intervention as laid out in the Charter of the United Nations. Non-interference, however, was a much vaguer concept than non-intervention. It was not illegal under international law to be interested in what happened in other countries, to comment on what happened in other countries so as to express concern about the situation, or even to interfere. Intervention with a coercive element, however, was illegal. The aspect of prevention was also extremely unclear and potentially very far-reaching, and therefore needed to be removed. The resolution was not necessary to uphold the existing and well-known principle of non-intervention and could therefore be rejected.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that the territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-intervention were the cornerstone of modern international relations, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The responsibility to protect had attracted significant international attention in recent years, particularly after the genocide that had taken place in Rwanda. The main purpose of that responsibility was to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, and to support the territorial integrity of States in the wake of mass atrocities and national crises. The recognition of the responsibility to protect did not, however, mean that sovereignty would not be respected, nor did it grant any State the right to intervene in the internal affairs of another. Since its operationalization, pillar three of the responsibility to protect had been an issue of contention in the international community. Thailand held the position that States had the primary responsibility to protect their own citizens against mass atrocities, and that greater discussion was therefore needed to set the criteria on assessing whether a State had failed to do so, and whether assistance from the international community in the form of collective action to protect those citizens was necessary. His delegation had submitted a proposed amendment to operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution.

Mr. A.I.D. ARAS (Indonesia) said that the Indonesian Government had taken measures to strengthen its military capacity to defend itself against foreign intervention, in the firm belief that the State held the primary responsibility to protect its own citizens against mass atrocities. An early warning system should be developed, supported by an adequate legislative framework, to secure, promote and protect human rights. Drawing attention to the recent report by the United Nations Secretary-General entitled *Mobilizing collective action: the next decade of the responsibility to protect*, which set out guidelines on collective action for effective, coordinated strategies to respond and renew institutional capacity.

His delegation welcomed the draft resolution, which clearly stated that lessons must be learned from the dramatic events that had taken place recently in certain parts of the world. Regarding the responsibility to protect, many States had failed to provide basic protection to their own citizens. The international community had a responsibility to act and to seek solutions in a

timely manner. One of the challenges in that regard was the time frame in which the international community should respond. The justification of action by the international community should only be linked to atrocities and grave violations of human rights. The criteria of the responsibility to protect should be considered carefully, and the use of military force should be a last resort.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that the subject of the resolution was a sensitive and extremely important one. The second world war had begun when one European country had granted itself the authority to decide who had the right to live and who did not. There were many other examples in world history of such unilateral decisions leading to war and atrocities. The question of who had the right to judge others was a critical one. While the Twelve Plus Group might consider itself the judge, others did not consider that it had the authority to speak for the 7 billion people of the world. Every delegation present had a vision of the world and how to solve its problems. The contributions of all those who had submitted amendments to the resolution, including those from the Twelve Plus Group, should be respected. Rejecting the draft resolution outright would give a negative message to the world and would open a Pandora's box.

Mr. J. AL-BAKKAR (Jordan) said that his delegation acknowledged the work that went into drafting the resolution, which had doubtless not been easy, and wished to reaffirm the importance of the issue of non-interference. The text was timely, given the numerous ongoing instances of interference around the world. Consideration, however, should be given to whether a new resolution on the issue was in fact necessary, or whether what the international parliamentary community really needed was a strong sense of resolve to develop the principles and democratic foundations needed on which to build sovereign nations. Consideration should be given to the cases of intervention brought before the United Nations Security Council, which States had conducted the interference, and which States had allowed the interference to take place.

While he agreed with Ms. Taqawi (Bahrain) that a clear, universally accepted definition of interference was required, setting the criteria for acceptable intervention was a complex task. The fact that dozens of United Nations Security Council resolutions had not been fully implemented showed a lack of political will. It was a shame that parliaments of States that had failed in that regard were Members of the IPU. Recently, the Israeli Knesset had adopted legislation allowing for the confiscation of the private property of Palestinians in spite of the global parliamentary position that such legislation ran counter to international law and should not be considered legitimate. It was regrettable that IPU Member Parliaments could adopt such legislation with impunity. Jordan was located in a region that had suffered considerably from external interference, a region in which many systems and regimes had collapsed. Yet the people of that region still desired a return to peace and security, with full recovery of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States such as Palestine, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. He therefore urged the Standing Committee to adopt the resolution and uphold the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that it was clear that there would not be complete agreement or disagreement on the draft resolution currently under discussion. There were two views of governance in the world and two interpretations of international law; human rights were viewed from two perspectives and sovereignty was seen from two angles. One group of countries wanted to set the rules of the game. It was crucial that all of the proposed amendments submitted be given due consideration and discussed in order to reach a compromise in line with the Rules of Procedure of the IPU Assembly and its Standing Committees and in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations, the scope of which remained clear.

Ms. Y. MEFTALI (Algeria) said that non-intervention was a key principle of international law. Powerful States continued to propagate violations of that principle under the pretext of the promotion and protection of human rights. Such an approach was unacceptable. The violation of State sovereignty should not be justified under any pretext. Furthermore, human rights continued to be violated the world over, irrespective of foreign intervention or interference. Interference had led to the degradation of sovereignty and had resulted in sovereign States becoming non-States. As long as intervention continued to have a political dimension, inequality and inequities would persist. If an IPU observatory was to be established, it must be afforded adequate resources. Her delegation considered that such an observatory was in fact not necessary; internal surveillance measures and steps to ensure that parliamentarians upheld their responsibility to investigate potential violations ought to be sufficient.

Mr. M. AL MEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that some of the paragraphs in the draft resolution as presented were not acceptable and only represented the views of certain States. He wished to echo the statement made by Mr. Al-Bakkar (Jordan) with regard to the situation in the Middle East, whereby States had conducted interventions in their own political interests, to the detriment of the local population. That interference had given rise to the growth of Daesh and had resulted in massive displacement and large-scale migrant and refugee flows. His delegation had submitted a number of proposed amendments to the draft resolution, which he hoped would be accepted. He agreed with Ms. Taqawi (Bahrain) on the need for a clear definition of the principle of non-interference, and with the views that Ms. Taqawi had expressed regarding the establishment of an IPU observatory. He also agreed that it was a shame that a Member Parliament of the IPU was legislating to legitimize activities that were prohibited under international law.

Mr. S. ALKHATHLAN (Saudi Arabia) said that interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign States had been a matter of grave concern for the international community for many years, owing to the complexity of the need to reconcile two, sometimes contradictory, principles. While international law and human rights must be respected equally, the difficulty in striking a balance between the two was evident from many of the statements that the Standing Committee had heard during the discussion. Everyone present agreed on the importance of respecting the sovereignty of States and on the need to respect human rights. The international community had a large number of international instruments at its disposal. In adopting an instrument that strengthened the role of parliaments, care must be taken to ensure that the correct terminology was used, and that the text was precise and clear. All of the amendments proposed had the potential to enhance the text, and they should all be given due consideration.

Mr. T.M. MAINA (Chad) asked how parliaments could act to ensure respect for the principle of non-interference, and what instruments they had at their disposal to do so given that it was usually the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that interfered in the affairs of sovereign States. How could that be prevented?

Mr. YANG SEM (Cambodia) said that while he strongly supported the choice of topic for the draft resolution, he wished to offer some words of caution. Cambodia had experienced the worst violation of human rights in the world after the Second World War. From 1975 to 1979, the people of Cambodia had lived in hell: three million people had been tortured and killed. The people of Cambodia had lived in constant fear of being summoned by the Khmer Rouge and taken to their death. They had longed for help from foreign rescuers. Those who had managed to go abroad had worked hard to urge the leaders of other countries to assist, yet the international community had failed to respond. The United Nations, the IPU, the leaders of the world's great powers had not intervened. In some cases, interference was needed. He therefore urged extreme caution when considering when interference might be justified.

Mr. CHUNG SONG KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the world was facing a serious confrontation between two forces: progressive peoples on one side, who were trying to defend the sovereignty and dignity of States; and imperialist forces on the other, which were resorting to aggression, war and tyranny. It was the common desire of humanity to live in independence, free from domination, subjugation, interference and aggression. Nations aspiring to independence and justice should oppose foreign interference and domination. The peace-loving peoples of the world should not accept the attempts of the imperialists to launch aggression and war under the pretext of human rights protection. Human rights could not be respected without national sovereignty. Parliaments had a role to play in ensuring that human rights were defended, and that the human rights violations committed by major powers were brought to light. Those violations had triggered the world's most significant migration crisis. Tyranny, double standards and injustice should be rejected. International justice could be a reality only if independent countries were strong enough. All peace-loving nations should build their own strength, based on the principle of self-development, to prevent themselves from being vulnerable to outside interference. The United States had never recognized the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and had branded it an enemy State on the grounds of its different ideology and social system. The United States and other hostile forces had instigated the adoption of a series of illegal resolutions through the United Nations Security Council to suffocate the national economy through sanctions, blaming the domestic defence programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and branding it as a threat to international peace and security. No nuclear threat or economic blockade could stop the Korean people from rising up, as an invincible socialist power. The Parliament of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to develop friendly and

cooperative relations with all IPU Member Parliaments, true to its foreign policy. It would also use its position as a Member of the IPU to work to foster peace on the Korean peninsula, for the common prosperity of all humanity.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that parliaments had a vital role, in particular through the ratification of international agreements, in preventing outside interference in the affairs of sovereign States. Parliaments could urge the members of their executives to adhere to the treaties of international humanitarian law, and, most importantly, must oversee the implementation of those treaties, through appropriate policies and practices at the national level to end poverty. Conflicts, in particular in Africa, were caused by poverty, which led to political instability. Parliaments had a duty to develop policies that could prevent outside interference.

Mr. A. MAHAROOF (Sri Lanka) said that parliaments were the cornerstone of democracy, and were responsible for making laws and scrutinizing the work of the executive. They must implement the will of the people and ensure the best possible participatory democratic system. They were responsible for ratifying international law and holding governments accountable. In that regard, they had a key role to play in ensuring respect for United Nations instruments that stipulated the inadmissibility of external intervention, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among many others.

In Sri Lanka, through parliamentary elections, the people had opted for reconciliation and durable peace, and had expressed their wish to see an end to impunity. Sri Lanka was now re-engaging with the world, forging new partnerships, and building its society on the pillars of economic development, prosperity and sovereignty.

Ms. G. Fermín (Dominican Republic), Member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.

Mr. A.L. SSEBAGALA SENGENDO (Uganda) said that the draft resolution merited balanced consideration. There were situations in which interference would be inevitable, since the international community did not wish to give carte blanche to States to violate human rights. The resolution in its current form would give that carte blanche to dictatorial regimes. The responsibility to protect must be upheld. A recent example of peaceful interference had been the regional arrangement concluded through the South African Development Community with regard to the situation in Zambia, to ensure that the rights of the people of Zambia to vote were respected and that democracy was upheld. In countries where people were being killed, others must be able to enter to protect them. Interference should be defined very carefully to allow for peace-supporting, peace-building and peace-keeping measures. While interference in elections should not be allowed, interference to restore peace and defend human rights could be essential.

Mr. B. QASIM (Palestine) said that his delegation was strongly in favour of upholding the principle of non-interference. The people of Palestine had suffered more than others in the world and continued to be victims of external interference in its worst form, through the Israeli occupation. The principle of non-interference in the sovereign affairs of States must be upheld and defended at all costs. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in that regard. He agreed in particular with the points raised by Mr. Al-Bakkar (Jordan) and Ms. Meftali (Algeria).

Mr. P.C. NDIKUMANA (Burundi) said that it was very important to distinguish between interference in the sovereign affairs of States and intervention to prevent grave violations of human rights, such as genocide. If the draft resolution reflected both of those aspects in a balanced manner, it could be deemed acceptable by all those present. Greater awareness was needed of when interference could be misused, under the guise of protecting human rights, when in reality the world's more powerful States were seeking economic benefit. Interference must not result in human rights violations or loss of innocent lives. The right to life was the most fundamental of all human rights, and should have primacy over all other issues. It was therefore important that the draft resolution be considered, along with all of the proposed amendments, and revised in a balanced manner. Rejecting it out of hand could have serious consequences.

Ms. D. MONI NAWAZ (Bangladesh), recalling the genocide that had taken place in Bangladesh in 1971 in which some three million people had been killed over a nine-month period, said that her delegation believed strongly in non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States. History showed many examples of the extreme wrongs that had been done to people under the pretext of the exercise of the right to intervene. People in sovereign States should have the right to conduct their own affairs according to their own will. Her delegation therefore supported the

draft resolution. That notwithstanding, the right to protect was also important. The proposal to establish an IPU observatory to ensure early warning and provide support to parliaments to improve the situation in their country if systemic weaknesses were found, was therefore welcome. Many countries used official development assistance and nongovernmental organizations in-country to interfere in the affairs of others, which was unacceptable. Preventive measures should only be taken when deemed absolutely necessary, and should be carried out in strict compliance with international law, under the mandate of the United Nations, rather than by individual States on their own initiative.

Mr. VU HAI HA (Viet Nam) said that the draft resolution underlined a fundamental principle that was enshrined in international law. While his delegation supported the draft resolution in principle, it had submitted its proposed amendments to the Secretariat for discussion during the drafting meeting.

Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, resumed the Chair.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that he wished to clarify that the position of the Twelve Plus Group was that all countries were equal and that they must respect each other; all individuals were also equal and their rights must be respected. The draft resolution was not limited to intervention under international law; rather it referred to the broader issue of interference. The resolution therefore prevented parliamentarians from talking about human rights situations, gender issues, freedom of speech, and other issues in countries. While those issues were indeed the internal affairs of sovereign nations, it was essential to discuss them.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he wished to point out that he was participating in the meeting in his capacity as a co-Rapporteur, rather than as a representative of the Russian Federation. The debate had been an interesting and important one. In preparing the draft resolution the co-Rapporteurs had been aware of the difficult and sensitive nature of the subject matter; they had worked in a spirit of dialogue, in a collective process through the Standing Committee's preliminary discussion at the 135th IPU Assembly, keeping dialogue open at all times and focusing on fostering mutual understanding. They had tried to take account of all of the views expressed, and had made every effort to present a text that united the Member Parliaments of the IPU, and did not divide them. The presentation and discussion of the proposed amendments would be part of a fundamental, joint approach to the drafting process. He had therefore been surprised by the proposal made by Portugal on behalf of the Twelve-Plus Group to reject the draft out of hand, which would not be a democratic approach. While he hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted, the discussion had already proven extremely valuable.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she was disappointed by the position taken by the Twelve Plus Group, and she hoped that their views on the draft would change during the drafting discussion. With regard to the observatory, a decision should be taken to establish it before the terms of reference and scope of its activities could be discussed. In response to the comments on the situation in Cyprus, she said that Turkey should leave Cypriot territory and allow the people of Cyprus to live together peacefully.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY 4 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m., with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary (C-I/136/DR and C-I/136/DR-am)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the drafting in plenary had been a lively and inclusive process. Despite differences of opinion, a sizeable number of the proposed amendments had been adopted and incorporated into the revised text of the resolution.

The President invited the Committee to decide by a vote whether to consider the draft resolution on *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*, as amended, paragraph by paragraph or as a whole.

The Committee decided by 41 votes to 12 to consider the draft resolution, as amended, as a whole.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to decide by a vote to adopt the draft resolution, as amended.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 44 votes to 10, with 1 abstention.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) said that his delegation had abstained from the vote because the text of the resolution as a whole remained unsatisfactory, a view in which he was supported by Mr. B. Calkins (Canada) and Mr. K. Olsson (Sweden). Although an improvement on the original, the amended text was clumsily drafted and still failed to adequately reflect the necessary balance between non-interference and human rights. It was therefore not ready to be communicated to the world in its current form, which he said did not convey the intended message and was even such as to detract from the IPU's reputation.

Mr. CHUNG SONG KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) welcomed the adoption of the resolution, but said with respect to its ninth preambular paragraph that all room for doubt or misinterpretation would be removed by clearly stating that United Nations Security Council decisions had universal legitimacy "only when" in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that the Rules of the Standing Committees were not always crystal clear, adding that this had often proved to be problematic, as in the case of the resolution just adopted. In drafting resolutions, it was also important to reproduce faithfully any terminology or phrases borrowed from United Nations instruments and to identify the source.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) said that his delegation had voted against the resolution because it regarded operative paragraphs 5 and 6 thereof as highly troublesome. In the spirit of democracy, the delegation nonetheless respected the outcome of the vote on the resolution.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) agreed with previous speakers that the amended version of the resolution was still not fit for purpose, failing as it did to articulate the essential role of parliaments in spearheading the fight to promote the rule of law and human rights in a world where democracy was increasingly under threat. Her delegation had therefore voted against the resolution. She said that wide interpretations of the resolution had already been disseminated via social and other media.

Mr. XIAOCHU WANG (China) welcomed the adoption of a resolution - developed through a democratic process - on a matter of such vital importance to international peace and security, bearing in mind the bitter history of foreign intervention and indeed invasion that many countries, including his own, had experienced. He thanked all those who had contributed to the drafting of the resolution for their spirit of compromise, without which no progress would have been achieved.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) agreed that the text of the resolution did not have the maturity needed to attract a consensus and called on those who had voted in favour of the resolution to consider the deeply disturbing nature of the related comments circulated on social media by the Russian delegation. As to the matter of foreign intervention cited by the delegate from China, she said that one only need mention Taiwan and Tibet to reveal the underlying hypocrisy of the text. Given the saddening outcome of the debate, she looked forward to future opportunities for a more enlightened discussion of the topic in which the views of representatives from all countries, large or small, were equally respected.

Mr. A. CARONI (Switzerland) said in response to the point made by the delegate from Cuba that use of the word "intervention" in the resolution was derived from the wording in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India) said that the resolution clearly asserted the right of all sovereign nations to run their internal affairs and tolerate no interference therein. Appropriate frameworks and procedures were in place, he added, to allow interventions for dealing with humanitarian and human rights crises.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that the resolution stood as a common declaration concerning the quest for peace and international security through cooperation among all countries. Affirming that the IPU family must stand united in that quest, he thanked all those who had participated in the constructive process that had culminated in the adoption of the resolution, which he described as a victory for wisdom.

Mr. M.U.K. BADAL (Bangladesh) said that it was essential to look forward, and not to dwell on foreign intrusions suffered by many countries, including his own, in the course of their history. The bottom line was that the majority decision to adopt the resolution must be respected in true democratic fashion.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that the resolution contained important principles of international law that Ukraine had fully observed for many years, among them non-intervention and the promotion and protection of human rights. While welcoming the fact that some of the constructive proposals from his delegation had been taken on board in the resolution, in listening to the Russian delegate urging cooperation for peace and referring to the resolution as a "victory for wisdom", he could not help but recall that the Russian Federation had for four years been waging war against Ukraine. It was therefore pure cynicism for a delegate from a country that had invaded and occupied another to engage in discussions focused on non-intervention and non-interference. His delegation had voted against the resolution for that reason.

Mr. A.L. SSEBAGALA SENGENDO (Uganda) said that the text of the resolution had been revised in the light of views expressed with the aim of improving the final product. Those who had voted for the resolution must respect the views of those who had voted against it, and vice versa. The important thing was for Members to take IPU resolutions on board in good faith and ensure that they were implemented in their home countries.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she had elected not to participate in the discussions aimed at finding common ground on the resolution in order to remain unbiased, given that her country had not only been invaded but also occupied for many decades, which was a step further than non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. An entire generation had grown up on an island divided on account of Turkey's failure to respect the principle of non-intervention and the many United Nations resolutions on the Cyprus issue. She had been honoured to serve as *co-Rapporteur* on such a subject item and thanked all those who had supported the revised version of the resolution.

Mr. M.S. MBATHA (South Africa) said that his delegation had participated with an open mind in the discussions aimed at taking into account the vast differences in opinion. The resolution was the product of that process and must be accepted by those who had voted against it.

Mr. XIAOCHU WANG (China) said that Taiwan and Tibet were recognized as an inseparable part of China in international treaties and United Nations resolutions, as well as in the numerous multilateral and bilateral agreements concluded by China. He reminded the delegate from Iceland that Iceland's diplomatic relations with China were constituted on that very basis.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those who had engaged in the interesting and enriching debate on the resolution, which had led to a compromise text that did not necessarily satisfy all. Respect for diversity must nonetheless prevail, he said. An improvement on the original, the text now offered a platform for further discussion in the context of working to achieve common goals.

Ms. L.I. CERITOĞLU KURT (Turkey) said that the question of Cyprus was not about occupation but rather about partnership between the two joint owners of the island. It was inappropriate in the present forum to raise such a delicate matter, especially as it was the subject of ongoing discussions under United Nations auspices.

Mr. A.M. KHASRU (Bangladesh) said that unity in diversity was a fundamental principle of democracy and that the resolution as adopted must be accepted accordingly in its entirety.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 136th Assembly

At the proposal of Ms. B. Jónsdóttir (Iceland), seconded by Mr. R.K. Singh (India), the Committee appointed its President as Rapporteur to the 136th Assembly.

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

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the proposal of its Bureau that, at the 138th Assembly, it should debate the subject item *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*, which had been submitted for its consideration by the delegation of Mexico.

It was so decided.

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

The Committee approved the nominations of Ms. M. Vargas Bárcena (Mexico) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland) as co-Rapporteurs to the 138th Assembly.

(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the proposal of its Bureau that the Committee should include on its agenda for the 137th session an expert hearing on the chosen subject item; a panel discussion on the role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations; and a panel discussion on implementation of the resolution entitled *Cyber warfare: A serious threat to peace and global security*, which had been adopted at the 132nd Assembly in Hanoi. In the interim, members of the Bureau would join others from the Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs on a field visit to a peacekeeping mission, most probably the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

It was so decided.

Any other business

Mr. S. ELO (Finland), supported by Mr. B. SHABB (Lebanon), expressed sympathy to the victims of the recent St. Petersburg terrorist attack, which he condemned, saying that the concerted efforts to combat all such threats to democracy must continue apace.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development

SITTING OF SUNDAY 2 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia), President of the Standing Committee, in the chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/136/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2016)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT reminded the Committee that the Bureau was composed of three representatives from each geopolitical group, with each member having a four-year term. In accordance with rule 7.4 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, nominations were to be approved by an absolute majority. Ms. S.-M. Dinică (Romania) had been nominated to fill the vacancy for the Twelve Plus Group, and for the Arab Group, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan) had been nominated to replace the representative of Mauritania.

Ms. S.-M. Dinică (Romania) and Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan) were elected to the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development

Mr. A. LOPEZ CLAROS, Director of the Global Indicators Group of the World Bank, *Keynote speaker*, explained that the Global Indicators Group had analysed legislation in 173 countries to identify which States imposed any form of legislative restrictions on women. Ninety per cent of countries had at least one provision in their laws that was discriminatory against women, and only 18 had no restrictions at all. The analysis had found that the greater the number of discriminatory provisions in the law, the lower the levels of women's participation in the labour force and school enrolment for girls.

Many countries made it difficult for women to open a bank account and a number restricted women's mobility – in 17 countries, women could not leave the house without the authorization of a male family member. One hundred countries had restrictions on the jobs permissible for women. The analysis had also shown that in countries where the husband had legal control of property, women were less likely to have a bank account. Inheritance laws had also been shown to be important for financial inclusion of women; in India, for example, reform of the Hindu Succession Act to enable unmarried daughters to inherit land had led to increased investment in girls' education and a reduction in the average age of marriage, both of which had had a positive impact on child mortality rates and income levels.

Ironically, married women often faced more barriers to accessing finance than unmarried women; as such, in those countries, marriage could be seen as a bad business proposition for women as they stood to lose some of their rights, something that the law should not encourage. In some countries, it was more difficult for women to obtain national identity cards. For example, in Pakistan, married women had to provide their marriage certificate and their husband's identity card in order to obtain one themselves, but there was no such requirement for men. Identity cards were often crucial documents for a number of actions, including opening a bank account and setting up a

business. Unequal property rights were also prevalent in many countries. For example, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Chile, husbands had the sole right to administer joint property.

Mr. Lopez Claros encouraged countries to take steps to eliminate the legal barriers identified in the report, particularly with regard to access to property, discrimination based on marital status, access to the labour market, and access to credit. Only 46 countries mandated non-discrimination based on gender when it came to access to credit. Credit bureaus should be encouraged to collect positive financial data on utilities and microfinancing, especially since more women took advantage of the latter than men, and efforts should be made to make it easier for women to access the job market. Countries that had quotas for women's participation in parliament tended to have higher labour force participation by women, and income earned by women often helped to shift the balance of family power, which subsequently led to more being spent by families in the areas of education and health.

The PRESIDENT observed that a report released by Grameen Bank had shown that 90 per cent of loans provided to women were paid back in full; a lower percentage of men repaid their loans in full. Unfortunately, such statistics were not well known.

(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
(C-II/136/DR, C-II/136/DR-am and C-II/136/M)

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he and Ms. Cuevas Barron had drafted the draft resolution based on the Committee's detailed discussion of the subject matter during the 135th IPU Assembly; a number of proposed amendments had been received and would be discussed during the present sitting. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had recognized the importance of gender equality for development, and as such, each of the SDGs included a gender dimension to enable women to become equal partners and drivers of development. Discrimination against women was prevalent in many areas, including health, education, politics and labour, and women's participation in the labour force, in particular, was heavily affected by economic, social and cultural issues. Sustainable development was not possible while some sectors of society were denied their full human rights and opportunities. Therefore, women and girls needed to enjoy equal access to education, employment, economic resources, leadership roles and political participation. The recent focus on development strategies was the result of concerns that the benefits of development and economic growth had not been equitably shared and rarely reached the most vulnerable in society. There continued to be huge disparities in wealth and power, and gender inequality was rife. Financial inclusion had become an integral part of strategies to promote inclusive growth and was key to both the empowerment of women and gender equality. Active involvement of all stakeholders was vital in that regard.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, noting that of the almost 10 million people that had used microcredit through the Grameen Bank to escape poverty, 97 per cent had been women, said that a study by the McKinsey Global Institute had shown that if women were able to equally participate in the economy, global GDP would increase by 26 per cent by the year 2025. Seventy per cent of those living in poverty were women and women also dominated the informal labour sector. More than one billion women around the world did not have access to a bank account and women were more likely to rely on the informal credit sector for loans. It was therefore vital to create an "ecosystem" with a gender perspective to ensure the economic inclusion of women. Such an ecosystem should include policies and legislation on access to education, dignified work in the informal sector, access to social services, including maternity leave and child care; it would also strengthen confidence in the banking system. She encouraged member parliaments to develop national and international strategies and public policies to break down legal and cultural barriers in that regard. Cultural barriers were often the most difficult to break down, with changes tending to take multiple generations. It was also important for countries to analyse their individual situations, using disaggregated data, and develop methods to monitor progress, taking into account the fact that there would be different issues faced by, for example, women in cities and rural areas, developing and developed countries, and by mothers or women graduating from university.

Parliaments should be encouraged to include a gender perspective in financial policies, and more regulations were needed to protect consumers, be they men or women. Education programmes should be introduced to improve women's knowledge on issues such as new

technology and financial services. Technology was a useful tool to enhance coverage of the financial sector in areas that did not have access to banks, and the co-Rapporteur drew attention to the situation of Kenya, where mobile phone coverage was used to provide banking services for those unable to access a bank. Women often faced many challenges in accessing both new technology and financial services, and parliaments should therefore do more to facilitate women's access to information technologies in that regard. More should also be done to encourage banks to develop portfolios dedicated to women, and the private banking system should be reformed to reduce the cost of opening a bank account. Furthermore, Parliaments should also develop links with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, governments and civil society to achieve the financial inclusion of women; parliaments should also endeavour to help the most vulnerable women in that regard, through the development of new methodologies and approaches to help them to access formal credit.

(b) Debate

Mr. A. HUSSAIN ADAM AHMED (Sudan), stressing the importance of the equal participation of men and women for the achievement of sustainable development, observed that it was important to grant women freedoms and provide equal opportunities in all spheres, including education, particularly in rural areas. Sudan had adopted laws giving women greater responsibilities in the achievement of the SDGs and there were two banks in the country to respond to the particular needs of women.

Mr. Y. ALFADHALAH (Kuwait) said that Kuwait helped to fund development projects and programmes in a number of countries, with a particular focus on education and health, and had hosted a number of international conferences on economic development focusing on the role of women. The level of development of a country could be measured by the socio-economic development of its female citizens.

Mr. N. SINGH (India) observed that development for all people could only be achieved by providing access to affordable energy, housing, healthcare, basic services, education and decent employment. An enabling environment that bridged infrastructure gaps and led to economic growth and sustainable development pathways was also vital. He welcomed the reaffirmation of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as it demonstrated that universality did not equate to uniformity of action. The SDGs mirrored India's vision of development, and financial inclusion was a key driver of development that would help to fight poverty, reduce inequalities and improve children's health. India had enacted a number of pieces of legislation, in area such as health, education, nutrition and sanitation, in order to contribute to gender justice and women's empowerment and development, which would be a crucial contribution to progress and the achievement of the SDGs, and would help to ensure financial inclusion of women.

Mr. K. WASINONDH (Thailand), stressing the importance of references to the regional dimension and engagement with the private sector in the draft resolution, said that Thailand was one of the 44 countries that would undergo a voluntary review at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Ms. S. SIRIVEJCHAPUN (Thailand) highlighted the different policies and measures her country had introduced to address difficulties faced by women in accessing financial services. At the government level, gender-responsive budgeting had also been introduced as a key requirement.

Mr. J. NJOMO (Kenya) welcomed the draft resolution, which would help to ensure that women were given the opportunity to access important facilities that would help them to save money and access credit, both of which were vital for financial security. Women were a key demographic in the economic and social prosperity of a State and should be permitted to participate equally with men in achieving it.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan), underscoring that equality between men and women and the full participation of women were an absolute necessity for development, said that depriving women of financial inclusion was a violation of their rights and that the approaches adopted by the United Nations in that regard needed to be taken into account. The laws linked to gender equality and women's access to the labour market needed to be reviewed; it was important to provide

guarantees for credit made available to women, and adopt positive measures to strengthen women's participation in the labour market. Jordan had passed a law on maternity leave, which had encouraged more hiring of women. Education and training for women was also of paramount importance.

Ms. C.Q. MADLOPHA (South Africa), highlighting that her country had recently introduced a minimum wage, said that countries needed to take bold and sustained action to advance economic opportunities for women. In South Africa, both the Government and the private sector had introduced measures to facilitate the financial inclusion of women, and legislation had been adopted in areas such as enhancing access to banking services and protecting the rights of consumers.

Ms. R.K. WIJERATNE (Sri Lanka) remarked that women tended to invest in their homes, the health, education and nutrition of their families, and their communities, which had a positive impact on long-term prosperity and security. In Sri Lanka, the existence of a number of formal and semi-formal financial institutions, such as banks, leasing establishments, co-operatives and microfinancing institutions had contributed to a high level of financial access at the household level. The Government was also a key provider and facilitator of financial services. Women therefore had easy access to a number of financial services and Sri Lanka was home to a number of successful women entrepreneurs.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) observed that education for all was key to the financial inclusion of women. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in that regard through the development of legislation and policies ensuring access to education for all citizens. Imposing laws would not necessarily be effective, but change could slowly be achieved by demonstrating the benefits of such laws.

Ms. XIAOLING WU (China), noting the importance of women's participation in economic activity and access to financial services for development, said that her country had developed a number of measures to counter discrimination against women and had preferential policies in place to encourage the participation of women in rural areas; those measures included a small microfinance programme that had already benefitted 5 million people. In rural areas, gambling and alcoholism were common among men; to ensure that men were not able to misuse any funding from the programme provided to their wives, they were required to sign the microfinancing agreement too. Access to finance was a complicated issue, and more needed to be done to enhance coverage.

Mr. M. MONSALVE (Chile) explained that his country had already made significant progress as to achieving gender-related aspects of the SDGs, despite cultural challenges in that regard. More women were being integrated into public life and the economy and women now occupied key positions. Women's participation in the labour force continued to be a challenge and a number of measures had been introduced to, among others, improve the employability of women, incentivize the hiring of women and provide education on financial matters. The changes needed would require the participation and commitment of all citizens to facilitate cultural change.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden), welcoming the focus on women as drivers of development, opined that shutting women out of economic activity was a waste of opportunities and talent. Women's access to financial services benefitted society as a whole. Policies to further women's access to finance needed to be written by women and in collaboration with the women they would benefit. Sweden had introduced a number of measures, including abolition of the joint taxation system, expansion of public-funded, affordable care for children and the elderly, and reform of parental insurance, which had facilitated the economic participation of women. However, she recognized that what had worked for Sweden would not necessarily work for all countries. Access to finance should be included in a holistic approach to gender equality, which also incorporated access to education for all, shared household responsibilities, fair working conditions, and control over sexual and reproductive health.

Mr. J. MOKHTAR (Islamic Republic of Iran) stated that the financial inclusion of women was vital for the achievement of the SDGs. Women were likely to invest more in education for their families, meaning that the financial inclusion of women would have a direct impact on the achievement of Goal 4.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan), recalling that the theme of the first World Assembly for Women in 2015 had been empowerment through access to sanitation, said that in some countries, a lack of female toilet facilities in schools prevented girls from attending and in refugee camps there had been stories of women being sexually assaulted while in the toilet; such situations were unacceptable and needed to be addressed. Part of Japan's strategy on gender equality and women's empowerment included funding for global initiatives to address that issue.

Mr. R. MWEWA (Zambia) drew attention to efforts in his country to facilitate women's participation in the economy, including a programme on financial inclusion and the establishment of a women's bank to provide loans to women, particularly those living in rural areas. Moreover, the country's land policy included a requirement to allocate 50 per cent of land to women.

Ms. M.C. GARCÍA BRAVO (Mexico) said that her country had developed a policy on the financial inclusion of women, with a particular focus on indigenous girls and women and other marginalized communities.

Mr. CHUNG SONG. KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that poverty reduction and sustainable development were key priorities in his country; however, all efforts in that regard were hampered by economic blockades and military threats by another country. International cooperation and non-interference in sovereign states, together with social justice and equality, were vital for sustainable development.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) explained that the Government of Zimbabwe had taken steps to improve gender equality. As women represented half of the global population, they deserved equal access to health education and financial services. Nevertheless, women continued to face difficulties in accessing different financial services, were often reliant on informal credit arrangements and lacked collateral. In order to address that issue, Zimbabwe had launched a women's bank to support small and medium enterprises run by women.

Mr. A. BARHAM (Palestine) explained that his country understood the need to include women in the economy and eliminate obstacles to their participation. He welcomed the fact that, as stated by the representative from the World Bank, the use of a quota system to increase women's participation in politics could have a positive impact on labour force participation. Although Palestine had introduced a quota system, women's participation in the labour market had not yet reached the desired levels. Noting that in general, women repaid loans faster than men, he added that the efforts of his country on the issue had been hampered by the activities of another country.

Ms. S. PUM (Cambodia) said that her country had achieved positive results through the development of banking and microfinancing institutions, which had enabled more women to have access to bank accounts, credit, and savings. Microfinancing institutions had had particular success in penetrating rural areas to help rural and vulnerable women. Although Cambodia had relevant legislation in place, in order to promote financial inclusion of women, it was important to ensure that women had access to education and skills development on financial issues, together with access to specialized financial services, such as affordable insurance policies.

Ms. B.J. KENEWENDO (Botswana) observed that that when considering the financial inclusion of women, it was important to look at issues such as employability and job creation. Botswana had a social welfare programme in place, and funds were disbursed in that regard through easy-to-use tools and programmes. It was also using development aid in that area, which allowed for targeted programmes for women, for example, in rural areas. More consideration was needed of how to make use of different country situations. For example, many countries had achieved high mobile phone penetration; how could mobile phone usage be tapped to reach more women? There was also an opportunity for a tiered "know-your-customer" system to ensure that those on lower incomes were not excluded owing to the higher costs associated with normal finance programmes.

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary
(C-II/136/DR and C-II/136/DR-am)

The remainder of the sitting was spent considering the proposed amendments to the draft resolution.

The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 4 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m., with Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

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

(C-II/136/DR and C-II/136/DR-am)

(continued)

The Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development.*

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 136th IPU Assembly

The Committee decided to appoint its President as rapporteur to the 136th IPU Assembly.

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

The PRESIDENT said that, having considered the subject items submitted to it for consideration, the Bureau had decided to propose that the Committee, at the 138th Assembly, should debate the subject item *Engaging the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, especially on renewable energies.* She invited the Committee to approve that proposal.

It was so decided.

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

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the nomination of Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) as one of its co-Rapporteurs to the 138th Assembly and to request that the IPU President conduct consultations to appoint the second co-Rapporteur.

It was so decided.

(c) Proposals for other items to be included on the Committee agenda

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the proposal of its Bureau that the Committee should include on its agenda for the 138th session a panel discussion on the theme *Achieving the highest attainable standards of health for all through science and research* and a short segment on preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting to be held at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn, in November 2017.

It was so decided.

Any other business

The PRESIDENT proposed that, in accordance with Rule 10.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, Ms. C. Prado (Panama) and Mr. F. Musendu Flungu (Democratic Republic of the Congo) should be suspended from membership of the Bureau by reason of their absence from two consecutive sessions without a valid reason. This issue was discussed in the Bureau and it was decided that this proposal be made to the Committee.

It was so decided.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF MONDAY 3 APRIL

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m. with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-III/136/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2016)

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) expressed concern that statements made by the delegation of Palestine on the occasion of previous IPU assemblies had not been reflected in the relevant summary records.

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT announced that there were two Bureau posts to fill; the African Group had nominated Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi) and the Twelve Plus group had nominated Mr. S. Spengemann (Canada).

The two nominations were approved by acclamation.

Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee: *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its previous session, the Standing Committee had decided that the theme of its next resolution would be *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. Having appointed Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation) as one of the Rapporteurs, the Standing Committee had asked the IPU President to consult with the geopolitical groups to identify a second one, in accordance with Rule 13 of the Rules of the Standing Committees. Following those consultations, the IPU President had recommended that Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands) be appointed as the second rapporteur. Meanwhile, the Russian Federation had also held consultations, and had approached the Parliament of India to propose a rapporteur, in response to which, India had nominated Ms. S. Dev. Although the normal practice was to have two rapporteurs per resolution, there were precedents for the appointment of three co-rapporteurs. The Standing Committee should therefore decide whether to appoint two Rapporteurs, Mr. Umakhanov and Mr. Schrijver, or whether to include a third rapporteur, Ms. Dev.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that when appointing the co-Rapporteurs it was important to ensure balanced representation of language, gender and age. The inclusion of Ms. Dev would add gender balance and youth representation to the work of the co-Rapporteurs.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) agreed that the principle of gender balance must be upheld in the appointment of the co-Rapporteurs.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands) concurred and said he would be pleased to work with Ms. Dev as a third co-Rapporteur.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Standing Committee agreed to have three co-Rapporteurs for the preparation of its next resolution.

It was so agreed.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said he welcomed the Standing Committee's decision to mark the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy and looked forward to the adoption of a strong resolution. The adoption of the Declaration had signified the first time that democracy

had been considered from an international perspective. The Declaration enshrined the core principles that the international parliamentary community had thought to be the most important: respect for human rights, gender equality and the rule of law. It also set out the modalities for putting those principles into practice, through free and fair elections, ensuring political competition in the establishment of democratic institutions, and working with civil society as an essential resource. The Declaration affirmed the key role of parliaments as the pillars of democracy, not only to implement democratic principles but also to ensure that democracy was enjoyed by the whole of society; the principles and values articulated in the Declaration were universal.

In 1997, when the Declaration had been adopted, the IPU had 137 Member Parliaments; 20 years later it had 173. By joining the IPU, each of the 36 new Member Parliaments had endorsed the Declaration, thus reaffirming its validity in the eyes of the global parliamentary community. It was particularly significant that while governments articulated the interests of individual States, parliaments held discussions across borders and worked together to build bridges on issues that seemed intractable to the international community. The Declaration was a prime example of cross-parliamentary cooperation to build democracy. Over the years, the IPU had helped parliamentarians to identify the key values with which democratic parliaments must comply. In that regard, parliaments must be representative of society as a whole and society must be able to identify with the parliament in place. The issues addressed by parliament must appeal to everyone in society. Parliaments must be open and accountable and must enjoy the working conditions conducive to delivering on parliamentary goals, law-making and oversight. The Universal Declaration on Democracy was a constant reminder of the key principles and values on which parliaments must base their work each day.

The beauty of democracy was that it was a set of principles and values as well as a self-correcting system of government. That said, despite the continued relevance of the Declaration and the progress being made in democratic processes, democracy was under constant threat the world over and faced a multiplicity of challenges. One such challenge had been posed by the advent of the digital age and the development of new technologies that changed the way people communicated. Parliaments must be attuned to those developments and must remain relevant. Terrorism and violent extremism must be addressed to achieve a peaceful world; democracy meant promoting peace both nationally and internationally. The disenchantment of certain segments of society with mainstream political processes also posed a challenge that must be addressed: young people often could not identify with the institutions of governance, considered that those institutions did not serve their interests and therefore sought other means to express themselves and achieve their own goals. Democracy must be inclusive, bringing all segments of society together.

Those challenges were accompanied by opportunities, in particular those afforded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which had received universal endorsement. The Agenda comprised a set of action-oriented measures to deliver on progress for everyone, leaving no one behind. Parliaments had an important role in contributing to the implementation of all aspects of the Agenda and must take advantage of that opportunity. The 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy should be used to engage citizens and ensure that democracy and its practices were informed by the wishes of the people that parliament represented. The IPU had proposed several activities to mark the anniversary, including a campaign to ask the international parliamentary community to reiterate its dedication to the founding principles of the Declaration. Special events would also be organized in Geneva and New York to mark the tenth International Day of Democracy, in synergy with the anniversary of the Declaration. The resolution that the Standing Committee would present to the Assembly would reaffirm the validity of democracy and the steps parliaments could take to move the democracy agenda forward.

Mr. Y. POZZO DI BURGO (France) asked whether the abolition of the death penalty, as a fundamental aspect of human rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, which was applied in whole by States members of the European Union and in part by the Russian Federation, which had instituted a moratorium on capital punishment, was addressed specifically in any IPU processes. He was particularly concerned that capital punishment was still practised in the United States of America, which claimed to be the world's largest democracy. He asked how many countries that had parliaments Members of the IPU continued to hand down death sentences, and what the IPU was doing to strive for the comprehensive abolition of the death penalty.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the Universal Declaration on Democracy addressed democracy as a whole, rather than specific aspects of human rights. The IPU was fundamentally against the death penalty and had stated that position in several of its resolutions. The IPU's principal mandate was to strengthen parliament as the institution of democracy, while more specific human rights issues fell to other actors in the international community. That said, consideration might be given to conducting an IPU study on the death penalty in future.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, added that the moratorium on the death penalty, which had been in place in the Russian Federation since 1996, remained effective. He welcomed the Standing Committee's decision to allow three co-Rapporteurs to draft the resolution, and said that India was a good example of the way in which a multiplicity of ethnicities, religions and languages could be brought together by democracy. The benefits of democracy should be the benefits of all; the fundamental principles of democracy should reflect the needs of every individual in every country. The designation of 15 September as the International Day of Democracy was therefore particularly significant.

The Russian Federation had been one of the world's first democracies, having instituted a participatory form of governance in the 16th Century. Despite the fact that democracy took various forms and was constantly evolving, its basic tenets were always the same: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the equality of all before the law. The fate of democracy now depended not only on countries with far-reaching democratic histories, but also in young democracies where the principles would continue to be introduced and developed. The draft resolution would be built on three pillars: the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Democracy; the principles set out in the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly designating the International Day of Democracy; and the fundamental principles of democracy taking account of the national, ethnic and religious specificities of each country.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands), *co-Rapporteur*, said that democracy was a crucial global value, which was essential to ensure peace and security, and promote human rights, in particular the rights of peoples and of minorities. Democracy was a permanent, ongoing process, which could never be said to have been achieved; it required continuous vigilance, constant maintenance and an open mind for change. Democratization was a process that would lead to more open and participatory societies and fewer authoritarian regimes. Democracy was much more than simply a system of government in the sense of political power and institutions; it meant public participation in society as a whole, with openness, access to information, equal access to justice, and the potential of each individual to realise his or her human rights.

In the absence of democracy, conditions were not conducive to peace, justice and security; politicized military rule prevailed, with weak lower and middle classes, and populations constrained to silence. Restrictions on freedom of movement, freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and the prevalence of institutionalized corruption were all symptoms undemocratic societies. Democracy and human rights were closely linked; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined the fundamental rights on which democracy was built and must therefore be at the heart of the Standing Committee's discussions. The rights of minorities must not be trampled underfoot by the majority. Democracy and the rule of law were two sides of the same coin. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying SDGs were based on the principles of democracy. Goal 16 on peace, justice and democracy for all was particularly crucial, as were its targets on combatting corruption and bribery, developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions, ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, and broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. Access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms were essential. The moment was opportune to link the IPU's work on democracy and human rights with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in the context of the cooperation agreement between IPU and the United Nations, which had been concluded in July 2016, and which also had important implications for national parliaments.

Ms. S. DEV (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she was pleased to have been accepted as a third co-Rapporteur in a consensus achieved through the democratic processes of the Standing Committee. She hoped that together the co-Rapporteurs and the Standing Committee would embolden and strengthen the work begun by the international parliamentary community some 20 years previously. India was one of the world's largest and oldest democracies, with its democratic principles and value system rooted in the Constitution that had been adopted upon the achievement of independence. It was a country in which several princely states, with more than 3000 castes, some 700 dialects and numerous religions, had been stitched together with one

Prime Minister with a bicameral parliament. Governance structures had evolved over time since independence, with greater devolution in recent years, yet the principles of democracy were consistently upheld and served to unite India's considerably diverse society.

Debate

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that the Universal Declaration on Democracy remained a key point of reference on the global political agenda, which presented the people's representatives with an opportunity for self-evaluation and inner reflection. Much time had been spent considering the meaning and practice of democracy, which above all required respect for basic human rights, consensus, transparency and justice. Without peace and stability, democracy would be impossible to achieve. Through the Declaration, parliaments the world over had been given an opportunity to affirm the need to work continuously to enhance and support democracy. Safeguarding the peaceful transition of power and the rule of law, the advancement of gender equality, guaranteeing civil rights, consolidating reliable and accountable institutions, and defending media freedom, were the achievements of democracy.

Challenges, however, persisted. Violations of the principles of international law, infringement of human rights and revocation of democracy were all too common. The role of parliaments in promoting and safeguarding democracy and human rights was vital and must be enhanced. Dialogue without barriers was a key tool for democracy, which was crucial to enable parliamentarians to fulfil their mandate. The promotion of pluralism and protection of the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups were therefore essential; women must be placed at the heart of efforts to build a democratic future, and must thus be afforded equal opportunities to participate in governance and decision-making processes. Young people would be the leaders of the future; their voices must be heard and they must be offered education on democracy to enable them to fully understand their rights and responsibilities. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that all of society could participate in decision-making, and to disseminate the principles of democracy through actions, accountability, reform and innovation, while keeping in mind at all times that democracy could not be imposed. All people aspired to live in dignity, with respect for their human rights and the rule of law, with the opportunity to have a say in their own future.

Ms. S. ACOSTA BROOKS (Cuba) said that democracy was a geopolitical instrument to support the State. It could not be applied through a single doctrine, but rather must be flexible and adaptable to the historical, social, ethnic and other specificities, as well as the different political systems, of individual countries. In Cuba, the right of the people to self-determination was considered a fundamental tenet, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Democracy was rooted in the free expression of the will of the people, to determine their own economic, social, political and cultural systems and their participation in all aspects of life. Respect for all nationalities, cultures and religions was crucial. The world's parliamentarians must practice what they preached and ensure that women and young people were afforded equal opportunities for political engagement and to participate in decision-making.

Mr. ZELIN SU (China) said that the pursuit of democracy was an aspiration shared by all countries. Diversity in democratic models was a fundamental feature of the international community. Democracy could only thrive in a peaceful environment; regional conflicts, threats of terrorism, humanitarian crises and economic hardship posed a serious threat to democracy in many countries. If the world descended into chaos, democracy could not survive. Common comprehensive and sustainable security and prosperity must therefore be sought, to safeguard peace and consolidate the foundations of democracy. The political, social, religious and cultural specificities of countries must be taken into account, so that democracy could be tailored to each nation's realities. Foreign interference in the domestic affairs of any nation should not be acceptable under any pretext. The fundamental goal of all nations should be to pursue common development, with democracy at the heart of efforts to improve the standard of living and narrow the income gap, promote inclusive growth, safeguard social cohesion and stability and strive for common progress and development. No one civilization was superior to the rest; different societies and civilizations should learn from each other's strengths to work towards common progress and a shared future with converging interests, based on mutual respect, development and prosperity. Discrimination, hatred and conflict would only cause suffering. The international community must work together for win-win cooperation, and parliaments should urge their governments to work constructively towards a fair, equitable, democratic and harmonious world.

Ms. S. SUWANNACHEEP (Thailand) said that her parliament welcomed the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy as an opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to promoting democracy on the basis of good governance, accountability, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Thailand's National Legislative Assembly had been formed in 2014, and had worked tirelessly to legislate for the protection of human rights, including on the prevention of gender-based discrimination, the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons, and the elimination of child labour, as its first priority. Members of parliament worked directly with the public, through regular panel discussions and seminars, listening to the opinions of the local community. Several grassroots projects to develop democracy and increase political engagement were also being run. Efforts were being made to empower young people through education. The parliament of Thailand was committed to working towards the achievement of sustainable democracy, social harmony and lasting stability, and was mindful that inclusivity was the key to people-centred development. Progress had been made, in particular through the adoption of a new Constitution, which had been approved by a public referendum in August 2016, and which had paved the way for the forthcoming general election. Further efforts were being made to increase political awareness and engagement throughout Thailand, and every effort was being made to ensure that Thailand's democracy would be enhanced and consolidated over time.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that democracy presupposed an equal partnership between leaders and society. Ethiopia had made progress in ensuring that partnership: 38 per cent of Ethiopia's parliamentarians were women, and independent democratic institutions had been established, including a human rights commission, an ombudsman, an electoral board and an anti-corruption institution. Regular elections were held, based on the principle of universal suffrage, ensuring that all voters had the possibility to elect their chosen representatives in conditions of equality, openness and transparency that stimulated political competition. Despite those efforts much remained to be done Ethiopia being a young democracy; impartial oversight mechanisms and an independent judiciary were crucial to ensure the rule of law on which democracy must be founded. In that regard, judicial power had been vested in the courts, which were free from the interference or influence of the Government or other official bodies. A favourable economic environment was crucial for building democracy. In that regard, the Government of Ethiopia was committed to the economic empowerment of the disadvantaged sectors of the population, and was making great efforts to reduce poverty, particularly among women, and to uphold the fundamental principles of democracy.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that Islam had brought important principles to the rest of the world, and was founded on the belief that every person was equal in the eyes of God. The proliferation of racist and discriminatory rhetoric, extremism and fundamentalism, the persecution of minorities, such as the Rohingya Muslim population in Myanmar and the people of Palestine, situations of brutal conflict, for example in the Syrian Arab Republic, and increasingly discriminatory policies, such as those promulgated in the United States of America by President Trump, were on the rise around the world. The global parliamentary community, representing a multiplicity of nationalities and religions, must work together to protect diversity and bring an end to the spread of such hatred.

Ms. A. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates) said that 20 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, the international community was more aware than ever of the need to strengthen democracy in all countries, yet fundamental rights were under constant threat. Parliaments were facing challenges brought by globalization, poverty, conflict and human rights violations, all of which were being exacerbated by the proliferation of discriminatory, ignorant and divisive policies. Every effort was made in the United Arab Emirates to enhance the political engagement of citizens and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law. The world's first Ministry of Tolerance and Happiness had been established in the United Arab Emirates to strengthen social cohesion and ensure happiness and prosperity for all. The United Arab Emirates were party to numerous international human rights instruments, several conventions of the International Labour Organization to ensure decent work, and various agreements to prevent and suppress trafficking in persons. The world's parliamentarians must strive to enhance their oversight function, to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, empower the younger generation and foster tolerance the world over. Free and fair elections were crucial to affording every individual the opportunity to achieve social justice.

Mr. A.Y. DESAI (India) said that India was one of the few countries in the world that had an ancient, deep-rooted, diverse culture, dating back several thousand years. India's strong democratic heritage and its cultural and historical roots had contributed significantly to accountable governance. Threats to diversity should be seen as threats to the progress of humanity. India had one of the world's most diverse societies, from the perspectives of religion, language and culture; the framers of the Constitution had taken that into account in their efforts to create a unified, yet culturally diverse, nation State. Human rights and fundamental freedoms for all were enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Accommodation of all was the key principle that underpinned the constitutional principle of diversity. Equity was guaranteed through an integrated system of quotas in several sectors, and this system had promoted an inclusive society. Special constitutional provisions were in place to protect the rights of minorities and ensure social justice; institutions had been established, including a national human rights commission, and commissions for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, other backward classes, women and minorities, to protect the individual elements of India's pluralistic society and bring issues of concern to government and parliament. As the world's largest democracy with a population of some 1.2 billion people, India faced enormous challenges in protecting the identities of the people. Its multiparty system encouraged and reflected the diversity of its population. Parliament had enacted legislation to encourage public participation in governance and ensure that power remained in the hands of the people.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said he had been present in Cairo for the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy 20 years previously. While true democracy existed, weak, hypocritical democracies persisted. Those so-called democracies only afforded rights to their own people, and not to others. Palestine had been occupied by developed States that exploited Palestinian resources for its own wealth, yet claimed to be democracies. The rights of the people of Palestine had been violated, their territory exploited and their wealth pillaged. Those who had destroyed the world through the world wars, who owned nuclear weapons, and had invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, were now holding the United Nations Security Council hostage. Yet they claimed to be democratic.

While Israel claimed to be an oasis in the Middle East region, the reality was that it was the only State that systematically violated the fundamental rights of the people of Palestine by depriving them of their most basic rights, preventing them from living their daily life and waging war in Gaza. The adoption by Israel of a new regularization law, by which Israel retroactively legalized its colonies on Palestinian territory, constituted a crime against humanity. The United Nations Security Council had adopted a resolution on the Israeli settlements, which had been adopted by 14 votes in favour and one abstention: the United States of America. The new President of the United States was encouraging Israel. The situation of the Palestinian people must be thoroughly examined. The Palestinian people must not be ignored in the implementation of international law and resolutions.

Ms. H.E. MATEME (South Africa) said that South Africa's road to democracy had been marked by centuries of racial and economic discrimination and oppression, as well as an unyielding sacrifice and resistance by the oppressed. South Africa had become a society based on a foundation of freedom of democracy. Democracy could only be founded on the principle of equality and on the advancement of human rights and freedoms. To give substance to those rights and freedoms, the South African parliament had passed progressive legislation establishing independent institutions, such as the Public Protector, a national human rights commission and an electoral commission. Those institutions were impartial and exercised their powers and functions without fear, favour or prejudice.

All over the world, people risked their lives in pursuit of democracy to call for free elections, democratic accountability, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Those calls must be heeded. Challenges such as conflicts, leaders who manoeuvred to extend their stay in office, and unprecedented levels of corruption threatened to derail the efforts of the majority. It was not too late, however, to establish democracy as a government for the people by the people. To do so, leaders must respect their terms of office as enshrined in their respective constitutions. Powerful systems of accountability and transparency must be established. Parliaments, as the representatives of the people, must take active steps to connect with citizens through use of social media, petitions and public participation programmes. The idea of democratic diversity should also be strengthened; effective representation of society enhanced democracy, promoted social cohesion and could reduce conflict. The institution of the Ombudsman was particularly important,

and should represent the diversity of society. The participation of minorities in political life was essential for genuine democracy to be established. Lastly, elections must be held at regular intervals.

Mr. M. TOMMASOLI (International IDEA), underscoring the continued relevance of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, said that the themes selected to mark the International Day of Democracy over recent years gave an overview of the emerging issues of concern: inclusion, political participation, the engagement of youth in politics, space for civil society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Global trends were viewed as problematic, particularly when considering the dynamics of development, conflict, large-scale refugee flows, power shifts, issues of citizenship and State sovereignty. Difficulties in coping with those trends was causing growing disillusionment with political processes. Some analysts were talking about democratic regression. Evidence showed, however, that democracy indexes had been stable from 2000 to 2013. Concerns remained with regard to the challenge of democracy in delivering benefits. While Sustainable Development Goal 16 was particularly relevant to democracy, other goals were also democratic enablers; these included gender equality and the reduction of extreme inequalities. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda as a whole was therefore crucial. The Agenda had underscored the role of parliaments in ensuring accountability and monitoring progress on delivery. Consideration also needed to be given to democracies in states of fragility, particularly how to counter violent extremism, and how new technologies could affect the way citizens engaged in political processes.

Ms. V. PTASHNYK (Ukraine) said that the Universal Declaration on Democracy not only set out the fundamental main principles of democracy, but also pointed out its international dimension. The 20th anniversary of the Declaration was an opportune moment to take stock of the events that had taken place around the world since its adoption. Many conflicts persisted around the world, with violence erupting in the Middle East, North Africa and Ukraine. Such conflicts were the result of the absence of democracy. Three years after the Russian aggression against Ukraine had begun, it showed no signs of subsiding. The rights of Crimean citizens had been gravely abused. The situation of the Crimean Tatar population was particularly worrying. In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted resolution A/RES/71/205 on the *Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)*, in which it urged the Russian Federation to uphold its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying power, bring an immediate end to all abuses against residents of Crimea, immediately release Ukrainian citizens who were unlawfully detained and judged without regard for elementary standards of justice, and revoke immediately the decision declaring the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People an extremist organization and banning its activities, and repeal the decision banning leaders of the Mejlis from entering Crimea. The Russian Federation must uphold the principles of human rights and democracy, and implement the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and other democratic organizations.

Mr. SEE JUNG OH (Republic of Korea) said that not only did democracy pursue universal values such as global security, economic and social progress and respect for human rights, but also was the key to realizing freedom, equality and justice. Many countries around the world were currently facing a crisis of democracy, due to social and economic polarization and radical terrorism. In addition, with the emergence of the digital era, people had begun to require a new approach to political participation. Traditional representative democracy was showing warning signs of crisis with falling voter turnout, political apathy and broken trust. The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy was an opportune moment to reflect on the true meaning of democracy, and contemplate a vision for its future. The legitimacy and reliability of modern representative democracy must be restored. As long as parliaments conducted their legislative activities through free and balanced discussions, the accountability of parliaments could be improved and public distrust mitigated. In that regard, the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea had introduced three practices to promote a culture of deliberation: a legislative notification service had been set up to make information available on all bills tabled and their financial implications, and invite the public to comment; public legislative hearings were held, which afforded the public an opportunity to voice its opinions; and a mechanism had been established by which members of the National Assembly could convene meetings of the Committee of the Whole or other related committees to reflect on the different positions taken during the legislative process. Deliberative democracy was crucial to good governance as a complement to representative democracy, and encouraged communication and participation. People could exercise their political rights by delivering their opinions to the legislature through their participation in the law-making

process. The promotion of deliberative democracy could contribute to the rejuvenation of democracy around the world, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy.

Mr. F. MWIJUKYE (Uganda) said that the time had come to shift from talking to taking action. Threats to democracy were not simply a question of majorities oppressing minorities. In many situations, a small class was oppressing the majority. Women and youth were not the minority, yet they were oppressed. They must be empowered to negotiate, and their potential must be optimized. They should not only be included, but should also be empowered. The parliaments of the world, through the IPU, had a responsibility to ensure that the shift from words to action was realized, through empowerment.

Mr. K. OTHMAN (Jordan) said that the first key to democracy was the establishment of a political system for choosing and replacing governments through free and fair elections. An electoral law had recently been enacted in Jordan for the election of the current parliament, through which the representation of women and young people had been increased. The active participation of citizens in the legislative process was another crucial element of democracy. In that regard, new legislation on decentralization had been enacted, which empowered local communities to participate in governance, and gave a bottom-up structure to democratic processes. The third element of democracy was the protection of the human rights of all citizens, without discrimination. Lastly, democracy could not function without the rule of law. The King of Jordan had issued a pronouncement on democracy, which had stated that a civil State must be founded on the Constitution and legislation, which must apply to all citizens without discrimination. It must have a balance of powers, and must be founded on peace, tolerance and coexistence. The fundamental freedoms of all citizens must be respected, irrespective of their religious affiliation. All people must enjoy equal rights and freedoms, and the rights of women and minorities must be protected.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that a democratic transformation had taken place in Bahrain since 2001, when the population had been consulted on governance. Democracy had enabled a bicameral parliament to be established, with one of the chambers elected by the public to represent the diversity of the population. Freedom of expression and a free media were essential to democracy, when established in line with international standards and without prejudice to Islam, and without incitement to hatred. A national human rights institution had been established in Bahrain, along with a prison inspectorate, a council for the protection of public freedoms, civil councils and a committee for freedom of religion. With regard to women's empowerment, every effort was made to include women in all aspects of society. Economic development was fostered through a free economy, and by strengthening the private sector and ensuring public security, through access to employment, housing, health care and education for all, with full enjoyment of freedom of expression, and guaranteed separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. Respect for the sovereignty of the State was also essential, along with international cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations. Family was the cornerstone of Bahraini society. Social security was provided for all citizens, with a system of benefits for unemployment and an old-age pension. Bahrain was party to numerous international instruments and agreements that underpinned democracy and respect for the rights of citizens.

Mr. R. MWEWA (Zambia) said that Zambia's successful democratic transitions had been achieved through free and fair elections, and had never been the cause of bloodshed. Zambia's peace and security had an influence far beyond Zambian borders. The people of Zambia had come to understand that they must maintain and service their democracy. The younger generation were being educated on democracy, since they would be the leaders of the future. The school curriculum therefore included aspects on democratic principles. Parliament was open to the public to attend or to watch on television, in order to allow anyone who so wished to follow parliamentary processes. With regard to gender equality, quotas had been set, and a robust awareness-raising campaign had been conducted in rural areas to show women that they were capable of being involved in politics; the campaign had thus encouraged their participation. The international community must strive towards a democratic ideal in which each and every State should protect human rights and foster diversity to ensure real and sustainable democracy.

Ms. S. MUSYOKA (Kenya) said that democracy was a form of government in which supreme power was vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through freely elected leaders: government of the people, for the people, by the people. Kenya's Constitution, which had been adopted in 2010, set the foundations for democratic principles in Kenya, strengthening the

electoral system, including through the enactment of electoral laws, to ensure competitive, periodic, free and fair elections. Women's participation in politics and political leadership had improved significantly, despite resistance to the imposition of quotas. There was a distinct separation of powers between the three arms of government in Kenya, thus allowing each to perform its constitutional role. A system of multiparty politics had been established and citizens were guaranteed the freedom to participate in democratic processes. The Constitution provided a bill of rights that obliged the State to promote and protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens, including the right to privacy, freedom of association, labour relations, economic and social rights and the rights of arrested persons, among other provisions. The Constitution also endowed the national human rights commission with the mandate to promote and protect the rights of citizens, and the national gender equality commission with the responsibility of promoting equal rights for all genders. Efforts were made to address inequalities and promote equitable distribution of national resources, through empowerment programmes and the decentralization of financial and political powers. Kenya had an open and free media, which ensured accountability through a vibrant civil society, trade unions and workers' associations with the freedom to picket. Despite all of the progress made in Kenya, much remained to be done to guarantee successful democratic processes.

Mr. S.M. ZOLGHADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that democracy was a universally recognized ideal, based on common values shared by people the world over, irrespective of their cultural, political, social and economic differences. Parliaments had been created to bring about progress and development and to protect and promote human rights and democracy. Democracy was greatly valued in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and was enshrined in the Constitution. Free and fair general, parliamentary and local elections had been conducted regularly over the past 38 years; parliamentarians were elected directly by the people. Parliament was required to give a vote of confidence to presidentially-appointed ministerial candidates. Parliament had the authority to impeach the cabinet, ministers and the President if such a case arose, but the President did not have the power to dissolve parliament.

The Constitution also provided for the right of citizens to lodge legal complaints against the executive, judiciary and parliament. The Universal Declaration on Democracy affirmed the IPU's commitment to peace and development, through the strengthening of democratic institutions. In that regard, the international community should give greater consideration to the will and role of the people in maintaining international peace and security, particularly in the current sensitive climate. The deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the occupied Palestinian territories constituted significant threats to democracy caused by a flagrant disregard for the sovereignty of nations. Despite the plethora of international instruments addressing democracy, politics still prevailed. The Iranian parliament was committed to working constructively with the IPU and its Member Parliaments to consolidate democracy, peace and security around the world.

Mr. K.F. RASHID (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh was respectful to all countries and strove to ensure respect for human rights the world over. Democracy had been established in Bangladesh through a war in which many people had died. That war had given rise to the Bangladesh of today. The people of Bangladesh were mindful of the sacrifice of their compatriots and were respectful of their democracy, which was the main foundation for development. Efforts to build on that democracy would continue, through patience and strong decision making, which would in turn lead to economic development. All Bangladeshi citizens enjoyed their fundamental freedoms; although Bangladesh was an Islamic State, freedom of religion was guaranteed, as was freedom of expression. There was no discrimination in Bangladesh and gender parity was being established. Democracy was growing, and measures were in place to enable the public to express their opinions to the government whenever they so wished. His parliament was committed to seeking solutions to political instability, and expressed its commitment to the work of the IPU.

Mr. K. MASTHAN (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka had achieved a relatively high level of human development and significant poverty reduction over recent years. Undemocratic practices resulted in poverty and inequality, which could lead to violence. Religious freedom was an integral aspect of Sri Lankan society. The State had a crucial role to play in formulating inclusive economic development strategies, creating economic opportunities for all. Policy reforms and empowerment were crucial to progress. Marginalized segments of society must be integrated into the development process. Responsible, transparent and accountable governance, coupled with international cooperation, was the key to achieving the SDGs and lasting democracy.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (United Nations Development Programme - UNDP) said that current trends showed declining public confidence in democratic institutions, and in the processes and principles of good governance. There was also a growing sense among people of their exclusion from their systems of governance. Such dissatisfaction should be a cause for concern for everyone committed to good, inclusive governance. Political, social and economic exclusion could have severe implications for sustainable peace and achieving sustainable human development. According to the most recent United Nations Human Development Report, which had been published in March 2017, the global human development index had increased by almost 20 per cent on average, and by 45 per cent in least developed countries, reflecting advances in education, health and material standards of living. Beyond those averages, however, gains had not lifted everyone: a third of the world's population continued to live in situations of very low human development. The index showed that in almost every country, women and girls, rural populations, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees, LGBTI communities and the elderly were particularly disadvantaged.

The marginalized and excluded often had limited bargaining power and opportunities to influence the institutions and policies that determined significant outcomes for their lives. State-citizen relations for protecting and expanding the space for civic engagement, facilitating inclusive constitution-making and political dialogue, strengthening the election cycle, promoting women's political participation and strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of State institutions, were important entry points with catalytic opportunities under Sustainable Development Goal 16, to make democratic institutions more responsive to citizens' needs and expectations. UNDP remained committed to assisting parliaments around the world, along with partners such as the IPU, to support effective and inclusive governance and create sustainable peace.

Ms. B.F. GUZMAN GOMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that, in Bolivia, every effort was being made to strengthen democracy and increase transparency. Democracy could only be achieved through respect for the right of peoples to self-determination. Interference in the affairs of sovereign States by major political powers undermined democracy, and should not be allowed. The IPU should be able to sanction such interference, and adopt legal instruments to guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination, which was the only way to achieve true democracy. The global parliamentary community should seek to ensure the inclusion of all peoples, to build a global democracy based on mutual respect and the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms for all. She drew particular attention to the situation in Venezuela; people's rights must be respected at all times. The dialogue on self-determination must continue, as a means of ensuring democracy for all peoples.

Mr. T. FUKUI (Japan) said that the use of the term "post-truth" had become prominent since the United Kingdom's referendum to leave the European Union, and the United States election of President Trump. While the fact that the Internet had given people the opportunity to express their views freely in ways that complemented existing mass media was welcome, information of unknown authenticity was being circulated, which had lessened the impact of objective information. Social media had given rise to a tendency for people to surround themselves with information that was biased towards their own point of view, as well as leading to a proliferation of emotional responses. Greater attention must be paid to the effects of those trends in information when making decisions on matters of importance to individual nations or the international community. Public opinion polls were an important tool for gaining a quantitative understanding of opinions. There could be times, however, when political situations were controlled entirely by the results of opinion polls. Rather than focussing on poll figures alone, greater consideration must be given to the true nature of the problem at hand. In their current form, opinion polls did not give a deep understanding of people's hearts and minds. New, statistically and politically reliable, methods of polling public opinion should be considered. While it was generally agreed that political challenges should be overcome through democracy, those challenges did not have objective judgement criteria. Although populism might suggest clear answers to those challenges, when public opinion was divided by provocative language or biased opinions circulated on the Internet, there was a risk of undermining the very foundations of democracy. Parliamentarians must give greater consideration to the possible consequences of emotional choices and continue to hold debates with calm, mild, gentle judgement and overcome conflicts of interests.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) said that democracy, which had developed differently in different countries, was the most important way to run society. In the current climate, however, people felt that they could not trust the system, because they fell through the cracks, and those

who most needed the support of society often did not receive that support because of red tape and bureaucracy. There were few means for the general public to have an impact and influence decision-making between elections. People could be empowered, no matter how developed the democracies in which they lived, by discussing the kind of society they wished to live in and how they wanted their needs and aspirations reflected in law. Loss of public confidence in democracy paved the way for totalitarianism and sectarianism; with that in mind, democracy around the world was currently in danger. The IPU provided a unique forum for representatives of parliaments from a large number of countries, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet, to share their experiences and know-how. It was important to optimize that opportunity. Parliamentarians were the guardians of democracy; their power came from the people.

The PRESIDENT said that while democracy was rooted in participation and inclusivity, parliamentarians were often not bold enough in their message. In most countries, LGBTI people were being left behind or oppressed. Marginalization was contrary to the very nature of democracy, which required the participation of the whole of society.

Ms. S. DEV (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the discussion had shown all participants present to be committed to democracy. The only voices of concern had expressed a fear that democracy could be undermined. There had been general agreement that democracy needed to be continually strengthened and that challenges persisted. Checks and balances, such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press and the separation of powers, were essential to ensure that democracy was a reality, rather than just an ideal that remained "on paper". True democracy could not be guaranteed unless everyone in society was protected, especially the underprivileged, marginalized and minorities, through affirmative action. The rule of law was a fundamental pillar of democracy, which ensured accountability and transparency. Exclusion, however, could lead to breaches of the peace. It was therefore particularly important to note that despite the overall increase in the human development index, those gains had not been distributed equitably. Despite the considerable global efforts to strengthen democracy, much remained to be done to guarantee predictable election processes, and ensure respect for all democracies. Every right came with a responsibility. She had been particularly interested by the comments from the representative of Japan with regard to opinion polls.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, said that democracy required that the will of the people be heard. He encouraged all participants to gather their recommendations and comments for submission to the co-rapporteurs, who would endeavour to take all feedback into account in the draft resolution that would be considered by the Standing Committee at its next session in St. Petersburg.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands), *co-Rapporteur*, said he welcomed the rich debate, which had illustrated the diversity in models of democracy the world over. Despite the many forms of democracy, the discussion had shown that there was general agreement on the fundamental elements of democracy, and that the road to democracy was complex and required continued commitment. He agreed that while modern technology could be useful in engaging people in politics, a proliferation of unrestricted emotional opinions could hamper the democratic process. He welcomed the example of the establishment of the Ministry of Tolerance and Happiness in the United Arab Emirates, which could serve as an example for all. A tolerant and socially cohesive society would be a happy society.

The PRESIDENT recalled that members of the Standing Committee that wished to do so could send their suggestions on the draft resolution in writing by 30 April 2017. She invited all parliamentarians present to consider how their parliaments could mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY 4 APRIL

(Morning)

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

Debate: Act now for adolescents: The role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well-being

The PRESIDENT, noting that in 2012 the Assembly had adopted a resolution on access to health, with a focus on women and children, said that the resolution had not addressed the specific issues that affected adolescents. The present debate was a key opportunity to identify issues and actions that members of parliament could take to address them. She introduced the Moderator, Ms. Helga Fogstad, Executive Director of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH).

Ms. H. FOGSTAD, *Moderator*, said that adolescents and young people made up 25 per cent of the global population, and that more than one million adolescents died each year from preventable causes. Although the MDGs had fallen short in terms of attention to adolescent health issues, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other development strategies had recognized the importance of the issue. While the IPU resolution had been an excellent step, the text had not expressly included adolescent health issues. She encouraged speakers to focus on the following areas in their interventions: the main health issues affecting adolescents and actions parliamentarians could take to promote health during adolescence; what good parliamentary practices existed; how could parliamentarians ensure international and national accountability for adolescent health and well-being and support a comprehensive response, in areas such as education, social protection and nutrition; and, how parliamentarians could use the SDGs to make progress on the subject. She introduced the panellists: Dr. Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, World Health Organization (WHO); Mr. Célestin Sebuoro, Senator of Rwanda; Ms. Maliha Fairouz, Restless Development Nepal; and Ms. Saima Khan, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Bangladesh.

Dr. V. CHANDRA-MOULI, World Health Organization (WHO), *panellist*, said that a key focus of his Organization's work was providing evidence to inform the work of decision makers and working with stakeholders to ensure that the evidence produced led to action. The MDGs had led to transformative change in a number of areas, such as childhood mortality and primary school enrolment. Nevertheless, challenges remained in those areas. Moreover, children born in 2000 would now be 17 and should be preparing to transition from adolescence to adulthood in good health, with good education and the prospect of employment to enable them to be productive members of society, the community and their families. Although that was true for many adolescents, it wasn't for all, and the MDGs had failed to address those issues. Hundreds of millions of adolescents continued to develop unhealthy habits that would kill them in future. The main causes of death for 15–19 years olds included road traffic accidents; pregnancy-related issues, such as unsafe abortions and complications during pregnancy and childbirth; and suicide. In terms of injuries and illnesses, interpersonal violence was a key cause among boys, while anaemia, undernutrition and depression were prominent causes among girls, all of which prevented young people from reaching their full potential. Turning to behaviours and attitudes or cultural norms, he explained that in Latin America, up to 25 per cent of adolescents started using tobacco products. Moreover, in a number of countries, by the age of 15, many girls and boys thought that it was acceptable for husbands to beat their wives. Adolescent girls were just as likely as older women to justify wife-beating, an indication that attitudes are slow to change. Lack of access to secondary education and poor employment opportunities continued to be commonplace, with the latter affecting all countries, not just developing economies. Poor employment prospects often gave rise to young people that were frustrated and alienated, who often looked for solutions in violence.

Adolescents were being failed in many areas; a key example of such failure was in regard to menstruation. Girls needed to: know about their bodies, have access to sanitary materials, soap and water; receive care and support at home, school and work; have somewhere to turn if they needed help; and most of all, grow up in a society that viewed menstruation as normal and healthy. Many girls only learned about menstruation when their periods first started, and in some cultures menstruating girls were excluded from religious ceremonies and were prevented from going to

school and taking care of themselves during their periods, which was unacceptable. Many girls resorted to using dry leaves or old newspapers as sanitary products and were not cared for when they were ill during that time. Why was there no outrage about that? Limited attention had been paid to issues affecting adolescents, principally because of discomfort; there was a reluctance to discuss matters such as menstruation, premarital sexual activity and healthy sexuality. In many cases, adolescents did not get information from their family or school, but were able to go online and access hard-core pornography, meaning that they obtained information from questionable sources. Currently, there was insufficient funding and capacity to fully address those issues. Although countries had a key role to play in that regard, the United Nations also needed to take action; the revision of the Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health to include adolescents in the title had been a key step in that respect. In terms of what parliamentarians could do to take action on adolescents' health, he drew attention to the efforts by the United Kingdom to reduce its teenage pregnancy rate by addressing the issue within the context of social exclusion. Halfway through that project, limited progress had been made, and there had been calls to end it early. Nevertheless, Parliament had decided to stay the course, with members of parliament being assigned to monitor poor performing areas. As a result, the teenage pregnancy rate had been reduced by half.

Ms. M. FAIROOZ, Restless Development Nepal, *panellist*, stressed the importance of representation when addressing adolescent health issues. Pregnancy and childbirth ranked among the leading causes of death among adolescent girls, and when a woman had a baby before the age of 20, there was a 50 per cent chance that the child would die in the first few weeks of life. In developing countries, one in three girls were married before they were 18, and one in nine were married before they were 15; at those ages, girls were not emotionally or physically ready to be wives and mothers, and pregnancy and childbirth were the second largest cause of death in girls aged between 15 and 19. There was evidence that girls that received secondary education were six times less likely to marry young. Girls that were married young were usually forced to leave school early and were unable to contribute to the GDP of their country or their household economy; their emotional and social lives were also stunted. Toxic masculinity and gender roles meant that interpersonal violence was a key cause of mortality among boys in all regions. More should be done to address that problem.

Restless Development was working with the Nepalese Government to develop a strategy to improve education for adolescents in areas such as sexual and reproductive health, using the so-called "Restless Model", which had three main elements: deliver, inform and influence. The delivery component of the strategy needed to be youth-centred, youth-led and youth-friendly, thereby putting young people at the heart of responses to issues that affected them. In terms of information, data collection and information sharing was needed through education by youth for youth. Lastly, it was important for young people to make their voices heard and to influence decisions that affected them. For that model to work, increased investment in young people was needed, and she therefore encouraged Member Parliaments to invest in young people both in their own countries and through development aid.

Mr. C. SEBUHORO (Rwanda), *panellist*, noting that adolescence was a period of instability, said that his country had a peer education programme in place through schools and other youth structures. His country also included sexual and reproductive health in the curriculum and had developed community hubs for information. Within Parliament, there was a network of advocates of reproductive health and family planning, which held consultative meetings in universities, secondary schools, health centres and hospitals to analyse requirements. The findings were then discussed in plenary session in Parliament and recommendations submitted for actions by the Government. Sexual and reproductive health was often considered a taboo subject, but action was vital. Parliaments should ensure that their governments include budgetary provisions for sexual and reproductive health and that the issue was included in school curricula.

Ms. S. KHAN, UNAIDS, *panellist*, highlighting the numbers of people who were gay, transgender and injecting drug users in Bangladesh, observed that discussion of those groups in the context of HIV prevention and risky behaviours might bring people out of their comfort zones. Nevertheless, it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to protect them. Adolescents and young people made up one fifth to one third of those groups and the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS was higher among young people that came of age in a challenging environment. Globally, in 2015, 390,000 young people contracted HIV, while the target for 2020 was 100,000; while progress was being made, more remained to be done. Bangladesh had started interventions to prevent HIV during the 1990s, and significant progress had been made in that respect. However, it was vital to

avoid complacency. Bangladesh had yet to adopt the guidelines on diagnosis and control, and adherence to treatment regimes was poor. Adolescence was a transition phase and more needed to be done to address the stigmatization experienced by young people affected by HIV, particularly when they tried to access health services. Parliamentarians had a key advocacy role to play in that regard, by ensuring overall health outcomes for all, thus enabling young people to access sexual and reproductive health services and to receive proper sex education in schools to help them to make good decisions; young people tended to turn to their friends for advice rather than to parents or teachers. Support for programmes and legislation in relevant areas, including the economic empowerment of women and education for girls, was key.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that his country had established a committee that included doctors, psychologists and teachers in order to raise awareness of adolescent health issues through, among other things, the publication of materials for schools and society as a whole. The Gulf Cooperation Council had also held Youth Forums to research and discuss issues affecting young people and find solutions.

The representative of PALESTINE observed that adolescence was a critical phase for physical, cognitive and social development, all of which were crucial for well-being. In Palestine, the current generation of young people had been born under occupation and had suffered in a number of ways, including losing members of their families, not being able to move freely, and being forced by military forces to move out of their homes. He urged parliamentarians to take action to free his country from occupation.

The representative of VIET NAM said that her country had a number of laws related to the welfare and health of children. It was the responsibility of parliaments to maximize their role as lawmakers to develop and amend legislation to protect the rights of adolescents and ensure that adequate financial resources were allocated to those areas. Raising public awareness of the benefits of health practices was also vital. Action was needed now.

The representative of SWEDEN underscored the importance of including women in the development of health policies, and expressed support for increased cooperation between the IPU and UN Women. More investment was needed in reproductive health issues and the provision of related information; in Sweden for example, the matter was included in the school curriculum. Access to sanitation was particularly important for girls and society as a whole needed to invest in clean water.

The representative of INDIA noted that adolescence was a transitional life phase characterized by physical, emotional, cognitive and attitude changes where adolescents were susceptible to preventable health problems such as early pregnancy, nutritional disorders and substance abuse. It was therefore essential that all relevant stakeholders took action to address the challenges faced by adolescents. India was focusing on raising awareness, improving access to information, and providing specific services, such as access to sanitary products. It had also introduced a programme to improve the health and nutrition of adolescent girls that did not attend school, as well as initiatives to empower young people and help them to achieve their goals through the provision of accurate and age appropriate information.

The representative of BELGIUM said that addressing early pregnancy should be a key priority; contraception was a vital tool in that respect. Forced marriage and early marriage and female genital mutilation were other key areas that needed to be addressed, together with adolescent suicide, repression of people of different sexual orientation, and child labour. The latter issue had not yet been mentioned during the debate, but was significant as being forced to work during childhood, a time of significant physical growth, could have an impact on health in later life.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that poverty would never be eradicated if there continued to be situations where: girls were required to walk miles to fetch water rather than being able to go to school; women were not permitted to own property or women and girls were unable to express opinions on issues that affected them. South Africa had introduced a number of strategies to eliminate poverty and change the lives of adolescents. Those strategies included free health care for all, including access to antiretroviral drugs; free education; a national school nutrition programme; progressive programmes on gender-based violence, including a sexual offences courts, and 24-hour call centre for victims; and Thuthuzela Care Centres.

The representative of FINLAND opined that the age at which people could run for election should be 18; in many countries it was currently 30. In terms of the situation of adolescents, it was crucial to address welfare gaps in society and ensure quality health care for all. Moreover, high quality education played a crucial role in the development of a country, and it was essential to have equal opportunities for all. Particular attention should be paid to groups, such as adolescents; although services were expensive to provide, countries could start at the level they could afford and improve on them at a later date. He asked what relatively wealthy countries could do to address those issues.

The representative of BANGLADESH expressed concern that although there were more than a 100 million children living in abject poverty, with no access to clean water or schooling, some countries continued to spend billions of dollars on developing, manufacturing and deploying nuclear weapons. He asked what his country could do to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Bangladesh had achieved eight of the MDGs and had been recognized for its progress in reducing maternal and child mortality. In terms of the SDGs, it was developing a plan to achieve the targets.

Dr. V. CHANDRA-MOULI, WHO, *panellist*, acknowledging the importance of improving access to education and employment and ensuring peace and security for the well-being of adolescents, agreed that incorporating a gender perspective into all approaches was vital. Creating opportunities for girls was essential, such as bursaries to keep girls in schools, as Bangladesh had introduced, or the creation of employment opportunities for girls in certain sectors, such as in call centres in India or the garment factory industry in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, efforts to create opportunities for girls must go hand in hand with actions to ensure the safety of girls in all areas, including at home, in the workplace and on public transport. Responding to the question from the representative of Finland, he said that developed countries should continue with and build on existing programmes. Gender-based violence, for example, was as prevalent in developed countries as it was in the developing world. Turning to the question from the representative of Bangladesh, he agreed that the country had been celebrated for its achievements in terms of the maternal and child mortality and education for girls; nevertheless, it was important to recognize that meeting the needs of adolescents had not been the primary focus of efforts in that regard. Adolescents needed information about issues that affected their lives, and to be engaged. For example, programmes to address child marriage and to respond to the needs of child brides should be expanded to include areas such as access to contraception for married adolescents.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that given the complexity of adolescent health issues, a medico-psycho-social approach was needed. Parliamentary action, through oversight and the development of legislation, was also crucial. There were a number of parliamentary committees in his country, including one on health and medicine, which examined health policies, consulted with the Ministry of Health and was able to propose amendments to relevant bills. Moreover, updated information on the needs of and challenges faced by young people was needed to support policy development.

The representative of MOROCCO, acknowledging the importance of investment in young people, said that the Internet era presented a number of challenges for adolescents, including false information, cyber-bullying and cyber crimes. Parliaments should develop indicators and enact legislation to respond to the changing situation and protect adolescents from Internet-based crime. Morocco had a quota system in place for parliamentary participation and had seen an increase in the number of young parliamentarians. It also had a children's parliament, which helped children to become familiar with how parliamentary worked and discuss issues that affected them with members of parliament.

The representative of KENYA said that in her country many adolescents lived in abject poverty and/or remote areas, and that cases of adolescent pregnancy, rape, violence against adolescents, female genital mutilation and early marriage were on the rise. To address the issue, Kenya had introduced youth counselling facilities in health centres and provided free primary education and subsidized secondary education. However, more should be done to prolong school enrolment, reduce early marriage, and eliminate barriers to girls' school attendance, such as the lack of access to sanitary pads.

The representative of ITALY suggested that the concept of agency should be applied to adolescents as it was relevant for individual well-being, self-esteem and quality of life. Improving the health of adolescents through access to all health services, including sexual and reproductive

health services, was essential and was a key challenge for Italy. The promotion of agency would also encourage adolescents to be involved in transforming social norms and promoting the well-being of communities. She had been on a field visit the previous day which had included a club for adolescents, where young people were able to meet and discuss their problems. The club helped young people to become more aware of themselves, their rights and harmful traditional norms. It had been interesting to see how well informed the children had been on issues such as child marriage. She also highlighted the plight of young people living in refugee camps; many of those living in such camps would spend more than 15 years living there, meaning that many children spent their adolescence in a refugee camp.

The representative of UGANDA said that although his country had universal primary education, education-related challenges remained. For example, girls' attendance was affected by the lack of availability of sanitary products, and early marriage, gender-based violence and pregnancy complications remained commonplace. Members of parliament needed to take action in that regard, for example by allocating funding to the provision of free sanitary products for girls.

The representative of CUBA explained that her country had a special committee on equal rights for children and adolescents and that schools had a duty to take into account the special characteristics of young people. Moreover, all school curricula and education programmes included elements on sexual and reproductive health, and the minimum ages for voting and running for election were 16 and 18, respectively. Cuba had also been the first country to be certified by the Pan-American Health Organization for the reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The representative of KUWAIT said that in his country, education was free until the end of university and that girls and boys were taught separately up to secondary level. Girls were able to leave school after completing secondary school. As a result, Kuwait was not faced with the issue of adolescent pregnancy, and academic performance tended to be better as students were not distracted.

The representative of BURUNDI, noting that adolescence was a vulnerable period of life, said that his country was aiming to extend its free education system beyond the primary level and to include sexual and reproductive health education for both sexes. Moreover, pieces of legislation were being developed to protect young people and address gender-based violence. Parliament was also considering the issue of unwanted pregnancy and early marriage, and an awareness-raising campaign had recently been launched, targeting adolescent girls in schools. Moreover, more should be done to raise awareness about child labour, and he encouraged all countries to ratify International Labour Organization convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour.

Burundi had established a youth forum to facilitate engagement with young people and enable them to make proposals.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that adolescent pregnancy and early marriage were common in his country. To address the problem, legislation had been enacted to move the country closer to universal health coverage, including services to address all adolescent health needs, using both eHealth and mHealth platforms. Taxation on import of sanitary products had been eliminated and peer support networks had been established in schools. Health professionals also received specialist training on adolescent health issues and children were encouraged to speak out on child abuse. It was important to ensure the availability of comprehensive sex education and to increase efforts on youth empowerment, child protection and gender-based violence. Measures to eliminate harmful cultural practices and encourage the safe use of alcohol were also needed. Another issue that should be addressed was climate change, which contributed to food insecurity. Many African countries were forced to spend a large proportion of their budgets on feeding their citizens, thereby limiting the resources available to spend on adolescents. The economic sanctions imposed on his country further compounded that issue and he on other parliamentarians to help end the sanctions.

The representative of BOTSWANA stated that the world was changing rapidly, particularly with the advent of the digital era; her country had been slow to respond in that regard. Countries should not rely on existing legislation and projects to respond to emerging needs, but should assess and reform them as necessary to ensure that all needs were being met. In Botswana, for example, more needed to be done to enable schools and law enforcement agencies to work together to address sexually predatory behaviour and thereby help to reduce teenage pregnancy rates; a motion had recently been tabled in Parliament in that regard. Development partners should work with parliaments to ensure that activities were targeted in the right areas.

The representative of ETHIOPIA, noting the need for policies and strategies to support the high proportion of Ethiopia's population that was under the age of 30, said that the country was working to address the health needs of adolescents through a preventive health policy. As part of the policy, there were health workers in every village that promoted the eradication of harmful cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriage. Awareness-raising activities by civil society and the Government were also vital in that regard.

The representative of SUDAN explained that her country had undertaken a 10-year campaign to stop female genital mutilation, through a number of activities, such as legislation; the establishment of counselling centres, particularly in regions affected by conflict; the provision of free health care for mothers and under-five; and amendment of existing legislation to establish 18 as the minimum age for marriage. Fifteen per cent of parliamentarians were young people and many had important portfolios, thus bringing a youth perspective to all issues.

The representative of ZAMBIA said that his country had developed policies, legislation and monitoring and evaluation frameworks that took into account the needs of adolescents in collaboration with all stakeholders, including members of parliament. For example, child abuse had been criminalized and steps had been taken to provide sanitary products to girls in rural and peri-urban areas. Parliaments had a key role to play through the allocation of budgetary resources, although he recognized that the process varied from country to country, and even within countries.

The representative of THAILAND explained that her country had endeavoured to strengthen basic health infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. The Thai Parliament had also enacted and improved legislation on issues that affected adolescents, such as the marketing of food to children, prevention of adolescent pregnancy, and tobacco use. A key aim of the bill on tobacco control, for example, was to limit young peoples' access to cigarettes and other tobacco products. She encouraged all parliamentarians to make a concerted effort to closely monitor implementation of national, regional and international health-care instruments.

The representative of SRI LANKA, highlighting the relevant international conventions to which her country was a party, explained that the Sri Lankan Parliament had established 16 oversight committees, which were able to undertake investigations where necessary, to ensure accountability. As adolescents were neither adults nor children, their needs were easily overlooked in the development of policies. Parliaments should take action on issues affecting adolescents, such as access to health care, the marketing of unhealthy food and child marriage, taking specific account of their needs.

The representative of JORDAN said that in her country, pressures caused by migration had a significant impact on adolescent health and education. Recent studies had shown that many migrant children were involved in the workforce, which was a significant source of revenue for their families. Moreover, children were vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist groups. Jordan had adopted legislation to address those issues and she encouraged other countries to do the same.

The representative of EQUATORIAL GUINEA said that, in his country, at the primary and secondary levels, there were more girls enrolled than boys, however, more boys attended university. The main reason for that anomaly was early pregnancy; a bill had recently been introduced that would prevent pregnant young girls from attending schools, but fortunately the bill had been blocked.

The representative of NAMIBIA, stressing the importance of working with those affected by issues, said that her country was developing a plan on access to contraception; it was important to identify how or whether adolescents used contraception and from where they obtained it, and then to develop a bottom-up, multisectoral approach ensuring safe access to good quality contraceptives. Namibia had a number of programmes in place in schools and teen clubs.

The representative of the PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA, outlining her country's plans to improve the number of hospitals and the level of specialized care, stressed that it was the duty of the State to ensure access to education and health care. Her country had a law on youth issues, which aimed to help young people to achieve physical, moral, cultural, economic and health development on the basis of equality, interculturalism, and justice. Integration, not the building of walls, was also vital.

Mr. C. SEBUHORO (Rwanda), *panellist*, stressed that parliaments had a key role to play by ensuring that government commitments were translated into action.

Ms. M. FAIROOZ, Restless Development Nepal, *panellist*, highlighted the importance of youth-led accountability; Restless Development had developed a successful approach in that regard, which helped to equip young people with the skills needed to, among other things, analyse data and hold governments accountable. Investment in youth was vital in that respect. Young people should have a clear leadership role in monitoring and accountability for the SDGs. All policies related to adolescents must be inclusive, participatory, and people-centred, and include all genders and sexualities. Accountability activities should address trends in progress at the regional and international level and it was important to share experiences in that regard.

Ms. S. KHAN, UNAIDS, *panellist*, underscored the need for integrity, implementation, innovation, investment and involvement.

Dr. V. CHANDRA-MOULI, WHO, *panellist*, encouraged participants to take steps to ensure that the laws, programmes and policies that they had described actually reached those in need. Responding to comments made during the discussion, he said that young pregnant girls should be kept in school for as long as possible. Segregation in schools was a choice countries could make, but it was not recommended by WHO. However, it should be noted that ultimately, men and women needed to learn to co-exist in society. Girls need to be protected from sexually predatory behaviour, but segregation was not the answer. In terms of access to contraception, it was important to find out who was and who was not able to obtain contraception, and why.

The PRESIDENT encouraged all Member Parliaments to celebrate the International Day of Democracy, 15 September.

The sitting rose at 12.35 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 4 APRIL

(Morning)

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

Adoption of the agenda (C-IV/136/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 135th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2016)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT announced that three nominations had been made to fill the vacancies on the Bureau of the Standing Committee. The nominees were Mr. A. Toumi (Morocco), Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) and Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina). In the absence of any comments or objections he would take it that the Standing Committee wished to approve those nominations.

It was so decided.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) thanked the Standing Committee for having elected him to the Bureau, and said that he wished to assure all Members of his Parliament's full commitment to ensuring that the decisions of the Standing Committee were implemented.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *President of the IPU*, said that the new partnership agreement concluded between the United Nations and the IPU in July 2016 had elevated the relationship between the two organizations to a strategic level, broadening and deepening their cooperation. The newly defined relationship also opened the way for parliaments to access United Nations resources at the national level. Parliaments were encouraged to optimize their use of that agreement. Further to that agreement, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted resolution 70/298 on Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The inclusion of national parliaments in that resolution was particularly significant; the IPU's work at the international level could not compare with the work done on the ground in countries by national parliaments. The resolution had been supported by some 100 co-sponsors, and had been adopted unanimously. It was hoped that the United Nations Secretary-General's next report to General Assembly in 2018, on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU, will reflect on this enhanced relationship. IPU Member Parliaments are encouraged to contribute by sharing their experiences of cooperation with the United Nations at the country level.

Parliaments should consider their role in government reporting on obligations under international treaties. The IPU was looking forward to working with Secretary-General Guterres, who was a former parliamentarian, to build on the work done on cooperation with parliaments by former Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, who had been a strong advocate of parliamentary involvement in the work of the United Nations. The distinction between global and national agendas was blurring; international agreements must be owned and actionable at the national level. That was particularly the case for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

The PRESIDENT said that the cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations was increasingly important, since parliamentarians provided a link to the people.

Parliamentary follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in preparation for the 2017 session of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development

The PRESIDENT recalled that during its meeting at the 134th IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee had decided to dedicate each spring session to facilitating the engagement of parliaments in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda aimed to eradicate poverty and set the world on course for sustainable development. It sent a clear message that in a world of plenty, and with the knowledge and technologies available, there was no reason why a solution to those problems could not be found. Political will was the key; parliaments had a crucial role to play in that regard. The 2030 Agenda recognized that parliaments must help forge consensus around the policy solutions that would work for all people, leaving no one behind. Parliaments had the power to hold their governments to account to implement the Agenda and attain the SDGs, to tailor their efforts to country-specific conditions, and to legislate and adopt budgets for effective implementation.

Ms. P. TORSNEY, *Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations*, said that the IPU had held a series of regional seminars on various aspects of the SDGs, throughout 2016. Further seminars were planned in 2017. Any parliaments that wished to participate could find details of those seminars on the IPU website, listed under "future meetings". The IPU had worked not only to ensure that a parliamentary perspective had been included in the SDGs, but also to develop practical tools for national parliaments to assist them in their contributions to the attainment of the Goals. The *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals – A self-assessment toolkit*, provided a framework for national parliaments to evaluate their readiness to engage with the Goals. It was available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish on the IPU website. The IPU Secretariat would be interested to receive feedback from Member Parliaments with regard to their experience of the assessment.

Mr. A. MOTTER, *Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU*, said that national ownership would be key to the success of the SDGs; parliaments must believe in the Goals if they are to generate the political will required, across party lines, to achieve those Goals. The IPU had therefore drafted a model parliamentary resolution, which could be used to launch debates in parliament, and which outlined some of the key steps that national parliaments could take to implement the 2030 Agenda and attain the Goals.

The model resolution was broad in scope, enabling it to be adaptable to the national circumstances of each parliament. It underscored commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the importance of national plans for the SDGs, and the role of parliaments in shaping those plans and overseeing their implementation. It committed parliament to ensure that all acts of legislation and budgeting were aligned with national plans for the SDGs, and to review the parliamentary committee system and parliamentary processes to ensure that the 2030 Agenda was taken into account. The 2030 Agenda was cross-cutting, and parliaments therefore faced the challenge of overcoming the silos approach and enabling parliamentary committees to work in unison so as to advance the integrated agenda. Some parliaments – Mali, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia – had already taken measures to use the model in drafting their own national parliamentary resolutions. It was hoped that other IPU Member Parliaments would follow suit, and report back to the Secretariat on their experiences.

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was the global hub where progress towards the attainment of the SDGs would be reviewed each year. Alongside the discussions of the Forum, States would be invited to present their own national voluntary reviews. Those reviews were intended to be conducted through an inclusive consultative process, which would take place from January to June; the reviews would enable the government to undertake consultations on assessing not only the measures taken to advance towards the attainment of the SDGs but also successes and failures, and to present the results to the High-level Forum. The United Nations and the IPU had sent a survey to the speakers of parliament in the 44 countries due to present voluntary reviews in 2017 to seek an understanding of the extent to which parliament had been involved in the assessment process, and to encourage speakers of parliament who had not been invited to participate in the assessment to request to do so. The Secretariat hoped to receive the completed questionnaires by June at the latest, in order to get a full picture on how many parliaments had been involved in the reporting process. The Secretariat would thus be able to report back to the United Nations during the High-level Forum.

Ms. P. TORSNEY, *Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations*, added that the model resolution could also be used as a basis for a parliamentary members' statement, and for a discussion with constituents. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs constituted an opportunity to engage with civil society, opposition, and government members, across party lines, on the issues that were important to the people that parliament represented, and should thus be used as a tool for dialogue.

Panel discussion

The PRESIDENT introduced the four panellists: Mr. S. Mukerjee, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh; Mr. F. Rabbi, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh; and Ms. J. Luveni, Speaker of Parliament, Fiji.

Mr. S. MUKERJEE, *panellist*, said that Bangladesh had made great strides towards the attainment of the MDGs, which had been noted by observers as an unexpected achievement. The Government had received several development awards, which had boosted aspirations with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNDP was working closely with the Government of Bangladesh to prepare the way. A lead agency within the Government had been designated to take responsibility for planning, and a senior government official in the Prime Minister's Office had been appointed as the coordinator for 2030 Agenda implementation.

Three successive national five-year development plans had been aligned with the 2030 Agenda implementation period, from 2015 to 2030. Those three plans combined would form the national action plan for the attainment of the SDGs. A mapping exercise had been undertaken, jointly with Parliament, to designate lead agencies and support agencies for each aspect of each of the Goals. An analysis of the data gap had been conducted, and a detailed costing of the Goals had been undertaken. Under the "Digital Bangladesh Campaign", a smartphone application was being developed, which would allow progress towards meeting the Goals to be tracked by anyone, at any time, from anywhere in the world. Preparations were also under way for the annual voluntary review, which would be presented to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017. In order to assess progress, the MDG terminal report data was being used as a baseline where possible. A mid-term review of the first five-year development plan was forthcoming, which would provide an opportunity to further strengthen alignment with the SDGs.

The most significant challenges for Bangladesh were lack of financial resources, as well as capacity and systemic constraints, in particular human resource planning. Government processes would need to be strengthened to ensure a whole-of-government approach. Bangladesh was moving towards green development, which was a considerable challenge in a country that was developing so rapidly; the use of technology would have a significant impact in that regard. Considerable investments were being made in data collection; with the support of UNDP, a climate change cell had been established in the national statistics office. The cell was the first of its kind in a resource-poor setting.

The United Nations was supporting the Government of Bangladesh in its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda through a United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which had been drawn up with the involvement of all resident United Nations entities. Dialogues had been established to encourage a whole-of-society approach. The United Nations had three working groups focused on the 2030 Agenda, as well as on data, monitoring and evaluation and the three primary outcomes: people, planet and prosperity. UNDP had prepared toolkits to help countries, including Bangladesh, accelerate their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to UNDP support for the Parliament of Bangladesh, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns were ongoing. Budget analysis capacity, and capacity for research were being enhanced. United Nations agencies were also contributing to drafting legislation and supporting Parliament in the analysis of its enactment, as well as working on the ground with members of parliament in their constituencies. Work was under way with the national statistics office to produce data sheets that not only provided baseline data per constituency, but also enabled members of parliament to monitor progress and decide on implementation strategies in their respective constituencies, which might promote a sense of healthy competition. Steps were being taken to localize the SDGs, which would help members of parliament understand the status of the various indicators in their constituencies.

The Goals were mutually reinforcing and cross-cutting, and convergence between them was seen most clearly at the local level. Parliamentarians were the best placed to look at the entire picture and have an overview of the situation, ensuring that all development schemes converged

and that results and impacts were maximized. Parliament must also ensure that budgets were provided in the most judicious manner, and that they were executed in a timely and efficient manner. He urged all parliamentarians present to leave no one behind.

Mr. F. RABBI, *panellist*, said that Bangladesh had made great progress towards meeting the MDGs. Plans had been made to redress inequality, and to prioritize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The previous year, a regional meeting for speakers of parliament had been held in Dhaka, in cooperation with the IPU, to discuss the SDGs. The Parliament of Bangladesh expected to adopt a resolution on the 2030 Agenda at its forthcoming session. A comprehensive approach was being adopted in regard to meeting the targets of the 2030 Agenda, through concerted action by government, parliament, civil society and the private sector, with a view to building a better world for future generations. An interministerial committee for the Sustainable Development Goals had been established, as had a citizens' platform for the coordination of civil society. Bangladesh was thus expected to play a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Annual performance agreements had been reached, under which progress would be monitored, with more than 200 government officials trained in that regard. Considerable progress had been made to redress inequalities by increasing access to education at all levels, in particular for women and girls. All citizens were equal before the law, and efforts were being made to empower persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups, with the understanding that reducing inequalities was the key to increasing the well-being of the population as a whole. Social welfare packages had been introduced with a view to reducing poverty among the most marginalized, including veteran freedom fighters.

Parliament had held discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and parliamentary standing committees were overseeing the work done by the executive towards meeting the SDGs. At the constituency level, information communication technologies were being used to access rural and hard-to-reach communities and to allow them to participate in and contribute to Agenda 2030 implementation through e-dialogue, e-participation, and e-consultation, thus underpinning public ownership of the development process.

Ms. J. LUVENI, *panellist*, said that the IPU had continuously encouraged and motivated the Parliament of Fiji to build a strong relationship with the executive, in particular with regard to the SDGs, and to enhance cooperation with international partners, in particular UNDP. Fiji had a very limited economy and few resources. A UNDP-supported project was under way, funded by the governments of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, as well as the European Union, which had provided assistance for the development of a programme, through which parliament could raise public awareness of the SDGs and enhance the capacity of parliamentarians to consider legislation through the lens of the 2030 Agenda. A needs assessment mission had been conducted with IPU assistance, to assess progress, which had underscored the importance of raising public awareness.

Speakers' debates were held to allow the public to engage with parliamentarians and partners to discuss the progress made in achieving the SDGs. The first of those debates was held as a means of gauging public interest in 2030 Agenda implementation, and had proven very popular. Such debates had therefore become a regular event. A theme was selected from among the SDGs, and panels were established comprising the relevant minister, shadow minister and representatives from academia, civil society, nongovernmental organizations and faith-based organizations. The panellists made presentations, which were followed by a 90-minute question and answer session. Some of the themes selected thus far had included protecting Fiji's fishing industry to ensure long-term sustainability; whether the Paris Agreement was a good deal for Fiji; the extent to which Fiji was making progress in tackling violence against women and girls; whether Fiji's education system was effectively contributing to the country's sustainable development; and whether it was time for Fiji to tighten regulation on junk food and drinks to tackle diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Fiji's 2016 parliamentary diary had been dedicated to the SDGs, with the 17 Goals listed on the front page. The diary had also included statistics on the demographics of progress, showing exactly who was benefitting from which development initiatives. A gender toolkit had also been developed, as a manual for the parliamentary group on gender, which comprised the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the six parliamentary standing committees, to ensure that they applied a gender perspective to the consideration of all issues brought before their committees. A women's parliament session had been held to give women an opportunity to experience a day in parliament and encourage them to stand for election. Parliamentary educational resource materials had been

published, to introduce the work of parliament into the school curriculum. The launch of the new materials had been attended by teachers and students. The "Meet the Speaker" outreach programme was particularly popular, whereby the Speaker of Parliament went out into the community to explain the functioning of parliament and its role, and how parliamentary debates were conducted. Baseline data for all of the SDGs would have been collected by 2018. The Government and Parliament of Fiji were particularly committed to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and hoped to play a mentoring role in that regard for other small island developing States in the Pacific.

The PRESIDENT said that Sweden had already implemented policies that addressed many of the SDGs. Ministers were in the process of developing action plans that were in line with the 2030 Agenda through an overarching policy for global development. All other policies were viewed through a sustainable development lens. Poverty eradication must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The world was changing rapidly as countries developed. In Sweden, the Government and Parliament worked together to create policy, legislation and action at the national level, provide development assistance to other countries, and contribute actively to the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand) said that cooperation between parliaments and governments should always be encouraged. The 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development would afford an excellent opportunity for States to share their experiences with regard to implementing the 2030 Agenda, exchange lessons learned and consider the challenges that had arisen as regards policy and oversight. Alongside the voluntary national review process and the IPU self-assessment toolkit, parliaments should devise a long-term plan for the budgeting of projects for the attainment of the SDGs. The Thai Government was in the process of developing a 20-year national strategy, to be approved by Parliament, which was in line with the national socioeconomic development plan and the SDGs. The cooperative approach between the executive and the legislative could serve as a model for other countries.

Mr. DUAN QIANG (China) said that parliaments must provide a solid legal framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure comprehensive monitoring of efforts to meet the SDGs. In China, Parliament was legislating to promote education and women's rights in particular. The 13th national family plan had been adopted, which was closely related to China's medium- and long-term sustainable development. Seminars had been organized with the United Nations, on the one hand, and other developing countries, on the other, to promote the attainment of the SDGs. Exchanges of information and best practices between parliaments were also encouraged. Being a large developing country, China needed to pay particular attention to supporting people living in poverty, and to that end, it had taken effective measures at the national level over the past 20 years. Discussion was ongoing with partners, and would continue through the forthcoming BRICS Summit to be hosted by China, on how to establish a robust legal framework to rebalance the world economy.

Ms. V. THAKUR (India) said that in India, development programmes had been adopted at the national level to redress inequalities and promote prosperity for all. Women's employment and education schemes were particularly important, since women's financial empowerment was the key to poverty eradication. Parliament held regular seminars and conferences on issues relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A meeting of the BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum had been held in August 2016 in Jaipur, which had culminated in the adoption of the Jaipur Declaration, calling on international financial institutions to support developing and least developed countries in gaining access to new technologies. The South Asian Speakers' Summit had been held in India in February 2017 on the theme of strengthening regional cooperation and resources for the SDGs and had served as an excellent forum for sharing experiences and best practices. The IPU self-assessment toolkit was welcome; when feedback was received from Member Parliaments, any gaps identified should be investigated.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development differed from previous development plans in that it had been devised through a comprehensive consultative process, which had fostered a sense of ownership, even among developing countries. The Parliament of Zimbabwe had established a thematic committee on the SDGs, to oversee implementation of the 2030 Agenda by all government departments and State agencies. An expanded committee on the SDGs had also been established, which included members of the thematic committee and the chairpersons of all parliamentary committees. In cooperation with UNDP, two capacity building workshops had been held for members of parliament to consider how

the SDGs linked to the national development agenda. A reporting framework was also in place, which required all parliamentary committees to report on a monthly basis on their oversight of government plans to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that Cuba had met the MDGs and was currently preparing to contribute to the global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A national mechanism had been established to coordinate the work of national institutions, civil society and academia in follow-up to the national plan for economic and social development. The Government reported bi-annually to the National Assembly on the implementation of that plan. The lack of resources and support for developing countries was worrying, however. Developed countries must fulfil their responsibilities in that regard; if military spending was reduced by only 10 per cent, hundreds of millions of dollars would be saved, which could be spent on development.

Mr. M. REZAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represented a starting point to building a better world. The 17 SDGs covered a more diverse range of issues than the MDGs, and required the participation of all stakeholders if they were to be met successfully. The role of parliaments was particularly important, since parliament was an agent for change, and was responsible for ratifying international agreements, overseeing government activity, legislating and appropriately allocating funds. Cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government was therefore the key to attaining the SDGs. The Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran was working to ensure that the national development plan and priorities were fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, environmental issues and the empowerment of women were priorities in that regard. The Islamic Republic of Iran would submit a voluntary review to the United Nations High-level Political Forum in July 2017.

Ms. H. ALHELAISSI (Saudi Arabia) said that parliament had a crucial role to play as the oversight body that would ensure that the government had adopted appropriate coordinated plans that would translate into action to meet the SDG targets, that adequate resources were allocated to the implementation of those plans and that the results were monitored and measured. Governments must be held accountable. Poverty was more than simply a lack of income or resources; it encompassed lack of basic services, hunger, discrimination and exclusion, as well as disenfranchisement. The SDGs therefore required a comprehensive approach, including policies on food security, social support and equal access to resources and services. Gender equality was particularly essential, since the majority of the world's poor were women. Policies to promote their empowerment through health, education and employment were essential. She wished to know what parliaments could do to ensure that government policies were comprehensive and cross-cutting.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that the attainment of the SDGs was a noble ambition, which would bridge the current gulf between developed and developing countries. Strengthening the role of women and their participation in the development process was particularly important; women's empowerment not only led to the improvement of their own socioeconomic situation, but also contributed to the development of society as a whole. The role of women had been strengthened in Bahrain through legislative amendments and the adoption of a national economic strategy that focused on women's contribution.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that the renewed partnership between the IPU and the United Nations was a welcome move, particularly since it allowed national parliaments to access a rich resource, namely United Nations expertise at the country level. He asked whether such cooperation also extended to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. At the national level, parliaments could do much to oversee the efforts on implementing the 2030 Agenda; he wished to know what could be done at the international level, through the IPU, since strength lay in cooperation and joint efforts. Developing countries could not meet the SDGs by working alone in a void. Solidarity and cooperation between developed and developing countries were essential. Developed countries should give greater consideration to the impact of tax havens on the distribution of wealth. Tax-related initiatives could be used to redistribute wealth and assist developing countries in attaining the SDGs.

Mr. P. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that in Namibia, on SDG 1, the Government was stepping up its programmes on poverty reduction and underdevelopment; on Goal 2 a food bank had been established to provide essential support to marginalized communities; and on Goal 3 the budget for

health and education services had been increased significantly, and steps had been taken to ensure free primary and secondary education for all. He welcomed the panel discussion, which had afforded a valuable opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other through the IPU and the United Nations, and take the 2030 Agenda forward.

Mr. S. MUKERJEE, *panellist*, said that 2015 had been a remarkable year, in which the international community had come together to sign historic agreements, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2017, however, much of that positive work was being undermined. He therefore welcomed the expressions of engagement that had been made during the Standing Committee's discussion, and expressed his office's commitment to working with the IPU and national parliaments to take the 2030 Agenda forward. He agreed that a focus on women's empowerment and gender equality was particularly important. With regard to voluntary reporting, while it was standard practice for governments to report at the international level, parliaments could perhaps consider reporting at the constituency level as a means of garnering local engagement. Cooperation with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund should be encouraged, since those two bodies had a wealth of financial and economic information at their disposal, which could be highly beneficial to parliaments.

Mr. F. RABBI, *panellist*, said that the Standing Committee's discussion had shown the high level of engagement of the world's parliamentarians with regard to the 2030 Agenda. All IPU Member Parliaments should work together, since cooperation would be the key to the timely attainment of the SDGs.

Ms. J. LUVENI, *panellist*, said that the discussion had underscored the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs. She agreed that when women were empowered, everyone benefitted. All of the Goals were interconnected, and this was the key to ensuring that no one would be left behind. Particular care must be taken to support small developing island States to ensure that no country was behind. Goal 17 called for global partnership: all of the world's parliaments must work together to ensure sustainable development for all.

Mr. A. MOTTER, *Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU*, said that the representatives of those countries that were preparing national voluntary reviews should ensure that they did their utmost to get involved in the reporting procedure and provided feedback to the IPU Secretariat on such engagement. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund differed in structure from the United Nations, and engagement with them was therefore more complex. The International Monetary Fund did, however, have a parliamentary network of its own for purposes of raising awareness about its work. Even so, its focus was quite distinct from that of the cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations.

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Panel discussion on the main theme of the 2017 HLPF *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*

The PRESIDENT introduced the five panellists: Mr. N. Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Ms. C. Hunter, Representative, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Bangladesh; Ms. B. Sampatisiri, Member of Parliament, Thailand; Ms. Claudia Roth, Deputy Speaker, Bundestag, Germany; and Mr. S. Kinga, Speaker, National Council, Bhutan.

Mr. N. KUMAR, *panellist*, said that the Asia-Pacific was a dynamic region, which had demonstrated considerable success in the area of poverty reduction. However, some 400 million people there still lived in extreme poverty. Such poverty was concentrated in certain sub regions, in particular south Asia. Poverty was persisting owing to rising inequalities and inequities in regard to access to health care, education and decent work, as well as poor coverage of social protection. Social exclusion was a serious problem, and the rural–urban divide was significant, in particular in terms of access to education.

As inequities increased, the concentration of wealth was even greater than the concentration of income. Inadequate health care coverage led to disproportionately high out-of-pocket treatment costs, which could result in extreme poverty and debt. The low coverage of pensions and social security for the working-age population engendered working poor. Coverage for women tended to be less than for men, a challenge that must be addressed. With regard to social exclusion, women's economic empowerment remained a challenge, despite gender parity in primary

education. Women's participation in the workforce had declined over recent years. An increasing proportion of older people were also at risk of being left behind, particularly in the east of the Region. There were some 650 million people with disabilities, who were also at risk of marginalization. Migration posed a challenge, with large numbers of migrant workers at risk of exclusion and without adequate social security coverage.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was seeking to build inclusive societies in the Region, in particular through advocating the creation of decent jobs for young people with a focus on south Asia. Without engaging the youth in decent work, the potential for development could not be harnessed and poverty would persist. Jobs were being created by building industry and services, investing in human resources development, skills formation and vocational training. Efforts were being made to transform farms in rural areas, and close gaps in access to infrastructure, in particular electricity in rural areas, enhance social security coverage and ensure basic health care and education for all as the basic empowerment tools.

A toolkit had been developed for policy-makers for purposes of formulating comprehensive national youth policies, as was a social protection toolkit to assist Member States in the Region, since there was a strong correlation between spending on social protection and poverty eradication. Women's economic empowerment was being enhanced through entrepreneurship, in particular through the Women in ICT Frontier Initiative. ESCAP also assisted Member States in gender-responsive budgeting. The third regional review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing would be conducted during 2017. Efforts were being made to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities by implementing the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP was providing a regional forum to represent the Region in the negotiations on the United Nations global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to ensure that the Regional perspective was taken into account.

With regard to poverty eradication and shared prosperity in the Region, the poverty reduction target of the MDGs had been reached. The Sustainable Development Goal target was therefore attainable, but required coordinated efforts at all levels. Sharing experiences and good practices across the Region would be essential if the Goal was to be met. Parliamentarians had a very important role to play in pushing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development forward and in legislating for transformation of regulations and promoting people-centred development.

Ms. C. HUNTER, *panellist*, said that she had felt encouraged by hearing so many participants underscore the crucial importance of women's empowerment in the eradication of poverty. Although there was a general awareness that women and girls were over-represented among the poor, evidence as to what caused that state of affairs and its implications was lacking in most countries. Too often, the issue poverty of women was absent from the overall discussion on the subject. When considering statistics on household poverty, it was assumed that everyone in the household was equal; in reality, that was often not the case. Insofar as the realities were not visible or understood, policy interventions would not be adequate. In Bangladesh, for example, there were significant issues of undernutrition, especially among women and children. One in five women of child-bearing age in Bangladesh was undernourished. Women in that segment of the population were thus poorer than the men in their household.

Household strategies for coping with poverty or shocks differed for women and men. In Bangladesh, 50 per cent of girls were married before the age of 18. Poor girls were twice more likely than girls from wealthier households to be married as children. When girls were married, they usually dropped out of school, often had children as teenagers, had little say in household decisions and experienced more violence than girls who did not marry early, all of which constituted deprivations of their rights, and that was likely to keep them and their children in poverty.

Statistics on female-headed households could give a general understanding of the gender aspect of poverty. Although in Bangladesh, on average, female-headed households had a higher income than male-headed households, looking beyond the averages gave an entirely different picture: 28 per cent of female-headed households lived in extreme poverty, and had just over half the assets of male-headed households. Inequalities within households tended to stem from social norms and discrimination. Just because those issues were private, however, did not remove them from the remit of public decision-making. It was particularly important to ensure that that family law, land ownership provisions and inheritance law did not discriminate against women or girls. Those issues could only be addressed through bold, courageous leadership; parliamentarians had a key role to play in that regard, in particular in partnership with civil society.

Discrimination in the labour market and the community also contributed to poverty. In Bangladesh, less than 35 per cent of women of working age participated in the labour force. Half of those women were unpaid family workers who produced goods for the market but received no wages. Many of those women were working in agriculture. In order to eliminate poverty, and achieve gender equality, specific interventions were required that must be based on how the rural economy was structured. Ways must be found to allow women to benefit from their contribution to the economy and have their working conditions protected.

In many countries, domestic workers were excluded from labour legislation and were subjected to poor working conditions and lack of protection. National policy provisions should therefore be put in place to recognize domestic workers and ensure their protection. In Asia, much of the demand for domestic workers was met through migration. It was particularly difficult to ensure protection for migrant workers in the host country. Institutions such as the IPU could assist by encouraging their members to work together, across borders to ensure decent working conditions for a population that was primarily poor and comprised mainly women. In every country, there were pockets of poverty and discrimination, which must be done away with. Those populations must be identified, and interventions must be targeted. Generic poverty eradication measures would not reach those excluded groups.

Turning to prosperity, she said that research had been conducted to consider what the effects would be on the economy if women were represented and valued equally to men. Estimates had shown that if every country could improve women's presence and working conditions to match the strongest country in its region, some US\$ 12 trillion could be added to the global economy by 2025.

Parliamentarians could ensure that invisible populations were represented in public debate. They must ensure government accountability, not only with regard to the SDGs but also to human rights treaties. Parliament could call for investment to end the poverty affecting very specific groups of people, by addressing challenging questions and scrutinizing budgets. The global parliamentary community could work together through the IPU to share experiences and best practices, as well as to address cross-border development issues. UN Women stood ready to support the IPU and its Member Parliaments in that effort.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI, *panellist*, said that Thailand's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were guided by the principles of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, as developed by late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Philosophy not only promoted a mind-set of long-term thinking and self-sufficiency, but it also provided guidelines for inclusivity, cooperation at the local level, social harmony, and balanced and sustainable development. The Philosophy emphasized human development at all levels and the need to strengthen the community's capacity, and to ensure a balanced and resilient way of life, with full respect for the environment.

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy shared many common principles and objectives with the SDGs, particularly with regard to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity, ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture, maintaining sustainable economic growth, sustainable industrialization, and sustainable consumption and production. It advocated self-protection and aims to minimize negative impacts to communities in the face of the ever-changing global environment. His Majesty the late King had also developed a so-called new theory of agriculture, which had lifted Thai farmers out of abject poverty and enabled them to become self-sufficient.

It should be noted, however, that the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy was not a ready-made development model or, for that matter, a "one-size-fits-all" approach; it was a set of economic and social development principles, which must be adapted and adjusted to the unique characteristics and needs of each community. It was also important to note that the Philosophy did not negate capitalism. It emphasised sustainable economic growth with greater awareness of the long-term impact of such growth on communities, natural resources and the environment. Provided that the correct balance among all factors was found, wealth and economic growth would be welcomed.

In 2006, the UNDP Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award had been awarded to His Majesty the late King, for his contributions to human development. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy was now being successfully applied in various countries in South East Asia, Latin America and Africa. Furthermore, the Group of 77 had recognized the Philosophy as a practical approach that could support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the SDGs. An "SEP for SDGs" Partnership Project had been launched, through which countries were expressing their interest in working with Thailand in their economic and social development efforts. As a next step, Thailand would like to further strengthen South-South, trilateral and global partnerships for applying the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the areas of community development, agriculture, health care, water management,

fisheries and land management. The Parliament of Thailand looked forward to working closely with all IPU Members in that regard, and would welcome comments or suggestions from interested parties to ensure the continued success of SEP for SDGs Partnership projects.

Mr. S. KINGA, *panellist*, said that Bhutan not only measured gross domestic product, but it also measured gross national happiness as an indicator of well-being on a scale from 0 to 1. Its current happiness level was 0.743. Challenges therefore remained. The gross national happiness index was a development approach that had been adopted by the fourth King of Bhutan, and was built on the premise that happiness was more important than wealth, since it included not only material comfort, but also spiritual, emotional, cultural and environmental well-being. It was also based on the concept that the well-being of all people was interlinked: if poverty persisted for some, the happiness of others would be affected. The Gross National Happiness Commission had been established to oversee the implementation of that concept. The Prime Minister reported annually to Parliament on the four pillars of gross national happiness: good governance; economic development; social and cultural preservation; and environmental conservation. The Parliament had a standing committee on each of those topics, which assessed the Government's performance. In 2007, when the gross national happiness index had been established, some 23 per cent of Bhutan's population had been living below the poverty line. Within five years, that figure had halved. It was hoped that by 2018 the figure would be down to 5 per cent.

Bhutan was largely an agrarian, mountainous country. Poverty reduction efforts must therefore start in villages. Sustainable Development Goal 1 had been mainstreamed into gross national happiness policies and plans as a priority. Policies were implemented at the grassroots, community and household levels. In 2007, the rural economy advancement programme had been established, which had comprised a package of interventions that had subsequently been implemented successfully in the 14 poorest rural villages. In 2012, a further more than 100 poor villages had been identified for intervention programmes, which were now ongoing. Another such initiative was under way, by which 3153 poor households had been provided with microcredit, agricultural machinery and livestock.

His Majesty the King, while not the elected head of the executive, was Head of State and had certain prerogatives, including allocating land titles. Only 7 per cent of land in Bhutan could be cultivated, and would be easily traded for votes if left in the hands of politicians. Since landholding was the key to overcoming poverty, the King ensured that land was used to redress social imbalances. Every effort was being made to realize happiness through bold action, for the benefit of all people in Bhutan.

Ms. C. ROTH, *panellist*, said that the current gap in the world's wealth was illustrated by the fact that eight individuals owned as much as the poorer half of the world's population. Humanitarian crises were growing, and new walls were being built between people. IPU Member Parliaments had a common goal and were united in their aims to create a world of peace and well-being for all. In a world with 67 million refugees, the Geneva Convention ought to be the international community's point of reference. Despite a wealth of international law on protection against torture, the destruction of cultural heritage, and the worst violations of human rights, such as genocide, the world was far from free of those scourges. The global community must rally behind the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The adoption of those two frameworks constituted a significant achievement in a world of increasing injustices. Yet without adequate implementation, that success would be meaningless. Walls would not protect against the crises that the world was facing.

Developed countries must question not only their political systems and business models but also their production and consumption. The 2030 Agenda differed from all that had gone before it, in that it applied to all States. Dividing the world into East and West, North and South, industrialized and developing, was no longer appropriate. The achievement of global sustainable development was a shared task, which must be tackled together. Developed countries must accept their responsibility for the state of the world, for poverty and hunger, for global inequality. Fundamental reform was needed. In order to eradicate poverty, global tax evasion and tax fraud must cease. Climate change must be halted. Investment in dirty fuels still exceeded the financial backing being given to green energy. A paradigm shift was needed in the global trade system: farmers in India were growing poorer because people continued to buy milk powder from Europe. The subsidised mass production in developed countries yielded far more than developed countries could actually consume and the surplus was exported at bargain prices to other parts of the world and, as a result, the livelihoods of local farmers were destroyed.

Climate change, which had occurred as a result of the actions of developed countries, was giving rise to severe droughts in some countries and floods in others, which were forcing local populations to migrate. Developed countries must assume responsibility. If hundreds of thousands of people were suffering war and violence, it was because developed countries exported weapons.

True sustainable development began at home. The world needed a fundamental re-education with regard to coexistence and mutual dependency. In Germany, the Bundestag had been active in negotiating the 2030 Agenda. Since the adoption of the Agenda, a national council for sustainable development had been established, which had proposed the introduction of regular reporting to Parliament on the SDGs by the executive. Impact assessments on gender perspective, poverty and human rights would be conducted on all government activities before they were implemented. Implementation plans would be submitted to Parliament by all ministries. Members of parliament had a responsibility to ensure that every law passed was in line with the SDGs, and to hold ministers to account for progress. Parliamentarians could also ensure an ongoing dialogue with civil society. Cross-party collaboration was also essential. Even if parliamentarians did not always share the same views, they must work together to implement the 2030 Agenda for the well-being of future generations.

Mr. S. MAHAMANE (Niger) said that eradicating poverty would change the lives of millions of people the world over, yet to do so would require more than just good intentions. The commitment of the whole international community was essential. It was not enough to ponder global financial reports; the rules of international trade must be changed. Each individual State had a responsibility to bear, yet progress towards prosperity could only be achieved through a global awareness. Developing countries, like Niger, which had been fighting continuously against poverty, could not win that battle alone. Furthermore, how could a developing country survive sudden, unpredictable drops in the price of oil or uranium? How could it predict the effects of the war against terror?

The Government of Niger had implemented a three-pronged strategy to reduce poverty: developing production; guaranteeing access to basic social services for people living in poverty; and promoting good governance. Those strategic directions, which had been implemented through comprehensive programmes, had borne positive results. Despite this progress, however, much remained to be done, and the challenge could only be met by humanity as a whole. Serious and credible efforts therefore must be undertaken through global political and economic institutions. Inequalities must be redressed and poverty eradicated in order to bring an end to the large-scale migration flows that the world was currently witnessing. Bridging the gap between extreme poverty and extreme wealth was the key to achieving world peace.

Mr. R. MWEWA (Zambia) said that the Zambian economy was facing turbulent times, in particular as a result of drought, which had seriously affected farming and agriculture. The price of food had risen and the hydropower system had come to a standstill. Steps had therefore had to be taken to redress the situation. Microcredit for women had been increased, with a view to engaging them in agriculture and the development of irrigation schemes: the potential to grow three different crops on one piece of land would increase their income. Efforts were also being made to diversify energy production and reduce the reliance on hydroelectric power. Cooperatives were being encouraged to invest in renewable energy, in particular biogas. Progress at the community level meant that confidence had grown to move onto national development issues.

Ms. H. ALHELAISSI (Saudi Arabia) said that prosperity was not only a matter of economic wealth, but also a question of social and mental well-being, with full respect for human rights. Economic prosperity should be balanced with other rights; economic development went hand-in-glove with access to health care and education. Happiness and satisfaction were also linked to economic prosperity and having the wealth necessary for a life of dignity, free from want. In Saudi Arabia, new economic challenges were emerging: an increasing number of households were unable to survive on one salary, and women were therefore having to fight their way into the workplace. The Government had undertaken to decrease unemployment and give women sufficient opportunities to contribute to the country's economy. The focus was therefore on creating jobs for women and making their entrance into the world of work as smooth as possible, in particular through improved access to childcare. Bureaucracy remained an obstacle, however, which must be overcome to give a fair chance to all.

Mr. J. MATOS ROSA (Portugal) said that the world could no longer be divided into "developing" and "developed" countries: any country could be hit by economic and financial crisis at any time, while others underwent rapid development. Bangladesh, for example could rival the

world's most promising economies; Portugal, on the other hand, had suffered a serious financial crisis. During the crisis, the Government of Portugal had taken measures to ensure that the sacrifices required by the crisis were distributed in accordance with the principles of social justice, ensuring that those who could afford to contribute a little more made a greater effort, and guaranteeing that the most vulnerable were the most protected. There was no doubt that had been the appropriate approach.

Prosperity had a purpose beyond wealth in monetary terms; it meant providing the population with the wherewithal to be productive. The Portuguese Government had done its utmost to promote innovation and facilitate exports. Bangladesh served as an example in that regard, building exports and fostering entrepreneurship as fundamental aspects of economic growth. Building productivity was an effective way to overcome poverty and promote sustainable prosperity, keeping the best interests of the people at the heart of development policy,

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India) said that while many countries had achieved varying successes in improving the quality of life of their citizens, poverty remained a serious challenge the world over. The global parliamentary community had repeatedly pledged to build strong, democratic institutions and work towards sustainable human development. Many challenges, however, persisted.

Owing to the multidimensional nature of poverty in India, a multifaceted approach had been adopted, balancing economic, social and environmental dimensions. Direct State intervention through targeted anti-poverty programmes, such as employment generation and social security schemes, was also part of the approach. Steps were being taken to empower local self-governments, which were the most effective implementers of development projects. India had its own vision of development, focusing on inclusive growth to ensure that no one was left behind, in particular through access to education, health care and gainful employment.

Ms. F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran had consistently taken account of the challenges posed by poverty in its development plans, and that considerable budget allocation had been earmarked for poverty eradication, prioritized education, health care, and social security, development of disadvantaged rural areas and equitable distribution of wealth. The plans ensured that economic growth prioritized those most in need and that government spending was geared towards creating jobs and making meaningful subsidies to improve the livelihoods of the poorest members of society. A benefits scheme was in place to support female-headed households, children with no guardian and persons with disabilities, and a social insurance fund had been set up for rural villagers and nomads. Progress was being made with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 1; the Government was committed to poverty eradication and Parliament was supporting that commitment through its legislative and oversight functions. A voluntary national review would be presented to the forthcoming United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Ms. M. VUNIWAQA (Fiji) said that economic and social rights were enshrined in the Constitution of Fiji. Those included the right to education, the right to health care, the right to gender equality, and the right to a safe environment. Government policies on poverty alleviation were centred on those constitutional provisions, to ensure that people had a mechanism for redress at their disposal if their rights were infringed. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as key means of eradicating poverty. In that regard, particular attention was being paid to the elimination of violence against women: a toll-free helpline had been set up, and shelters for abused women had been established. Women's economic empowerment was especially important as a key driver of development. Lack of access to basic services was one of the main impediments to development in Fiji; government spending on the development of infrastructure had therefore been increased to 28 per cent. The environmental aspect of development was also important, and the Government of Fiji was mainstreaming "green growth" in all of its programmes and plans. She had been interested to hear the experiences of Bhutan: while in Fiji discussions around poverty tended to focus on income levels, given contemporary threats to development, such as climate change, a more holistic approach might be more appropriate.

Mr. K. OTHMAN (Jordan) said that the Jordanian Parliament had approved a budget for 2017 that covered several strategic plans on cross-cutting issues, which included goals and targets that were aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Strong cooperation with the United Nations was ongoing at the country level to implement those plans.

The Jordanian Parliament was committed to monitoring that implementation and to ensuring that the Government's activities remained fully in line with the 2030 Agenda. Acknowledging the importance of the mobilization of financial resources and capacity building not only at the country level, but also from North to South, he pointed out that the official development assistance target of 0.7 per cent of GDP for developed countries had never been met. With that in mind, he questioned whether the SDGs could really be achieved by 2030, without countries of the North making greater development assistance allocations to developing countries.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that poverty constituted a major challenge for mankind, which had not occurred by accident. It had been caused by a multitude of factors, including the concentration of wealth, lack of production capacity, misuse of natural resources, lack of true democracy, and the prevalence of corruption. The international community must be united in its endeavour to eradicate poverty. The Government of Kuwait was committed to providing assistance to poor countries, and did so through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which had provided support to more than 100 countries. The IPU should encourage its Member Parliaments to ensure that their governments' official development assistance was allocated more efficiently and to legislate to encourage States to uphold their international financial responsibilities. Freeing the world from poverty would not be impossible if the global community worked together.

Mr. M. ALJAWDER (Bahrain) said that in Bahrain, steps had been taken to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of citizens through legislation. The Parliament of Bahrain had guided the Government to improve the living conditions of people living in poverty. Parliaments must ensure that national budgets included provision of assistance to the most vulnerable. The Parliament of Bahrain had legislated to support people with disabilities, through the provision of housing and allowances. Women were being empowered through employment opportunities. Elderly people who lived alone and had no family to support them were given social support. The people of Bahrain were thus being empowered and national development was increasing. The national plan for employment had been particularly successful: Bahrain had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world.

Ms. H.W. OUEDRAOGO SAWADOGO (Burkina Faso) said that eradicating poverty among women and gender-based violence against them required real political will. Investment in local communities was particularly important. In Burkina Faso, 80 per cent of women lived in rural communities, often working in poor and physically difficult conditions, and often unable to earn enough to provide daily meals for their children, or to pay for their education. Early marriage and unwanted pregnancies kept women in poverty, and that challenge could only be tackled by working together to ensure the empowerment of women and girls through education and job creation. Parliaments should support and encourage the work of nongovernmental organizations and provide them with technical and financial support to enable them to perform their work effectively. The IPU should do its utmost to advocate for the empowerment of rural women, and ensure that they were not left behind.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament - PNND) said that the SDGs showed that the poverty suffered by nearly half of the world's population could be eliminated through wise investment and suitable policies. Thus far, the mix of public and private investment funds available for such policies fell far short of requirements. Disarmament, as provided for under article 26 of the charter of the United Nations, would release considerable resources from which to draw. Particular consideration should be given to transferring funds from one of the most unsound, wasteful and dangerous military enterprises in the world – the manufacture of nuclear weapons. He asked what parliamentarians could do to encourage such a change in investment and whether they would support the proposal made by Kazakhstan to the United Nations General Assembly, which called on governments to allocate 1 per cent of their military budget to programmes on meeting the SDGs.

More than US\$ 100 billion was spent every year on modernizing, developing, manufacturing and deploying those weapons in the misguided view that threatening to annihilate innocent civilians, and perhaps wipe out civilization, provided security. Those funds could be better spent on education, health, water supplies, food production, climate protection, renewable energy production, as well as peace and diplomacy. A proposal had been made to the United Nations Conference negotiating a nuclear weapons ban treaty to include a prohibition on nuclear weapons financing. Parliaments and parliamentarians could support that proposal, which could be advanced at the 2018 United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament. Parliaments should ask their governments what they hoped to achieve at the Conference.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI, *panellist*, said that Thailand would be hosting the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Symposium on inter-regional partnership for sustainable development in May; she encouraged parliamentarians to attend that meeting.

Mr. S. KINGA, *panellist*, said that although great strides were being made towards poverty reduction, he was concerned that in countries such as Bhutan those efforts could be in vain as a result of challenges that were not of local making. Bhutan had an agricultural economy and was carbon neutral, relying entirely on renewables for its energy supply. It acted as a carbon sink, however, for the world's emissions and despite not being responsible for climate change, it would potentially suffer enormously as a result. The transfer of capital and technology was not sufficient: all States must do their utmost to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Ms. C. ROTH, *panellist*, said that peace and security did not require more weapons. The prohibition of nuclear weapons was particularly essential if sustainable peace and development were to be achieved. It was unacceptable that States had failed to reach the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their GDP to official development assistance, yet they would entertain the NATO request of allocating 2 per cent of GDP to military spending.

Tax evasion and tax fraud contributed significantly to loss of public funds, a situation that must be rectified. Climate change action must be taken as a matter of extreme urgency, otherwise the consequences would be catastrophic.

Ms. C. HUNTER, *panellist*, said that every country should equip its citizens for survival in the face of climate change and natural disaster. Communities as a whole could not be resilient if only half of the population was equipped for resilience while the other half was subordinate. Lack of access to decision-making and resources precluded resilience. Initiatives to empower women and redress inequalities were therefore crucial for building resilience. Studies showed that gender responsive climate change action had better results on climate change adaptation. Regarding whether the 2030 Agenda could be implemented and the Goals reached by 2030, consideration must be given to what had already been achieved, and to analysing where gaps persisted and why they persisted. The only road to success would be through innovative new strategies. A business-as-usual approach would not yield adequate results.

Mr. N. KUMAR, *panellist*, said that developed countries had continually failed to meet official development assistance targets. A renewed commitment had been expressed in that regard through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted in 2015. There were other possibilities to supplement resources; curbing the illicit flows of resources through tax evasion and tax havens would release substantial financial resources for developing countries. South-South cooperation was increasingly important. Domestic resource mobilization could be enhanced through better tax compliance, enhanced efficiency of tax administration, and the addition of innovative new taxation, such as green taxes and development taxes at the global level.

The PRESIDENT said that Fiji and Sweden were jointly hosting the United Nations High-level Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Many people depended on the world's oceans for their livelihood and Goal 14 was therefore particularly important.

All participants were encouraged to ask to be included in national delegations to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and if attending the Forum were encouraged to participate in the side event hosted by the IPU.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

SUNDAY, 2 APRIL

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10.05 a.m. with Mr. S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Forum, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Country updates on youth participation

The PRESIDENT reminded participants that during the meeting of Forum at the 134th Assembly, in Lusaka, Zambia, it had been decided that more time should be allocated to discussion of youth development in member countries.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, explained that IPU research on youth participation had shown that only 1.9 per cent of members of parliament globally were under the age of 30, whereas 50 per cent of the global population was under that age. The establishment of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had triggered increased interest in the importance of youth participation in parliament. The IPU had collected information on youth participation, which had shown that the proportion of parliamentarians under the age of 30 was 1.9 per cent; the proportion of those under the age of 40 was 14.2 per cent, and the proportion of those under the age of 45 was 26 per cent, and also that the number of young women in politics was extremely low. Therefore, the IPU was calling for stronger programmes to encourage the participation of young people, particularly young women, in politics. Several countries, including Morocco, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, had adopted quotas for youth participation, which was a positive step. The IPU was also calling for the alignment of the age of eligibility to run for office with that of eligibility to vote.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain), acknowledging the importance of encouraging youth participation in politics, said that young people today were extremely tech savvy. The IPU should therefore take that into account in developing approaches to engaging young people in politics. The statistics cited by the Secretary were shocking and would not have looked out of place 50 years previously, when education levels were lower. He did not support quotas, as they were an easy way out; it was more important to educate people. In his country, three women had recently been elected as a result of ongoing activities to educate the public on women's participation. Although that route was slower and required more work than quotas, it yielded better results.

Mr. Y. MPAWENI (Malawi) said that his country's parliament did not yet have a youth committee, something that the IPU strongly advocated. However, following a report that he had presented in parliament, Malawi was in the process of setting up such a committee, in collaboration with the IPU. Moreover, steps were being taken to improve youth participation in government activities; young people should have representatives on all committees at all levels of government.

Mr. A. RIFAU (Maldives) said that his country was developing a bill on youth. Moreover, in the upcoming council elections, 75 per cent of the Progressive Party of the Maldives candidates were under the age of 35, while 30 per cent were under the age of 25, which, it was hoped, would lead to a higher proportion of successful younger candidates.

Ms. R. AL MANTHARI (Oman) agreed that education and awareness-raising were extremely important. A student council had been set up to facilitate participation in politics. The percentage of female students elected to that council had been 90 per cent, which showed that women could be elected on merit. She agreed that quotas were not the best option, because that could lead people to say that a woman was not qualified, even though she had been elected. The student council met monthly with the Minister of Education to make proposals in relevant areas. The council had helped to enhance the leadership skills of its members and it was hoped that some of them would go on to fill important positions in future.

Mr. P. TENZIN (Bhutan) said that his country had a children's parliament and democracy clubs in schools to help children learn about the role of parliament and discuss issues relating to society. Education was extremely important; young people should be involved in relevant forums, and governments should focus on issues such as the importance of culture, the environment, socio-economic matters and good governance. It was important to train young people to become leaders of tomorrow and involve them in every stage of democracy.

Mr. A. COIMBRA CORNEJO (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that in order to bring young people into politics, it was necessary to democratize political parties; to do so, it was vital to ensure transparency and encourage young people to join. His country had seen positive results in that area. Although education should be part of the democratic process, in young or weak democracies, quotas could be used to encourage participation. The Plurinational State of Bolivia had a quota system for women's participation, and that system had seen some success. It should be noted that a quota system could be discontinued once it had served its purpose.

Mr. T.J.P. TAPSOBA (Burkina Faso), highlighting the number of parliamentarians in his country under the age of 45, said that in the aftermath of the 134th Assembly, Burkina Faso had established a network of young parliamentarians to facilitate their participation in policy development. Such networks should also be set up at regional and subregional levels to create pressure groups on youth issues and enable young parliamentarians to work together.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Nigeria) said that with the support of the IPU, Nigeria had established a national forum of young parliamentarians, which had championed the passing of youth-related legislation, such as a "not too young to run" bill aimed at lowering the age of eligibility to run for election, and an amendment to the Constitution encouraging more funding for youth participation in political parties. The establishment of the forum had helped foster youth engagement in politics and enabled discussion of youth-related issues, such as early marriage. He commended other African countries, including Kenya, Namibia and Senegal, for their efforts to foster youth engagement though, for example, youth caucuses. Nigeria was due to host a conference of young African members of parliament later in the year jointly with the IPU.

Mr. V. BHARRAT (Guyana) said that there were no parliamentarians under the age of 30 in his country, partly as a result of the emigration of significant numbers of young people to developed countries. As a result, he strongly supported a youth quota system. It was also important to ensure that education opportunities were available for all. Young people brought fresh ideas to the table, which should be strongly encouraged.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that as young people were the backbone of society and the hope for the future, their needs and views must not be ignored. Young people, particularly those living in developing countries, were key targets for recruitment for terrorist groups; education was a key tool in the fight against that phenomenon. Quotas for participation in politics interfered with the democratic process. Therefore increased focus should be given to education over the use of quotas.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that the previous month, a number of parliamentarians in his country had been arrested and then released and re-arrested by the occupying forces, for political reasons. Moreover, Israel had recently adopted legislation authorizing the building of more settlements on Palestinian land; he encouraged Member Parliaments to denounce that act. Israel was a member of the IPU and should be held accountable for ignoring the Organization's democratic principles. He also called on the parliamentarians from the United Kingdom to put pressure on their Government regarding the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Ms. S. DEV (India) said that her country was focusing on increasing youth participation in politics through greater transparency and accountability. As part of those efforts, contributions to political parties now needed to be through bonds, rather than cash. The aim of that initiative was to make running for office more attractive to young people, as they would not need a cash income to fund their political campaign.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) explained that within his country's parliament, there was a portfolio committee that was always chaired by a young parliamentarian. One of the issues addressed by that committee was youth participation. His country also had a Ministry of Youth, which focused on youth empowerment. Elections were due to be held in 2018, and young parliamentarians within Zimbabwe had already started to lobby all political parties to make sure that at least 20 per cent of candidates were young people.

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that quotas had both positive and negative aspects. It was important to educate young people and to provide mentoring for young people interested in entering politics. A group had been set up by the upper and lower houses of parliament in her country to enable young people to consult with legislators and make their views heard. Many schools in her country had children's parliaments to foster youth participation. However, it was not sufficient for young people to want to be involved; more need to be done to encourage the population to vote for them. She had become a member of parliament at the age of 27 and had found it difficult to convince her constituents that she had the right to represent them.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that young people in her country could run for election from the age of 18; within parliament there was a group of young parliamentarians, and the Executive included young members of parliament. A parliamentary forum for young members of parliament was also being established. A national youth development agency had been created, and the Government was investing more in tertiary education, as it was important that young people were educated and informed. Moreover, each Government department had introduced programmes to empower young people and equip them with the necessary skills to participate in the country's economic development. Within tertiary education institutions, there were also student committees linked to the different political parties, which played a crucial role as preparatory forums for young people to become future leaders.

Mr. K. AL SULAIMI (Arab Parliament) said that within the Arab Parliament, there was a clear understanding of the need to support young people and guarantee their rights, based on justice and equality, because young people were the backbone of any modern State. The Arab Parliament had also issued a document on youth, aimed at ensuring the development of young people was a major national priority of its member parliaments. The document encouraged member parliaments to develop comprehensive youth plans and programmes to develop their social and economic participation in society and enable them to obtain relevant skills and knowledge. Another aim of the document was to eliminate all obstacles to the participation of youth in youth development.

Mr. G.G. SORIAL (Italy) said that more needed to be done within each individual political party and within parliaments to enhance the political participation of young people. In his party, there was an internal rule which stated that all candidates for the Chamber of Deputies were to be under the age of 40, which had helped to lower the average age in that Chamber.

Ms. R.A. Elwany (Egypt), Member of the Board of the Forum, took the Chair.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, recalled that at the previous meeting of the Forum, the idea of submitting a strategy on encouraging youth participation in IPU Assemblies to the Executive Committee had been discussed. Following deliberations on the subject, the Executive Committee had welcomed the proposal that each delegation should include at least one member under the age of 45. For the concept to be implemented, it would first have to be approved by the Governing Council and an amendment would have to be made to the Statutes of the IPU. It was expected that during the present Assembly, the Governing Council would approve an earlier proposal giving the President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians an *ex officio* seat on the Executive Committee.

The CHAIR welcomed that development.

Contribution to the work of the 136th Assembly

a) *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development (resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)*

The CHAIR, noting that sustainable development referred to development that met the needs of the present without compromising the potential to meet needs of the future, said that it was no secret that women's financial inclusion in development helped to fight poverty, reduced inequality and improved children's health, nutrition and education. How could young parliamentarians bring about the needed changes in policymaking and legislation to remove barriers to women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion?

The representative of BHUTAN underscored the importance of closing the gender gap in terms of socio-economic and political inequalities. To that end, governments needed to take women's empowerment very seriously and parliaments should lobby for activities to address those issues.

Ms. I.Y.R. PUTRI (Indonesia) said that more opportunities for women entrepreneurs were needed. Women tended to spend more on education and health, which boosted productivity. Women were empowered when they were able to influence economic decisions in their surroundings, do well-paid jobs or run their own business, provide for themselves and their family, and play a role in the economic development of their country. She urged all governments to pay particular attention to women entrepreneurs and to introduce cross-cutting policies and strategies on women's empowerment.

Mr. J. MILLYA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that although his country had made significant progress on gender equality, much remained to be done. Empowerment of women had been proved to lead to less corruption and better leadership; he therefore urged all countries to push for greater women's leadership.

Ms. S. DEV (India) said that financial and economic inclusion of women was vital for their empowerment. Less access to technology and restrictive social norms were two key challenges in that respect. Access to the job market was also essential for closing the gender gap. Poor financial inclusion of women forced many women to live in poverty and work in the informal labour market.

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) stressed the importance of education for women's empowerment; education should be affordable and accessible for all. Women should also be able to work; it should be noted that women that worked often essentially had two jobs, as they were usually also responsible for taking care of the home. It was also important to set a fair retirement age for women; once retired, women were often wives, mothers and daughters all at the same time, and played a key role in caring for their families. Moreover, safety of women was also crucial.

Mr. S.Y. BURA AYASH (Sudan) observed that empowerment of women was essential for the future, as women played a key role in fighting poverty and illiteracy and were key players in the fight for freedom.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait), emphasizing the importance of women's empowerment for peace and security, asked what could be done to bring justice to Palestine and ensure equal opportunities and the achievement of the SDGs in that country.

b) *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states (resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)*

The CHAIR noted that the principle of non-interference was a fundamental pillar of international law and international relations.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia) said that young people should be ambassadors of peace and unity. Given the increasingly global and interconnected nature of the world, it was essential to work together for peace and security. Nevertheless, it should be noted that many conflicts had caused division and had had an impact on young people, with many forced to leave school and to become involved in the labour force or the military.

Mr. O. POROSHENKO (Ukraine), noting that non-interference was a key principle of international law, observed that some countries had a tendency to forget that commitment. For example, the parliament of the Russian Federation had voted almost unanimously to send troops into Ukraine, in clear violation of the principle of non-interference. Those actions had led to significant displacement of people within Ukraine, affecting many women and young people, and had caused the relocation of two universities and their students. Parliaments should develop effective and efficient mechanisms to counteract external aggression in any form through, for example, legislative support for the armed forces and the provision of political assessment of any aggressor's actions. Parliaments, including young parliamentarians, had a responsibility to contribute to the development of new modalities and mechanisms for peace.

Ms. E. AFANASIEVA (Russian Federation) said that the Council of the Federation in her country had established a platform for interactions between parliamentarians from different countries. The Russian Federation played a key role in humanitarian cooperation in hotspots around the world. Russian parliamentarians actively participated in all efforts through parliamentary missions to other countries, such as Georgia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Ms. F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) observed that in recent years, violent extremism had increased in many parts of the world, threatening international security and leading to the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. However, it was clear that interference by certain States in the internal affairs of others had contributed to the present crisis. The fight against terrorism should be in line with international law and the UN Charter; as such, in the case of the Syrian Arab Republic, the actions taken by foreign forces without the agreement of the Syrian Government should be seen as interference in sovereignty and a blatant violation of both territorial integrity and international law, and should therefore be condemned by the international community.

Mr. D. ADHIKARI (India) stressing that the principles of integrity and sovereignty were inviolable and should be protected from any interference, said that his country provided humanitarian assistance in the form of development programmes to countries in Africa and Asia; India also provided troops to UN peacekeeping missions. Parliamentarians were a key channel for informal diplomacy.

Mr. G.G. SORIAL (Italy) said that young people could be the drivers of change to overcome historical divisions. Many of the amendments to the draft resolution underlined the ideological biases that caused conflicts and highlighted the blurred line between defence of human rights and national sovereignty. Given their connection to the world through social media, young parliamentarians were best placed to see the point of view of other countries involved in a conflict and could explain the different viewpoints to older colleagues.

The representative of BAHRAIN expressed consternation that one of the countries calling for non-interference in the sovereign affairs of states was itself meddling in the affairs of another country. His country was experiencing interference by another State on a daily basis and he urged that country to stop its actions.

**c) *Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all*
(theme of the General Debate)**

The CHAIR explained that the President of the Forum had given a speech during the General Debate focusing on the political, economic and social marginalization of young people and the link between radicalization and marginalization. The President of the IPU had consulted young people in Bangladesh on how to redress inequalities with a youth perspective. Two representatives of the Centre for Research and Information were attending the meeting of the Forum to present the results of those consultations.

Ms. K.A. LEONA (Centre for Research and Information, Bangladesh) said that young people must not be deprived of education, regardless of ethnicity, sex, or family background. It was also essential to ensure equality in the workplace. Women were central to the success of the SDGs and it was time to ensure through legislation equal pay in both the formal and informal sectors. She encouraged all parliamentarians to introduce paid maternity leave in all public and private institutions. Equal access to government services and transparency in that regard was also vital.

Ms. B.F. HUSSAIN (Centre for Research and Information, Bangladesh) added that parity in education was also essential; economic insolvency was a barrier in that respect as it could lead to child marriage. To that end, more scholarships were needed to facilitate access to education for the poorest girls. Bangladesh was close to achieving gender parity in its education system, but consideration also needed to be given to the third gender and they should be included in the education system. Ethnic and cultural studies should be added to the national curricula and education should also be provided in different ethnic languages where needed. For example, in Bangladesh, the Government had decided to print pre-primary textbooks in five ethnic languages. It was also important to ensure that differently able children were able to attend school, and she called on the Government of Bangladesh to establish special schools in that regard. Moreover, the importance of geographical equality could not be underemphasized, particularly in terms of distribution of resources and administrative activities; rural areas should be given equal priority to the capital region. Expressing concern that the behaviour of developed countries was opening up developing countries to more climate change-related risks, she called for safe passage and support for climate refugees and for equal rights for and treatment of migrant workers. However, it was important to note that government action alone was insufficient; members of society also had a role to play. To that end, increasing public awareness was extremely important and mass and social media were key tools in that respect. Bangladesh had a number of national youth policies in place to ensure youth development and participation, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or origin.

The representative of BHUTAN stressed that governments must do their utmost to empower young people and provide education. Young people were the future and needed the right knowledge and tools to make a difference; it was the government's role to provide that. Free education and high quality health-care facilities, together with support for the poorest members of society, were crucial in that regard.

Mr. P. KALOBO (Zambia) said that a holistic, rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was needed to ensure that more of the most marginalized people in society, including women and children, benefited. Governments should ensure that policies for economic growth included measures to address deprivation among the poorest in society.

Ms. I.Y.R. PUTRI (Indonesia) observed that unemployment and inequality were closely linked. Measures to redress inequalities often focused on economic issues, but other elements, such as a decent working environment and good living conditions, were equally important. She encouraged governments to develop youth policies, including youth-friendly services, and to promote gender justice. Young parliamentarians had a key role to play in supporting young people, particularly with regard to entrepreneurship.

Ms. B. KENEWENDO (Botswana) stressed the importance of programmes to reduce inequality and poverty. It was also essential to focus on those at risk of falling into poverty. In terms of global development cooperation, it was important to note that maintaining preferential trade agreements was very important. Moreover, it was necessary to provide aid to those in need; therefore development aid should be aligned with national priorities, and national agendas must also be well defined and must focus on the needs of the poor.

Mr. N. SALUCOMBO (Angola) said that the subject of redressing inequalities should be approached from the perspective of international cooperation, given that many countries were reliant on the resources of other countries for most of their development. In terms of the discussion on outside interference in sovereign states, insufficient consideration had been given to the role of the United Nations in that regard.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that there was a close link between sustainable development and control of natural resources. In the case of Palestine, how could the country achieve sustainable development when it did not have control of those resources?

Ms. J. JÖNSSON (Sweden) said that excluding women from the economy was the biggest waste of talent and the principal barrier to equality. The issue should be addressed in a holistic manner, and the following elements were required: equality, education, the opportunity to work while caring for their families, shared household responsibilities, fair working conditions, and control over their sexual and reproductive health.

Mr. S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates), President of the Forum, resumed the Chair.

Mr. T.J.P. TAPSOBA (Burkina Faso) said that more needed to be done to redress global inequalities. In developing countries, the majority of those living in poverty were women and young people; microfinancing initiatives should be stepped up, as they were useful tools for women and youth empowerment. Poverty was not the sole driver of exclusion, however; race and ethnicity were also key causes. Consultations should be held to enable countries to share their experiences, and more support should be provided through civil society organizations to ensure that activities reached those in need.

Election of the Forum Board members

The PRESIDENT explained that the terms of all Board members expired during the present Assembly. Newly elected members of the Board would serve a two-year term until March 2019. As per the Rules of Procedure, each geopolitical group was required to submit the candidature of one woman and one man. Once the Board members were elected, they would meet in camera to elect a new President. Based on the principles of gender and geographic rotation, the new President had to be a woman and could not be from the Arab Group.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that the following nominations had been received: from the African Group, Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda) and Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia); from the Arab Group, Ms. R.S. Al Manthari (Oman) and Mr. O. Altabtae (Kuwait); from the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. I.Y.R. Putri (Indonesia) and Mr. A. Rifau (Maldives); from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. R.B. Itamari Choque (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

and Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname); and from the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. S. Haskel (Israel) and Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada). Only one candidate had been nominated by the Eurasia Group, namely Ms. E. Afanasieva (Russian Federation).

The Forum approved the nominations.

The new members of the Board introduced themselves and thanked the Forum members for supporting their candidatures.

Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2017)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a number of upcoming youth-related interparliamentary events, including regional seminars for young parliamentarians in the African and Asia-Pacific regions; the next meeting of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU during the 137th Assembly; and the fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Nigeria) explained that the upcoming regional seminar for young parliamentarians in Africa was a joint initiative of the IPU and the Nigerian Forum of Young Parliamentarians. That Forum had previously organized other conferences, which had succeeded in garnering increased government attention for youth issues; the IPU had taken note of the impact of those conferences and the idea of the seminar had been developed. Although the primary aim was to discuss matters affecting young Africans, young parliamentarians from all countries were welcome to participate in the event.

Mr. B. GEBREZGHI (United Nations Development Programme) drew attention to a joint IPU-UNDP seminar to be held in Sri Lanka on the role of young parliamentarians in preventing violent extremism and how young parliamentarians from around the world could work together on that issue.

A video highlighting youth activities in the Russian Federation and advertising the upcoming 19th World Festival of Youth and Students was shown.

The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in Sochi, Russian Federation, in October 2017, represented an excellent platform for unity and intercultural dialogue among the young people of the world. The Festival programme would include discussions on politics and international relations, sporting events and cultural events. Her country would hold numerous events to welcome the Festival and the event would be launched during an international carnival in Moscow, before moving to Sochi.

A second video on the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students was shown.

Preparations for the 137th Assembly (October 2017)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum allowed it to appoint rapporteurs to prepare youth overview reports on draft resolutions before the Standing Committees. The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would debate a draft resolution entitled *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy* during the 137th IPU Assembly. Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada) had been appointed to draft that report and submit it to the co-Rapporteurs as a written contribution to the drafting of the resolution.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) asked how the youth overview report would be used to contribute to deliberations on the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT explained that the nominated rapporteur would collect members' views on the draft resolution from a youth perspective, prepare a report and submit it to the Standing Committee co-rapporteurs to enable it to feed into the draft resolution.

Ms. S. DEV (India) said that her country was extremely diverse, with different ethnic groups co-existing peacefully; key to that peaceful co-existence was the belief in the rule of law and the view of the Constitution as sacrosanct. In order to strengthen youth participation, India had strengthened mechanisms within education and political parties; all parties had youth wings that encouraged young people to participate in political processes, which helped to strengthen democracy. Moreover, many education institutions had students' unions, the representatives of which were chosen via democratic elections; more needed to be done to foster such initiatives.

Mr. O. POROSHENKO (Ukraine) expressed concern that in the video shown, Ukrainian cities currently annexed by the Russian Federation had been listed as being part of that country. The annexation of the cities was against international law and visiting them was currently against Ukrainian law.

Mr. S.Y. BURA AYASH (Sudan) said that although his country was ethnically and religiously diverse, it had experienced multiple wars and conflicts because it had never developed a clear approach to deal with the root causes of those conflicts. Within the framework of the search for effective and comprehensive solutions to wars and armed conflicts and in order to foster unity and build democracy, a national dialogue had been held, bringing together political parties and armed movements to foster reconciliation. Moreover, a peace council had been established. Sudan had been subjected to economic sanctions that had adversely affected the lives of its citizens; the sanctions had been partially removed and he hoped that they would be fully removed soon.

Ms. E. DESTA (Ethiopia) said that her country was made up of many different ethnic and religious groups and groups of different sexual orientation; all of those groups were represented in parliament in order to fully exercise democracy, which had contributed to peace and economic growth.

Ms. M.N. LARJOK WOUL (South Sudan) said that her country had a youth committee within its parliament; as a new country, it was essential that young parliamentarians participated in all activities. She was keen to share experiences with and learn from other young parliamentarians.

Mr. G. OREE (Mauritius) said that the United Nations should take steps to prevent rich countries from exploiting poor countries. IPU Assemblies were important forums to find new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration between Member Parliaments.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) observed that his country and others had previously condemned Russian actions in Crimea; attendance at the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students risked using young people to justify the illegal activities of a State.

The representative of IRELAND said that her country had made significant progress in the area of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, which had required legislative changes. Gender equality, however, was still a work in progress; nevertheless through tools such as quotas, improvements were being made. When discussing the SDGs, it was essential that countries did not call for equality on the one hand, while on the other they implemented economic policies, especially tax policies, which reduced other countries' capacities to realize their rights. Complementary policies were therefore needed.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, responding to the question from the representative of Palestine, explained the process by which the Forum could contribute to the deliberations of the Standing Committees. The Forum identified a rapporteur to prepare a youth overview report to be submitted to the co-rapporteurs prior to the drafting of the draft resolution. However, once it had been drafted, the Forum could not submit formal amendments to the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Board had elected a President, Ms. Mourine Osoru (Uganda). He congratulated the new President and invited her to chair the end of the Forum's meeting.

Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, took the Chair.

The new PRESIDENT thanked her colleagues for their trust and support. She invited the Forum members to meet again at the 137th Assembly in St. Petersburg.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.05 p.m. with Ms. S.S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate: *Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all* (A/136/3-DR)

Mr. S. KINGA (Bhutan) presented the draft outcome document of the 136th IPU Assembly, the Dhaka Communiqué, *Redressing inequalities: delivering on dignity and well-being for all*. Inequalities permeated all societies; they were multidimensional and interlinked. They were social, economic and political in nature, and their costs were hidden and unevenly distributed. Inequality had deprived citizens of the possibility to realize their full potential and their human rights, and to participate in society and political processes.

Over the course of the Assembly, the world's parliamentarians had committed to place concerns about inequalities at the heart of their work. They had welcomed Sustainable Development Goal 10 and its objectives of eradicating poverty and making economic development sustainable. They had pledged to redress inequalities through a holistic approach, leaving no one behind. In addressing inequalities there was no single prescription; each country must seek its own solutions, democratically. The commitments undertaken during the Assembly must be taken home and implemented at the national level.

Parliamentarians, as law makers, should consider enshrining respect for the rule of law, promotion of human dignity, unconditional equality for all people and equality of opportunities in their national constitutions. They should facilitate inclusive and participatory political processes. Parliaments should be more representative, inclusive, accessible, transparent and proactive. They should also be protected against the influence of money, organized lobbies or vested interest groups with potential conflicts of interest. Economic growth was critical to redressing inequalities and therefore must work for all; it must be inclusive and sustainable, underpinned by proactive redistributive policies, as well as an assessment of economic success that went beyond GDP to measure well-being.

Inequalities could be eradicated by preventing the concentration and production of assets in a few conglomerates, supporting entrepreneurship, combating tax evasion, and regulating the financial sector to minimize risks and invest in public goods to protect the most vulnerable. Economic growth depended on human capital. Parliamentarians must legislate to protect workers' rights, broadening their coverage to include those working in the informal economy, and make public education and training affordable, to give everyone an equal opportunity to work and earn a living.

The best results would be achieved through synergies of skill and international cooperation, in particular to improve the quality and quantity of aid to developing countries. Fair trade practices should be supported, and the economic diversification of developing countries away from commodity dependence should be supported. Global economic and financial governance should be strengthened through the United Nations and other multilateral bodies, and with fairer representation of the interests of developing countries.

The outcome document was endorsed.

Item 4 of the agenda

The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
(A/136/4-DR)

Ms. L. ROJAS (Mexico), *President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, presented the draft resolution, which had been prepared, along with an explanatory memorandum, by the two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus), and said that the Standing Committee had held a lively debate

on the draft. Clear arguments had been presented for and against it, and the debate had provided an excellent context for the subsequent discussion of proposed amendments. A total of 143 amendments, submitted by 18 delegations, had been received by the statutory deadline. The first proposed amendment had been that the draft resolution ought to be rejected out of hand, considering it too broad in scope, and that an unequivocal rejection of the admissibility of external interference was too dogmatic. That proposal had been rejected, and the discussions on the remaining proposed amendments had been constructive.

The resolution called on parliamentarians to work towards preventing conflicts and foster peace, as a key element of parliamentary relations and recognized the unique role of parliamentary diplomacy in that regard. It also urged parliaments to ensure a clear separation of powers and to counter politically-motivated violations of parliamentary immunity. The resolution called for legislative frameworks to be established to prevent or counter external interference in the internal affairs of States, and to condemn any use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another State. It appealed to parliaments to be as inclusive as possible and to take measures to ensure adequate representation of women, young people, persons with disabilities, minorities and marginalized groups in government and decision-making forums for conflict prevention and resolution.

Despite the adoption of some 40 per cent of the proposed amendments, the Standing Committee had remained divided on the resolution. A vote had therefore been held, and the resolution had been adopted by 44 votes in favour, 10 against, with one abstention. The delegations of Canada, Finland, Iceland, Switzerland and Ukraine voiced their objections to the resolution, and Germany had submitted a written reservation to the resolution as a whole. Several delegations had stated that they did not consider the text satisfactory, and others had said that while it had been improved it was still not balanced in its approach; it restricted the scope of participation of civil society and did not sufficiently address human rights. Some delegations expressed the opinion that the text was not sufficiently mature to be adopted as an IPU resolution. Those who had voted in favour considered that the resolution was a compromise text, which was well balanced and reflected a wide range of opinions.

The Standing Committee had decided to amend the title of the resolution, which now read: *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States*, since the majority of members considered the principle of non-intervention to be more specific than the concept of non-interference, and more in line with the role of parliaments.

The PRESIDENT said that due note had been taken of the reservations expressed by several delegations.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the original text of the resolution as presented by the co-Rapporteurs had not been acceptable to the Twelve Plus Group, insofar as it presented non-intervention as an absolute principle, disregarding the fact that the United Nations Security Council could permit derogation from that principle in the event of flagrant violations of human rights. The resolution as drafted considered human rights to be an internal matter for States, which was contrary to the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With more than 50 amendments having been approved, the text of the resolution had improved, yet it was still not without contradictions. No State, under the principle of national sovereignty, should be permitted to commit grave violations of human rights, and thereby eliminate the legitimate possibility to defend those rights in accordance with international law. The delegations of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom had expressed their reservations regarding the resolution.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the reservations had been noted. Written communications had been received from the delegations of Finland and Germany, expressing their reservations regarding the resolution as a whole.

Item 5 of the agenda

**Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals,
in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development**
(*Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
(A/136/5-DR)

Ms. S. TIOULONG (Cambodia), *President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, presented the draft resolution, which had been prepared, along with an explanatory memorandum, by the two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Mr. N.K. Premachandran (India). The Standing Committee had heard a presentation by the two co-Rapporteurs, followed by a short debate, and had then proceeded to consider 82 amendments, proposed by 15 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The resolution calls on parliaments to mainstream gender perspectives in laws and all financial policies, including policies facilitating and promoting women's rights and opportunities to participate in the labour market. It also calls on parliaments to support the adoption of national financial inclusion strategies with policy objectives and quantitative targets on women's financial inclusion, and to actively monitor their implementation. The Standing Committee had adopted the resolution unanimously.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda

**Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and
the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Ms. B.M. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana), *President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that the Standing Committee had elected two new members of the Bureau, Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi), from the African Group and Mr. S. Spengemann (Canada), from the Twelve Plus Group. For the preparation of its forthcoming draft resolution, at its previous session, the Standing Committee had appointed Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation) as one of the Rapporteurs. At its meeting during the current Assembly, the Standing Committee had taken note of the decision of the IPU President to nominate Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands) as the second co-Rapporteur, and had chosen to appoint a third co-Rapporteur, Ms. S. Dev (India).

The Standing Committee had held two debates, the first of which had been on the Universal Declaration on Democracy, in preparation for the Standing Committee's next resolution. The discussion had been opened by the Secretary General, who had underlined the core principles of the Declaration, which still retained their relevance 20 years after the Declaration had been adopted. Much change had since occurred, however, such as enormous technological developments. Concerns had been raised regarding declining levels of public trust in parliament, and low levels of youth participation in politics. Many valuable points had been raised during the discussion, which the co-Rapporteurs could draw on in drafting the resolution. All delegations could submit their ideas for the resolution in writing before 30 April 2017. All IPU Member Parliaments were encouraged to mark the International Day of Democracy, 15 September, by celebrating the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, and to engage their citizens in more discussion and action with a view to strengthening democracy.

The Standing Committee's second debate had been on the theme *Act now for adolescents: the role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well-being*, with participation of experts from WHO, UNAIDS, civil society and the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Discussions centred not only on adolescent mortality, but also on the harmful behaviours developed during adolescence, which would affect health and well-being later in life. The debate had concluded that parliamentary oversight of government programmes was essential to ensuring that services reached the adolescents most in need, and that parliaments should speak out about the needs of all adolescents so as to promote a path to a healthy and happy adult life.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), *President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee had elected three new Bureau members: Mr. A. Toumi (Morocco), Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina) and Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation). The Bureau had met with the United Nations Country Team in Bangladesh, and had conducted a

field visit to a UNICEF-run school in Dhaka. The Standing Committee had held two panel discussions, the first on the role of parliaments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attaining the SDGs, and the second on poverty eradication in preparation for the 2017 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The first debate had included a briefing on the voluntary review process for the SDGs, and on the IPU tools available to support Member Parliaments in that regard, including the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit, which could be used by parliaments to review their internal structures and processes to ensure they were fit for purpose from the perspective of implementing the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, forty-four States would present their voluntary national reviews, and the IPU was encouraging parliamentarians in those countries to contribute to the review process. A questionnaire on parliamentary involvement in the review process had been sent to speakers of parliament, so that the IPU Secretariat could gauge the extent of parliamentary involvement and seek to address any shortcomings. A model parliamentary resolution had also been presented, which highlighted the key steps that parliaments could take to institutionalize the SDGs.

The second debate had highlighted that poverty eradication was the responsibility of all countries. Participants had underscored the importance of viewing all policies and programmes through the lens of the SDGs. Poverty must be tackled at the local level, making decent work and essential services available for all. The majority of delegations that had attended the debate had been from countries with developing economies, which could be an indication that the SDGs had yet to gain traction among the developed countries, a situation that was not in line with the ethos of the 2030 Agenda.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Item 7 of the agenda

Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 138th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs (A/136/7-R.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document A/136/7-R.1 and said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security was proposing, for the next cycle the topic *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*, with Ms. M. Vargas Bárcena (Mexico) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland) as co-Rapporteurs. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade was proposing the subject *Engaging the private sector in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, especially on renewable energy*, with Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) as Rapporteur. As per the Rules of the Standing Committees, the President of the IPU would be entrusted with the mandate of conducting consultations with a view to identifying the second Rapporteur for that subject.

The Assembly agreed to those proposals.

Item 8 of the agenda

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules (A/136/8-P.1 and A/136/8-P.1.Am.1)

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the Governing Council had reviewed the proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, as contained in documents A/136/8-P.1 and A/136/8-P.1.Am.1, and had endorsed those amendments.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that in the absence of any comments or objections, the Assembly wished to approve the proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules.

It was so decided.

Closure of the Assembly

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that she wished to thank the host Parliament for its hospitality and efforts to create a conducive environment for the discussions. She also thanked the Secretary General and the IPU Secretariat for the work done to facilitate the Assembly. The choice of emergency item on famine and drought had been particularly welcome. She acknowledged the role played by Bangladesh in peacekeeping; Bangladesh had a female Head of State, a female Speaker of Parliament and a female leader of the Opposition, and for many years had maintained a large contingent of women peacekeepers, which was fully in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Despite tight security measures restricting delegates' movement during the Assembly, great efforts had been made to share knowledge about the culture, society and economy of the host country, which had been much appreciated. She urged all delegations, once they had returned home, to follow up on the deliberations and decisions made over the course of the Assembly, and thereby make a difference in the lives and well-being of the people they represented.

Mr. R. EL ABDI (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, expressed his deep gratitude to the Parliament of Bangladesh for its generosity in hosting the 136th IPU Assembly. The deliberations during the course of the Assembly had covered several topical issues of concern to the whole international community; he hoped that the results of the Assembly would contribute to peace and security the world over. Peace in the Middle East would be a prerequisite for stability elsewhere in the world. The global parliamentary community must assume its responsibilities in the interests of future generations. He congratulated the Secretary General on his re-election; the renewed expression of confidence in the Secretary General was well deserved.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, thanked the President of the IPU, the President of the Assembly and the Parliament of Bangladesh for their generous hospitality, and for having overcome various challenges to ensure the smooth running of the Assembly. The discussions had been robust, and new commitments had been made. The role of parliaments had been strengthened through debate and decision-making, and participants had worked together with one goal in view: to strengthen democracy, freedom, the rule of law and human rights.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, echoed the expressions of gratitude to the host parliament and to everyone who had worked to ensure the success of the 136th IPU Assembly and to uphold the IPU values of fostering peace, dialogue and conflict resolution, and supporting everyone affected by crises. She encouraged all parliaments to include young people in their delegations. She thanked the President and the Secretary General for their continuous efforts to bring parties together in dialogue, and congratulated the Secretary General on his re-election.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, reiterated the expressions of thanks to the Parliament of Bangladesh for its generous hospitality, and for having facilitated a successful Assembly. The Assembly had provided a forum for parliaments to take decisions that would be crucial for the whole of humanity; the most relevant and timely issues had been discussed, and the world's parliamentarians had worked together, despite their differences of opinion, expressed the truths that were important to them, and listened carefully to one another. The 136th Assembly had once again demonstrated that the global parliamentary community could work together to change the world.

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, said he wished to thank all those who had contributed to the outstanding success of the Assembly, in particular the host parliament and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Assembly had been one of the most successful that he had attended: the attention to detail had been exemplary. Far-reaching decisions had been taken, with implications for the attainment of the SDGs and gender justice, among others. Application of the resolutions adopted during the Assembly would enhance efforts to uphold the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other fundamental principles of international law. He thanked the IPU President, the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Assembly for their excellent leadership.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that since the signing of the host agreement for the 136th Assembly in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi authorities had done their utmost to ensure the smooth running of the proceedings. He expressed his gratitude to the Parliament, Prime Minister and President of Bangladesh and the President of the IPU for their gracious efforts and generous hospitality, and for having worked so hard to make the 136th Assembly a resounding success. He also thanked all Member Parliaments for having reaffirmed their confidence in him to lead the IPU for a further four years, and for the support that they had offered to the Secretariat. Over the course of his next term of office, he would remain committed to working with Member Parliaments and the Secretariat to modernize the IPU, to ensure that the IPU and its Member Parliaments were suitably prepared to meet contemporary challenges. Efforts in that regard would include pursuing the agenda of gender equality, fostering youth participation in the work of the Organization, and ensuring that all constituencies were involved in the work of the IPU. No country was too small for its concerns to be heard at the IPU. He would do his utmost to work with all Member Parliaments to ensure that no one was left behind, and that dialogue and mutual understanding were at the heart of parliamentary relations. He thanked all members of the Secretariat for their support.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), *President of the IPU*, expressed his pride as a citizen of Bangladesh, for the professionalism with which the 136th Assembly, the largest international event that Bangladesh had hosted, had been conducted. The authorities had proven themselves more than capable of organizing such a large event, which would go down in history as the moment when Bangladesh had declared itself ready to do business on a global scale.

Outlining several ground-breaking new initiatives that had been undertaken during the course of the week, he recalled that the Assembly would be the first where the carbon footprint would be calculated and local initiatives would be undertaken in Bangladesh to offset it, in particular through the distribution of new household cooking stoves to reduce household carbon dioxide emissions and harmonize consumption with conservation. He hoped that the initiative would set a trend for future IPU Assemblies. Efforts had been made to reach out to and interact with the local community, in particular young people, to seek their thoughts on the issues under discussion. New rules had been agreed for the functioning of the IPU, including an increased quota on women's membership of the Executive Committee and a commitment to formally engage with young parliamentarians. Important resolutions had been adopted, in particular committing parliamentarians to addressing the structural issues and root causes of inequalities. Engagement had been secured on issues with regard to mobilizing parliamentary action in support of the peace process in Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The global parliamentary community had spoken out in solidarity on issues of concern, in particular terrorism, and had agreed to meet in Dhaka despite security considerations, thus sending a message that the world's parliamentarians would stand tall in the name of democracy and would not give in to those who wished to diminish it. The local staff had provided outstanding service, under the guidance of the IPU Secretariat. He thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose courage and support had been instrumental in enabling Bangladesh to host the Assembly, and hoped that Bangladesh would be a global model not only for development, but also for democracy.

The PRESIDENT said that she had been honoured to preside over the proceedings and was grateful for the support she had received. Summarizing the outcome of the Assembly and its specialized committees, she thanked all participants for their active engagement in the discussions, in particular on the emergency item, which had demonstrated the global parliamentary community's commitment to save people facing starvation and death. She called on all parliamentarians to translate their commitments into action, and ensure that the voices of the people resonated and dominated the discourse of democracy. Congratulating the Member Parliaments, President, Secretary General and Secretariat of the IPU on a productive and successful session, she declared the 136th IPU Assembly closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

Dhaka Communiqué

Redressing inequalities: Delivering on dignity and well-being for all

*Endorsed by the 136th IPU Assembly
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

We, parliamentarians from 132 countries, gathered in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on the occasion of the 136th IPU Assembly, having debated the problem of inequality in all its forms – social, economic and political – issue the following statement.

While the question of inequality is one that each country needs to settle democratically as part of its own social contract, it is clear to us that extreme inequalities come at a high cost: people are denied the opportunity to flourish to the maximum of their individual potential and in accordance with their human rights; large sectors of the population lose purchasing power, stalling economic growth; power and wealth concentrated in a few hands undermine social cohesion and the very viability of the democratic process, increasing violence and insecurity. Many of our countries are already at this point, and many more will be soon, unless we take resolute, concerted action.

Welcoming Goal 10 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls on the international community to "reduce inequalities within and among countries", we pledge to place concern for all inequalities – social, economic and political – at the heart of our work. We take this opportunity to renew our commitment to combat gender inequality, which is rooted in discrimination against women, as a particularly important dimension of this multifaceted problem.

We recognize that reversing the current trend towards growing inequalities is a necessary condition for the implementation of the SDGs and their two principal objectives: eradicating poverty, and putting the world on a sustainable course. We are determined to address the structural causes of inequality and not be satisfied with palliative solutions.

We are deeply concerned that:

- While income and wealth are disproportionately concentrated in the top 1 to 10 per cent of the global population, a growing number of people around the world, particularly young people: are unemployed or under-employed; lack productive assets; are underpaid; have limited access to education, health care and other social services; often live in unsafe communities; and are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change. These people suffer disproportionately from social ills. They face violence and discrimination, are unable to participate fully in society, and encounter other barriers to realizing their human rights. Refugees, stateless persons and migrants are a large group that is particularly vulnerable to inequality, discrimination and violence;
- Women continue to be paid less than men for the same kind of work, and are overrepresented in the lowest-paid jobs and in precarious employment conditions. They are often denied the right to own property and bear a disproportionate share of the burden of unpaid domestic work;
- Large numbers of people are marginalized or *de facto* excluded from the political process because of their social or economic status; they include women, young people, indigenous people, migrant workers, disabled people, and ethnic minorities;
- A relatively small number of multinationals in the manufacturing, service and agriculture sectors dominate the market and technological innovation, reducing competition and opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as artisanal fisheries and small land owners.

Economic, social and political inequalities are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. This is why our response will take a holistic approach, ensuring that policymaking and decision-making processes are inclusive, participatory and take into account the needs of all.

We will commit to macroeconomic policies that promote: employment as the primary source of livelihood for most people; higher wages; and a fairer distribution of the tax burden between high income and lower income earners, as well as between corporations and individuals. Our economic and social policies will seek to invest in people as the primary resource of our countries. This

includes larger investment in education, which provides all people with an opportunity to grow as economic, social and political actors.

As the past few decades have shown, economic growth does not always lead to equal opportunity and shared prosperity. While economic growth remains critical, particularly in developing countries, it will not be sufficient to reduce income and wealth inequalities unless it is accompanied by proactive redistributive policies. In this connection, we reaffirm the 2013 Quito Communiqué (128th IPU Assembly) and, in particular, its call on all countries to assess the success of economic policies based on measurements of well-being that go beyond GDP. We have an obligation to pursue a more sustainable economic model to effectively decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

In redressing inequalities, each country will have to devise its own solutions, as no single policy prescription can meet all needs. Our debate has highlighted a wide range of measures that parliaments should consider in their efforts to reduce inequalities at the national and global levels, including:

Strengthening legal frameworks

- Ensure that all laws and budgetary allocations promote everyone's human rights;
- Uphold the rule of law and the principle that all people are equal under the law, regardless of social status or personal wealth;
- Enact laws and regulations to facilitate the participation of all citizens, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, in the political process as well as their access to elected office;
- Seek to entrench in the constitution the principle of human dignity and equality of opportunity for all;

Making parliaments more representative

- Strengthen efforts to open parliaments and decision-making to all people, reaching out, listening more and better representing the most impoverished in our own countries;
- Take measures to enhance transparency and protect the political system from the influence of money and organized lobbies, including through conflict-of-interest rules, effective limits to private funding of candidates and political parties, and anti-corruption legislation;
- Enhance the capacity of parliaments to take into account future trends and the needs of future generations;

Making the economy work for all

- Pursue economic and social policies that protect the most vulnerable, including by investing in public goods such as health care, transport and education for the benefit of all citizens;
- Combat tax evasion, including through tax havens, make sure the tax regime is sufficiently progressive, and emphasize direct taxes, taxes on investment income and capital gains, and corporate taxes as part of the revenue mix;
- Institute stronger anti-trust laws and regulations to prevent an excessive concentration of industrial production and assets, such as patents and land, in fewer conglomerates;
- Regulate the financial sector to avoid excessive risk, ensuring that any losses that may occur are not passed on to taxpayers;
- Support entrepreneurship by simplifying licensing and other administrative procedures, and by facilitating access to financing;
- Incentivize small and medium enterprises, including family owned and cooperative enterprises;

Strengthening social dialogue and human capital

- Strengthen labour laws to protect workers' rights, and to guarantee to all a living wage and basic benefits, such as minimum vacation, parental leave and unemployment insurance;
- Ensure that the benefits of automation in all economic sectors are fairly distributed between business owners and workers, including by providing stronger safety nets and workers' adjustment programmes;
- Institute or strengthen public pension schemes, including for informal sector workers and women performing unpaid domestic work;
- Provide affordable public education at all levels as well as training and vocational programmes, particularly for vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, so as to give all people an equal opportunity to work;

Improving international cooperation

- Strengthen development cooperation to improve the quality and quantity of aid to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and to improve the benefits of foreign direct investment in recipient economies;
- Support fair trade practices that ensure fair prices are paid for commodities and natural resources from developing countries;
- Facilitate the economic diversification of developing countries away from commodity dependence;
- Help strengthen global economic and financial governance through the United Nations and other multilateral bodies to prevent capital flight and other shocks;
- Advocate for a fairer representation of the interests of developing countries in the institutions of global economic and financial governance.

We fully realize that growing inequalities produce indirect economic costs that are often hidden and unevenly distributed among the population. We will need to better factor these costs into the budgetary and legislative process. In a similar vein, we will scrutinize the annual budget Bill with a view to reducing inequalities.

As we continue our law-making and oversight work, and in the spirit of the SDGs, in particular of Goal 10, we pledge to our citizens and to the international community our determination to leave no one behind.

As the representatives of the people, we will do our utmost to move this agenda forward.

The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming that the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States are part of the fundamental pillars of international law and international relations,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the 132nd IPU Assembly (Hanoi, 2015) *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights*; the resolution adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives*, including its sections relating to international law, human rights, national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States; and the resolution adopted by the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa*,

Affirming that the UN instruments, which stipulate the inadmissibility of external intervention — the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the protection of their Independence and Sovereignty (1965), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Friendly Relations Declaration (1970), General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) (1974), the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe “The Helsinki Final Act” (1975), the Declaration on the Deepening and Consolidation of International Detente (1977), the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States (1981), the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome — should be respected,

Stressing the responsibility of parliaments to strengthen democracy, promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights, support dialogue, encourage the peaceful settlement of internal disputes, take all necessary actions to consolidate national unity and peaceful negotiation among different sectors of society, and prevent the forcible overthrow of democratically elected and legitimate governments, in accordance with States' obligations under international law and human rights law, including the responsibility to protect as agreed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Underscoring that the people of each country have the inalienable right to determine their own political future, and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development, in accordance with international law,

Underlining, however, that the great challenges which mankind is facing today, such as climate change, terrorism, war and refugees, can no longer be met by one State alone, and that therefore an ever-closer cooperation of parliaments will be necessary,

Expressing its concern about the role of parliaments and their basis in society, in view of numerous arrests of journalists, increasing limitations on civil society's scope for action, and certain tendencies to disempower parliaments by proclaiming over-extended states of emergency or by the unlawful arrest of deputies,

Stressing that parliaments owe their duties to all individuals within a State, and that all human beings without exception bear universal and indivisible human rights,

* The delegations of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom expressed a reservation on the entire resolution.

Aware that the decisions and resolutions of the UN Security Council have universal legitimacy in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, and that any derogations from those decisions that may be binding in nature may run contrary to international law and the stable rules of international relations, in particular when addressing issues relating to aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States,

Highlighting both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy, including its capacity to diffuse or avert tensions and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,

Noting that democracy, good governance and development are inextricably linked and *underscoring* the need to maintain support for democracy in times of economic hardship,

Reaffirming the vital role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, and the importance of women's full and equal participation in all efforts to preserve and promote peace and security, and the need to reinforce the role of women in the decision-making processes associated with conflict prevention and settlement,

Affirming the important role of the equal participation and full involvement of young people in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, and particularly in ensuring the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts,

Emphasizing the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and persons with disabilities within the democratic framework of the State as part of an inclusive society, which provides a forum for the peaceful resolution of differences,

Believing that all States and parliaments are taking stock of the main lessons to be drawn from the dramatic events in the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and elsewhere in the world, and that those institutions acknowledge that it is important to pursue democratic constitutional reforms and adopt new laws that ensure government accountability and equal opportunities for all; and *stressing* the need for parliaments and the IPU to continue their support for these democratization processes,

1. *Reiterates* the need to respect absolutely and adhere fully to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States;
2. *Strongly urges* all States to fulfil their obligations under international law, to condemn terrorism in all its forms, as manifested in the invasion and occupation of territories, ethnic cleansing and displacement, the destruction of humanity's archaeological heritage, the establishment of child armies, the abuse of women, and suicide operations; these obligations include refraining from the threat or use of force and respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States, while also respecting, promoting and protecting the human rights of everyone within their territory;
3. *Urges* parliaments to promote, protect and respect all human rights without distinction as a fundamental basis for the democratic life of national parliaments, and to defend and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy;
4. *Affirms* that the only way to conduct inter-State relations is to constantly observe the universally recognized principles and rules of international law; and *urges* all States to work towards denying terrorist organizations resources, whether human, military or financial;
5. *Underlines* the role of parliaments in preventing external intervention that threatens States' sovereignty and independence;
6. *Urges* parliaments to establish national legal bases and mechanisms to prevent or counter external intervention in the internal affairs of independent States;

7. *Calls on* parliaments to work on conflict prevention and implementing peacebuilding strategies as part of their parliamentary relations agenda;
8. *Urges* parliaments to resist, with all available means, the politically motivated withdrawal of the immunity of elected members of parliament;
9. *Also urges* parliaments to help ensure a clear separation of powers through an effective system of checks and balances;
10. *Resolutely condemns* all threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State;
11. *Urges* parliaments to contribute to increasing the number of working women and to guarantee the principle of equal opportunities in decision-making forums in subnational, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms designed to prevent and settle conflicts;
12. *Also urges* parliaments to consider ways to increase the number of young people involved in decision-making processes at all levels of national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms designed to prevent outside intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States and to respect amicable relations between them,
13. *Further urges* parliaments to put in place mechanisms to ensure the representation in the institutions of government of persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups,
14. *Calls on* all States, regardless of their political, economic, social and cultural systems, to fulfil their duty and responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the provisions of international law governing relations among sovereign States;
15. *Also calls on* States to prioritize guidelines for development cooperation, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to promote democratic quality and stability indicators;
16. *Welcomes* the contributions of the IPU and parliaments to promoting lasting peace; and *calls for* tensions among peoples to be defused wherever they arise, not only through collective action across political, cultural and religious divides, but also through engaging in a constructive, effective and comprehensive dialogue with all other ethnic, religious and social groups as a means of settling disputes among all States;
17. *Calls on* parliaments to support the State in the fulfilment of its responsibility to protect populations within its borders from incitement to commit, and the commission of, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and only to approve intervention in a foreign State that fails to provide this protection when such intervention is in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
18. *Emphasizes* the need to carefully define and assess situations where the responsibility to protect doctrine may potentially be invoked; and *underlines* that military force used under that doctrine shall be deployed as a last resort after exhausting all available diplomatic channels.

Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 5 April 2017)

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Affirming that sustainable development refers to the idea of development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,

Expressing satisfaction that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on a holistic approach to sustainable development with a reasonably balanced emphasis on economic growth, social development and environmental protection,

Accepting that one challenge of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to make sure that developmental processes are inclusive and broad-based, allow wide participation from all segments of society, and are equally beneficial to all,

Acknowledging that another challenge of implementing the SDGs is to ensure effective delivery of public services by strict monitoring, regular evaluation and restructuring of public services, all of which will depend on the availability of basic infrastructure support, both in rural and urban areas,

Also acknowledging that eradicating poverty in all its forms is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and that to this end, sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, as well as empowering the poor through education, health and skills development must all be promoted,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to providing food and nutrition in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all of the SDGs,

Also recognizing that women's financial inclusion is an engine of development that fights poverty, contributes to equitable economic growth, enables women's economic empowerment and thereby improves children's health, nutrition and schooling, whilst benefitting their families and communities,

Underscoring that, according to the Global Findex of the World Bank, women are 15 per cent less likely than men to have a bank account, and nearly 50 per cent of women across the world do not have a bank account,

Considering that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) and its 17 SDGs recognize the importance of financial inclusion as part of eradicating poverty and achieving well-being for all,

Recalling that in 2016, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, established the High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment to address the specific economic issues that affect women and to support both the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind,

Bearing in mind that the Outcome Document of the General Debate endorsed by the 131st IPU Assembly (Geneva, 2014) points out that achieving gender equality and ending violence against women is the responsibility of both men and women, and that effective change requires both a strong institutional framework and national bodies with the power to take action,

Underscoring the importance of creating a favourable environment for the financial inclusion of women by ensuring equality before the law, especially in areas such as work, family, property and inheritance, and the importance of ensuring that women can live a life free from violence, enjoy their right to education and access health services,

Mindful that access to formal financing institutions helps to increase the equality of income between men and women, generate employment, reduce people's vulnerability to emergency situations, facilitate entrepreneurship, and foster both medium- and long-term saving and planning activities,

Stressing that financial education and financial literacy programmes are critical in achieving comprehensive and sustainable financial inclusion,

Reiterating that mobilizing domestic and international financial resources, as well as capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries on favourable terms will all play a vital role in providing essential services, public goods and low-cost money transfers or remittances,

Recognizing that parliaments have a strong obligation to champion international law and human rights standards on the empowerment of women and adapt their national legislation accordingly,

Underscoring that the role of parliaments in embracing the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development should be conceived in accordance with international and national laws and with the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Invites* parliaments to promote the development of national, regional and international public policies and strategies that focus on eliminating the legal, cultural and logistical barriers that discriminate against women and prevent their full inclusion in the financial systems of each country, and to promote women's participation in those decision-making processes;
2. *Urges* parliaments to identify the needs and limitations of each region and society by making a complete diagnosis based on gender- and age-disaggregated information, which will allow the root causes of this challenge to be addressed, both according to its particular circumstances and from a gender perspective;
3. *Calls on* parliaments to take all appropriate measures to remove legal provisions that discriminate against women in areas such as work, family, property and inheritance, as a key step towards addressing the gender gap in financial inclusion;
4. *Also calls on* parliaments and governments to adopt legal frameworks and policies that increase financial inclusion in general, the financial inclusion of women in particular, and *invites* them to mainstream gender perspectives in all financial policies, including policies facilitating and promoting women's rights and opportunities to participate in the labour market;
5. *Proposes* that parliaments encourage the implementation of educational programmes for women and girls aimed at developing the knowledge and expertise of women to access financial services and financial literacy, including through the use of new technologies, and ensure they are accessible and responsive to the needs of women, including rural women and women in vulnerable situations;
6. *Requests* parliaments to promote the inclusion of women in the extensive use of widely accessible information and communication technologies that facilitate women's access to digital financial services, and enable innovative initiatives such as establishing digital payment systems, electronic money and access to accounts via mobile telephony, while addressing security and privacy concerns;
7. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage private companies and banks to design a wide range of attractive, low-cost financial products that provide incentives and banking facilities for women to develop good savings habits;

8. *Also calls on* parliaments and governments to adopt and promote policies and laws that enhance fair competition practices in the provision of financial services as a means of enhancing innovation and provision of quality services;
9. *Further calls on* parliaments to support the adoption of national financial inclusion strategies with policy objectives and quantitative targets on women's financial inclusion, and to actively monitor their implementation;
10. *Appeals to* parliaments to promote innovative financial services that are accessible to women in rural areas, such as itinerant banking services or village banks;
11. *Invites* parliaments to develop cooperative links with national, regional and international financial institutions for the implementation of programmes aimed at promoting the financial inclusion of women;
12. *Encourages* parliaments to promote partnerships with governments, the private sector and civil society so as to accomplish financial and digital inclusion, especially for women;
13. *Urges* parliamentarians to ensure that existing policies and programmes provide access to credit, as well as to financial and business training for women with lower incomes in order to facilitate their financial inclusion;
14. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that women have continued access to formal credit and government support; and *invites* them to promote public policies and private sector initiatives that expand financial access for women-owned enterprises, as well as entrepreneurial education and training opportunities for women, in order to close the gender gap and empower women entrepreneurs worldwide;
15. *Strongly urges* parliaments to encourage reforms that offer women the right to access economic resources and financial services on an unbiased basis;
16. *Calls on* parliamentarians to encourage the private banking sector to reduce the costs of opening and maintaining a savings account and to tailor financial products to women's specific needs;
17. *Also calls on* parliaments and governments to take, where applicable, measures to facilitate women's access to personal identification, as a critical step towards their financial inclusion;
18. *Stresses* the importance of collecting, using and disseminating gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking for the development of gender-inclusive financial systems;
19. *Invites* parliaments, governments and international stakeholders to step up efforts to reduce the digital divide between countries with regard to information and communication technologies and broadband connectivity in order to facilitate financial inclusion;
20. *Calls for* increased official development assistance to expand financial inclusion through, inter alia, developing new products tailored to the needs of financially excluded groups, supporting transition to digital payments, designing financial education programmes, and adopting strong customer protection frameworks, while addressing gender disparities;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage the adoption of gender-responsive policies and regulatory frameworks that support financial inclusion while providing appropriate consumer protection against threats such as fraud, cybercrime, over-indebtedness or unethical business practices;
22. *Invites* parliaments to create an enabling environment that allows women to actively participate in the policy dialogue and decision-making on financial inclusion;
23. *Advises* governments, parliaments, the private sector and civil society to assume responsibility for championing the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 136th IPU Assembly
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

Interactive debate on *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*

The debate took place on Monday 3 April with the Committee President Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana) in the chair. It was introduced by the IPU Secretary General and the three Rapporteurs of the next resolution, Ms. S. Dev (India), Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands) and Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation). The Rapporteurs recalled some of the fundamental points of the Universal Declaration. Democracy was both a set of principles and a form of government. The extent to which people were able to exercise their human rights, such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, was a significant marker of democracy. Democracy was essential to progress and led to happier and more open societies. Non-democratic societies tended to create the conditions where human rights were eroded, where people were under pressure to remain silent and where corruption could flourish.

The question of minority rights was a prominent part of the discussion. The universal character of the core principles of democracy was reaffirmed by everyone who spoke. Participants also drew attention to the national, ethnic and religious particularities of each country, which meant that there could never be one form of democracy alone. It was necessary to pay constant attention to people's rights. One third of the world's population continued to live in conditions of low levels of human development. The most marginalized, including groups such as women and girls, people living in rural areas, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people, often had limited negotiating power to influence institutions.

Delegates raised a number of issues of general or specific relevance to the discussion on the state of democracy in their countries and in the world. Representatives of Cyprus and Zambia emphasized the need to develop a participatory culture and the importance of educating young people about the values of democracy. The representative of Jordan called for citizens to be active and highlighted that country's law on decentralization as a means of developing a "bottom-up" democracy.

The representative of Iceland noted that people had limited means to influence government between elections and called for new forms of participation that would allow people to express who they wanted to be. While noting that social media could help to give individuals a voice, many representatives warned of the risks of relying on emotion when making decisions. Public opinion polling could provide valuable insights, but more reliable methods were required to ensure the accuracy of opinion polls.

The representative of South Africa noted that elected leaders needed to respect the time limits of their constitutional terms of office, and called for powerful systems of transparency and accountability. The representative of the United Arab Emirates told the Committee that the country had created a Ministry of Tolerance and Happiness, whose aims were to strengthen social cohesion and to ensure that everyone had a chance to achieve social justice. The representative of Sri Lanka pointed out that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly included the principles of democracy in Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), which underlined how important democracy was to development.

In conclusion, the Rapporteurs noted that democracy was a process that was never fully achieved. The road to democracy was not easy, and required a constant commitment to work with the people. The interventions from the representatives had demonstrated a "wonderful world of pluriformity and diversity" in the practice of democracy and the issues each country faced. At the same time, there was strong agreement on the universality of the principles of democracy, as set out in the Universal Declaration on Democracy.

Report on the debate *Act now for adolescents: the role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well-being.*

On Tuesday 4 April, the Committee held an interactive debate on *Act now for adolescents: the role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well-being*. The President, Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), was in the Chair and the debate was moderated by Ms. H. Fogstad, Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The panellists were Dr. V. Chandra-Mouli (World Health Organization), Ms. M. Fairouz (Restless Development Nepal), Mr. C. Sebuoro (Rwanda) and Ms. S. Khan (UNAIDS Bangladesh).

The main causes of death among adolescents across the world were road traffic injuries, suicide, unsafe abortion and early maternity. However, hundreds of millions more suffered long-term health consequences as a result of harmful habits developed during adolescence, including the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. In many societies, menstruation remained a taboo subject. Girls sometimes had no knowledge of it until their first menstrual period, and might have limited access to sanitary products and support. Adolescents were not a priority in the MDGs and the United Nations had only recently incorporated their specific needs into its global health strategies.

Panellists' introductory remarks and interventions from the floor highlighted the importance of policies and laws that addressed the health and well-being of adolescents. There was a need for accessible, youth-friendly health services and for greater awareness among adolescents of their health rights. Systematic data was needed to help governments and parliaments take informed policy decisions. Budgets must be allocated, and policy outcomes closely monitored to check that they were achieving the intended results.

Legislation was necessary, but not sufficient, to tackle harmful norms and habits. Dr. Chandra-Mouli noted that the proportion of adolescent boys who thought it was acceptable to beat their wife in certain circumstances was practically the same as in older generations. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to speak out so that attitudes evolved, particularly towards teenage girls.

Parliamentarians from 28 countries (of whom 12 were women) shared numerous examples of initiatives to promote adolescent health and well-being. Representatives from many countries, notably in Africa, pointed out that a very significant percentage of their population was young, making it even more important to ensure their well-being.

The parliament of Rwanda had been raising awareness for many years about the issues discussed during the debate, including by ensuring sexual and reproductive health was part of the school curriculum. The representative of Botswana noted that its Children's Act provided for a series of protections for people under the age of 18. Under the country's criminal code, which was widely used by the police, the criminal age of responsibility was 14. Laws must be harmonized, and awareness raised at all levels of government.

The representative of Italy noted that more attention should be given to adolescents who were migrants or refugees. The representative of South Africa said that that country provided free education to all and had increased the numbers of one-stop centres to help victims of gender-based violence. The representative of Kenya noted that a multi-sectoral approach was needed to improve the health and well-being of adolescents. Sectors such as health, education and transportation should deliver as one. The representative of Sweden stated that investments in sexual and reproductive health yielded significant social and economic dividends. The representative of Cuba shared a successful case in the fight to end early pregnancies involving the introduction of sexual and reproductive education in schools.

In conclusion, despite some progress and a number of good initiatives, there was much more that parliaments and parliamentarians could do to improve the health and well-being of adolescents. Passing laws, allocating budgets, and monitoring the status of adolescent health and well-being were necessary steps. It was also crucial that parliamentarians advocated for change to the social norms that continued to hamper the healthy development of young boys and girls.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 136th IPU Assembly
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The President, Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), opened the meeting. The three new members of the Bureau were confirmed: Mr. A. Toumi (Morocco), Ms. C. Crexell (Argentina) and Mr. S. Gavrillov (Russian Federation). Mr. Toumi introduced himself. Mr. Avsan then invited the President of the IPU, Mr. S. Chowdhury, to make a few remarks on the role of parliaments in ensuring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the main theme of the session.

Mr. Chowdhury provided the broader context of the debate, which stemmed from a strategic partnership between the UN and the IPU. The partnership had been further strengthened the previous year as a result of a new Cooperation Agreement between the two organizations as well as a resolution of the General Assembly on *Interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU*. Mr. Chowdhury noted that the first year of the SDGs had already elapsed and that MPs needed to move quickly into action.

Mr. Avsan then proceeded to open the plenary debate, which consisted of two sessions.

Session 1:

The following panellists took part in the first session on the parliamentary follow-up on the SDGs in preparation for the 2017 session of the HLPF: Mr. S. Mukerjee, Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh, Mr. F. Rabbi, Deputy Speaker (Bangladesh), and Ms. J. Luveni, Speaker (Fiji). Ms. P. Torsney and Mr. A. Motter (IPU Secretariat) contributed remarks.

The debate highlighted the global review process for the SDGs undertaken through the annual session of the HLPF in July. The IPU was working to help prepare parliaments to provide input into that process and build their capacities to mainstream the SDGs in their work. The IPU-UNDP **self-assessment toolkit for parliamentarians** was designed to help parliaments review their own internal structures and processes to ensure that they were fit for purpose for implementation of the SDGs.

The IPU had provided parliaments with a **model resolution** highlighting the key steps that parliaments could take to institutionalize the SDGs, such as asking the government to create a national plan for the SDGs and report annually to parliament on its implementation. The IPU was working to engage parliaments in the **voluntary national reviews (VNRs)** presented by countries to the HLPF each year. In 2017, forty-four countries would present VNRs. The IPU had brought that process to the attention of the parliaments of those countries. It encouraged them to contribute to the VNR and report back to the Organization through a questionnaire by June 2017.

Bangladesh, the host country, offered a good case study of how the SDGs could be implemented, including through the engagement of parliament. As highlighted by Mr. Rabbi and Mr. Mukerjee, the Government had already taken several important steps: a special coordinator for the SDGs had been appointed in the Prime Minister's office, a directorate within the civil service supported work across all policy areas, an action plan for the SDGs was in the pipeline, a detailed costing of the SDGs was being performed, and the current five-year development plan (established before the SDGs) had been adjusted to accommodate the new development agenda before the next plan, which would fully reflect the SDGs.

Similar steps were being taken in the Bangladesh parliament: clusters of SDGs had been assigned to specific thematic committees to ensure systematic follow up; a motion on the SDGs, inspired by the IPU model, was expected to be tabled in May. Support provided by UNDP to the parliament included working to provide additional research capacities to the budget office, supporting draft legislation, and helping to promote dialogue between MPs and their constituents.

Other examples of parliamentary engagement in the SDGs were discussed in the course of the meeting. As Ms. Luveni noted, the previous year's IPU needs assessment mission to her parliament had provided many useful suggestions. Steps taken so far included: organizing regular Speakers' debates open to all citizens and providing all MPs with a diary whose pages featured the various SDGs as a constant reminder. The parliament of China had adopted a new national plan that reflected the SDGs and was organizing seminars for MPs. The parliament of Thailand would soon undertake an assessment using the IPU-UNDP self-assessment toolkit and would make sure

to review a new 20-year national plan being completed by the government. The parliament of Zimbabwe had created two committees: a "thematic" committee to perform oversight of government departments and another committee comprising the chairs of all standing committees that provided policy coordination within parliament. In Sweden, the parliament had examined the SDGs and concluded that current policies and implementation tools were already aligned with the new agenda, and that only a few adjustments were required to meet all the goals by 2030.

Overall, the debate emphasized the strong role parliaments needed to play to build national ownership of the SDGs while ensuring the "domestication" of that global framework to each country's specific context. Parliaments were encouraged to persuade governments to produce regular progress reports on the SDGs, including voluntary national reviews to the HLPF. It was noted that financing would be key to the success of the SDGs and that parliaments must work to ensure sufficient resources through the budget process, including by diverting military expenditures towards development.

Session 2:

The second panel focused on the main theme of the 2017 HLPF, *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. It featured Mr. N. Kumar, Chief of the Social Development Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), Ms. C. Hunter, UN Women country representative, Mr. S. Kinga, Speaker (Bhutan), Ms. C. Roth, Deputy Speaker (Germany), and Ms. B. Sampatisiri, MP (Thailand).

As the experience of the Asia-Pacific region amply illustrated, poverty could be conquered. Rapid growth over recent decades had helped to curtail poverty drastically. However, some 400 million people still lived in poverty in the region. Rising inequality, weak social protection, lack of access to education and health care, and a growing rural-urban divide were challenges that still needed to be tackled. Persons with disabilities, migrants and women were among the groups most likely to be poor or at risk of poverty.

Policies targeting the most vulnerable groups were key to poverty eradication. Discrimination, the main driver of poverty amongst women, was not always evident, especially when it occurred within the household. For example, girls from poor households were primarily those who married too young (under 18), sacrificing their education and professional prospects. Female-headed households might appear to earn more than men, but, in reality, they remained more vulnerable because of a lack of assets on which to fall back in the event of unemployment or illness.

Discrimination was responsible for lower wages and other important causes of women's poverty outside the household. Domestic workers, who were predominantly female, lacked basic protection because they were systematically excluded from labour laws. Public policy must target the most vulnerable women. Such policies could be designed and put in place only if parliamentarians made a special effort to reach out to the affected groups, seeking their input and ensuring that it was taken into account in policy development.

The question of whether poverty reduction depended exclusively on economic growth was debated. Mr. Kinga made the case for a different approach based on the pursuit of happiness as the main policy objective. He noted that, in Bhutan, the success of all economic, social and environmental policies was measured by the Gross National Happiness (GNH) index, as opposed to the traditional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) index, which merely measured the value of goods and services exchanged. The GNH consisted of five elements of human well-being: material, spiritual, emotional, cultural, and environmental. By applying the GNH approach, poverty in Bhutan had fallen from 23 per cent in 2007 to 12 per cent in 2012, and a further reduction to 5 per cent was expected by 2018. The key to making the GNH approach work was institutional. The parliament had simply redesigned all reporting requirements and entire parliamentary committees to reflect the elements of the GNH.

Thailand's experience with poverty reduction hinged on another innovative approach, namely the so-called "sufficiency economy philosophy." While not denying the importance of economic growth, that approach underscored the virtues of moderation and harmony with nature. Applied to farming, the approach had meant converting land from resource intensive monocultures to organic methods based on crop rotation and natural inputs, which had lowered poverty rates in rural Thailand.

Although poverty might not be as pronounced in developed countries as it was in developing ones, developed countries also had an obligation, under the SDGs, to look after their poor. Ms. Roth argued that developed countries like her own must take responsibility for the plight of the poor in developing countries. She noted that developed countries' agricultural subsidies damaged livelihoods in developing countries, and that arms sales from developed countries to developing countries enabled violent conflict and caused untold damage to development prospects. A drastic re-think of global trade and economic policies was required to give developing countries a real chance of succeeding against poverty.

The debate also highlighted the importance of submitting all policy proposals that the government brought before parliament to an SDG test. It was noted that many of the policy interventions that worked well against poverty started at the local level, which was where people expected jobs and essential services to be available. It might therefore be necessary to decentralize authority to local governments and empower local communities. Most importantly, parliaments must ensure that policies and budgets targeted the most vulnerable directly and in accordance with their human rights.

Forty-one delegations attended the Committee session. The vast majority of them were from developing countries, and no developed country intervened in the debate. That could be an indication that the SDGs had yet to gain traction among developed countries, which was inconsistent with the original intention of the SDGs as a universal agenda.

Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU

Statutes

Amendments adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 5 April 207)

Article 25.1

Amend the existing Article as follows:

25.1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 15 members belonging to different Parliaments and, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians **and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.**

Article 25.2

Amend the existing Article as follows:

2. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall be ex officio President of the Executive Committee. Fifteen members shall be elected by the Governing Council; not less than 12 shall be elected from among the members of the Governing Council to which they shall continue to belong during their mandate. ~~At least three of the members elected must be women.~~ **Each sex shall be represented by no less than one third of the elected members.***

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Rules of the Assembly

Amendments adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 5 April 207)

Rule 4

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The Assembly will meet twice a year and normally last for four days. ~~The second~~ **At least one session of the year will shall** be held in Geneva, unless the IPU governing bodies decide otherwise.
2. The place and date of each Assembly shall be determined by the Governing Council, if possible one year in advance (cf. Statutes, Art. 21 (b), Assembly Rule 6). **The Assembly may only be held in a host country if all IPU Members, Associate Members and Observers are invited and if their representatives shall be granted the visas required for participation by the government of the host country.** The convocation of the Assembly shall be sent to all Members of the IPU at least four months before the opening of the session.

Rule 11.2(a)

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

- (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a ~~recent major event~~ **situation** of international concern, on which ~~it appears necessary~~ **urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate** for the IPU to express its opinion **and mobilize a parliamentary response.** Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted.

* Modality for the implementation of the amendment to Article 25.2 to the Statutes:

- Groups with 4 seats will include an equal number of men and women;
- Groups with 3 seats will include at least one man and one woman;
- Groups with 2 seats will include an equal number of men and women;
- Groups with 1 seat will ensure that the seat is held at least by a man and a woman over three terms.

Rule 15.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The Assembly shall start by holding a General Debate with an overall theme. During this General Debate, Members may also address the political, economic and social situation in the world. This debate ~~shall not~~ **may** give rise to the adoption of an ~~motion or draft resolution~~ **outcome document, as decided by the Steering Committee and approved by the IPU Executive Committee.**

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Rules of the Standing Committees

*Amendments adopted by the Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

Rule 7.5

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

5. The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-President from among the members of their Bureau. The posts of President and Vice-President shall **normally** be filled at a single election. The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of the posts of President and Vice-President of Standing Committees.

Rule 18

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

Any Member of the IPU may submit a proposal for a subject item to be discussed by a Standing Committee at a future Assembly. Such proposals shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat ~~no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject will be discussed~~ **up to one day prior to the meeting of the respective Standing Committee Bureau.**

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Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

*Amendments adopted by the Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

- Loss of membership due to repeated absence

Insert a new sentence and short complementary phrase into Rule 1(2) of the Rules and Practices of the Committee. The new text proposed is below in bold type. Article 1(2) would therefore be drafted as follows:

"Committee members shall be elected for a single five-year term. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of a member, or if the affiliation of the parliament to which the member belongs is suspended, his/her term shall automatically come to an end.

Members who are absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason may lose their seat by decision of the Governing Council following a recommendation by the Committee. Upon loss of Committee membership, another person shall be elected from the same geopolitical group for a new, full five-year term."

- Members bringing interpreters in other languages

Add a new Article 4 in Rule 3 (“sessions”), which would read:

During sessions, the IPU shall provide interpretation from and into English, French and Spanish. Case files and other documentation shall be provided in English and French only. In the event that neither English, French or Spanish is their mother tongue, members may bring interpreters to interpret into and from an additional language. Members shall be responsible for covering the costs of such interpretation and informing the IPU Secretariat sufficiently in advance so that practical arrangements can be made. The members shall ensure that the interpreters are of high quality and respect the confidentiality of the Committee’s proceedings.

* * * * *

Financial Regulations

*Amendment adopted by the Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 207)*

Rule 5.10

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

10. Any Member of the IPU whose affiliation was suspended for failure to meet its financial obligations towards the IPU shall remain accountable for these arrears. Should such a Parliament subsequently present a request for reaffiliation **earlier than 10 years after the date of its suspension**, it shall pay, at the time of its reaffiliation, at least one third of the outstanding arrears and shall present a plan for the settlement of the full remaining amount over a reasonable period of time. Until the full sum is paid, this amount shall remain as a special debt and shall not be considered as arrears under the provisions of Articles 4.2 and 5.2 of the Statutes.

Tougher migration policies around the world and the risk of human rights violations

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

Results

Affirmative votes.....256	Total of affirmative and negative votes	603
Negative votes347	Two-thirds majority.....	402
Abstentions515		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			<i>Absent</i>	Georgia			<i>Absent</i>	Poland			15
Albania			<i>Absent</i>	Germany			19	Portugal			13
Algeria			15	Ghana			<i>Absent</i>	Qatar			8
Andorra			10	Guinea	8		5	Republic of Korea			<i>Absent</i>
Angola			14	Guyana			<i>Absent</i>	Romania			14
Argentina			<i>Absent</i>	Hungary	10		3	Russian Federation	5	10	5
Austria			6	Iceland			<i>Absent</i>	Rwanda			12
Bahrain			11	India			<i>Absent</i>	Samoa			<i>Absent</i>
Bangladesh	20			Indonesia			<i>Absent</i>	San Marino	5		5
Belarus			<i>Absent</i>	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10		8	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Belgium			13	Iraq			<i>Absent</i>	Saudi Arabia			14
Bhutan			10	Ireland	8		3	Senegal			<i>Absent</i>
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy			17	Seychelles			<i>Absent</i>
Botswana			11	Japan			20	Singapore			<i>Absent</i>
Brazil	10			Jordan			12	South Africa			17
Burkina Faso			13	Kenya			15	South Sudan			10
Burundi			12	Kuwait			11	Spain	15		
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic			<i>Absent</i>	Sri Lanka			<i>Absent</i>
Cambodia			<i>Absent</i>	Latvia			11	Sudan			<i>Absent</i>
Cameroon			13	Lebanon			11	Suriname	10		
Canada			15	Lesotho			11	Swaziland			11
Central African Republic			<i>Absent</i>	Luxembourg			<i>Absent</i>	Sweden			12
Chad			<i>Absent</i>	Madagascar			10	Switzerland			12
Chile			<i>Absent</i>	Malawi			<i>Absent</i>	Thailand			18
China	10		13	Malaysia			14	Timor-Leste	11		
Comoros			10	Maldives			<i>Absent</i>	Turkey			18
Cuba	13			Mali	13			Tuvalu			10
Cyprus			<i>Absent</i>	Malta			<i>Absent</i>	Uganda			15
Czech Republic			13	Mauritius			11	Ukraine			17
DPR of Korea	12			Mexico	20			United Arab Emirates			10
DR of the Congo			17	Monaco	10			United Kingdom			18
Denmark			<i>Absent</i>	Mongolia	5	4	1	United Republic of Tanzania			15
Djibouti			<i>Absent</i>	Morocco			15	Uruguay			<i>Absent</i>
Dominican Rep.	10			Namibia			11	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Egypt			10	Nepal			<i>Absent</i>	Viet Nam	11		8
El Salvador			<i>Absent</i>	Netherlands			13	Zambia			13
Estonia			11	Niger			13	Zimbabwe	13		
Ethiopia			<i>Absent</i>	Nigeria			20				
Fiji			<i>Absent</i>	Norway			<i>Absent</i>				
Finland			10	Oman			11				
France			18	Palestine			11				
Gabon			11	Panama			<i>Absent</i>				
				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.

The legalization of settlements by the Israeli regulation law: A violation of international law

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Palestine, on behalf of the Arab Group for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....459	Total of affirmative and negative votes	652
Negative votes193	Two-thirds majority.....	435
Abstentions466		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Poland			15
Albania		Absent		Germany		19		Portugal			13
Algeria	15			Ghana		Absent		Qatar	8		
Andorra			10	Guinea	8	5		Republic of Korea	Absent		
Angola			14	Guyana		Absent		Romania			14
Argentina		Absent		Hungary			13	Russian Federation	11	5	4
Austria		6	6	Iceland		Absent		Rwanda		12	
Bahrain	11			India		Absent		Samoa	Absent		
Bangladesh	20			Indonesia		Absent		San Marino	7		3
Belarus		Absent		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Sao Tome and Principe			10
Belgium		13		Iraq		Absent		Saudi Arabia	14		
Bhutan			10	Ireland	9		2	Senegal	Absent		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	9		3	Italy	9		8	Seychelles	Absent		
Botswana			11	Japan			20	Singapore	Absent		
Brazil	10			Jordan	12			Singapore	Absent		
Burkina Faso	10		3	Kenya			15	South Africa	17		
Burundi			12	Kuwait	11			South Sudan	10		
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		Spain			15
Cambodia		Absent		Latvia		11		Sri Lanka	Absent		
Cameroon			13	Lebanon	11			Sudan	Absent		
Canada		15		Lesotho			11	Suriname	5		5
Central African Republic		Absent		Luxembourg		Absent		Swaziland		11	
Chad		Absent		Madagascar			10	Sweden		12	
Chile		Absent		Malawi		Absent		Switzerland		8	4
China	23			Malaysia	14			Thailand			18
Comoros	10			Maldives		Absent		Timor-Leste			11
Cuba	13			Mali	13			Turkey	18		
Cyprus		Absent		Malta		Absent		Tuvalu			10
Czech Republic			13	Mauritius			11	Uganda			15
DPR of Korea	12			Mexico		12	8	Ukraine	6		11
DR of the Congo			17	Monaco			10	United Arab Emirates	10		
Denmark		Absent		Mongolia			10	United Kingdom		18	
Djibouti		Absent		Morocco	15			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Dominican Rep.	10			Namibia	11			Uruguay	Absent		
Egypt	10			Nepal		Absent		Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
El Salvador		Absent		Netherlands		13		Viet Nam	11		8
Estonia		11		Niger			13	Zambia			13
Ethiopia		Absent		Nigeria			20	Zimbabwe			13
Fiji		Absent		Norway		Absent					
Finland		10		Oman	11						
France	6	12		Palestine	11						
Gabon			11	Panama		Absent					
				Philippines		Absent					

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

Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Belgium, Kenya and the United Kingdom for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....932	Total of affirmative and negative votes 1,068
Negative votes136	Two-thirds majority..... 712
Abstentions 50	

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Georgia	<i>Absent</i>			Poland	15		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Germany	19			Portugal	13		
Algeria	15			Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Qatar		8	
Andorra	10			Guinea	13			Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Angola	14			Guyana	<i>Absent</i>			Romania	14		
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	13			Russian Federation	15		5
Austria	12			Iceland	<i>Absent</i>			Rwanda	12		
Bahrain		11		India	<i>Absent</i>			Samoa	<i>Absent</i>		
Bangladesh			20	Indonesia	<i>Absent</i>			San Marino	5		5
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Belgium	13			Iraq	<i>Absent</i>			Saudi Arabia		14	
Bhutan	10			Ireland	11			Senegal	<i>Absent</i>		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Italy	17			Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Singapore	<i>Absent</i>		
Brazil	10			Jordan		12		South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso	13			Kenya	15			South Sudan	10		
Burundi	12			Kuwait		11		Spain	15		
Cabo Verde	10			Lao People's Dem. Republic	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cambodia	<i>Absent</i>			Latvia	11			Sudan	<i>Absent</i>		
Cameroon	13			Lebanon		11		Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Lesotho	11			Swaziland	11		
Central African Republic	<i>Absent</i>			Luxembourg	<i>Absent</i>			Sweden	12		
Chad	<i>Absent</i>			Madagascar	10			Switzerland	12		
Chile	<i>Absent</i>			Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Thailand	18		
China	23			Malaysia	14			Timor-Leste	9		2
Comoros			10	Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			Turkey	18		
Cuba	13			Mali	13			Tuvalu	10		
Cyprus	<i>Absent</i>			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	15		
Czech Republic	13			Mauritius	11			Ukraine	17		
DPR of Korea	12			Mexico		12	8	United Arab Emirates		10	
DR of the Congo	17			Monaco	10			United Kingdom	18		
Denmark	<i>Absent</i>			Mongolia	10			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Djibouti	<i>Absent</i>			Morocco		15		Uruguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Dominican Rep.	10			Namibia	11			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Egypt		10		Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam	19		
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			Netherlands	13			Zambia	13		
Estonia	11			Niger	13			Zimbabwe	13		
Ethiopia	<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	20						
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	<i>Absent</i>						
Finland	10			Oman		11					
France	18			Palestine		11					
Gabon	11			Panama	<i>Absent</i>						
				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.

Urgent international action to save millions of people from famine and drought in parts of Africa and Yemen

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 136th IPU Assembly
(Dhaka, 4 April 2017)*

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria and Yemen, where millions of people are facing the real threat of starvation due to famine and drought, and dire circumstances of food insecurity,

Recognizing that some of these nations are facing the third consecutive year of drought, causing thirst and hunger, decimating livestock, destroying livelihoods, spreading disease and triggering large-scale population movements,

Noting that Ethiopia and Kenya are among the world's top 10 refugee host countries and that refugees are especially vulnerable in the current crisis,

Appreciating the UN call for urgent international action to address the situation affecting more than 20 million people, and *recognizing* that other parts of Africa face food insecurity and drought,

Mindful of the call for concerted global action issued during a report to the UN Security Council by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Stephen O'Brien, on 10 March 2017 after visiting countries facing or at risk of famine, which followed an earlier call for decisive action by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 22 February 2017,

Deeply alarmed that the UN Under-Secretary-General observed that, since the start of 2017, the international community "is facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations"; and *fully recognizing* that the disastrous impacts of violent conflict in creating famine should be a matter for global concern, not just for those countries directly affected,

Expressing deep concern about the slow response of the global community in addressing the humanitarian situation in the nations affected by famine and drought, in terms of mobilizing resources to offer relief aid and other forms of assistance to the affected populations and nations,

Acknowledging that failed rains and changing weather phenomena largely caused by global warming have contributed to the drought in East Africa and the Horn of Africa,

Considering the importance of the right to food, which is implicitly included in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that the right to life and the right to health can only be enjoyed if the right to food, including access to clean water, is guaranteed,

Mindful of the commitments made by leaders of all UN Member States in September 2015 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including, in particular, Goal 2 on zero hunger and Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation,

Welcoming the measures taken and efforts made by the governments of countries affected by famine and drought, UN specialized agencies, the European Union and non-governmental organizations to mitigate and combat famine in several areas of East Africa, the Horn of Africa and Nigeria,

Obligated by the IPU's own commitments in the Hanoi Declaration (2015) to advance the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 to ensure parliaments hold governments to account in turning words into action by implementing effective measures that will achieve such goals and leave no one behind,

* The delegation of India expressed a reservation on preambular paragraphs 5 and 6, and operative paragraphs 6 and 11.

Recognizing that it is only through concerted international action that this potentially unprecedented famine and the looming humanitarian catastrophe facing many parts of Africa and Yemen can be averted,

1. *Appeals for* immediate action by the international community to support the appropriate global humanitarian bodies in taking urgent steps that will address the current famine crisis affecting millions of people in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria and Yemen, including by ensuring that adequate human and financial resources are dedicated to this effort;
2. *Calls on* the United Nations to commit the resources necessary to provide humanitarian support and nutritional relief to the critically affected areas in parts of Africa and Yemen, as well as long-term development assistance;
3. *Also calls on* Members of the IPU that have not already done so to exert influence, as appropriate, on their governments so that the latter commit to funding voluntary humanitarian aid contributions to address this crisis;
4. *Invites* IPU Member Parliaments to encourage their governments to contribute to the extensive international campaign of the United Nations to raise funds in order to finance the fight against the famine; one of the possibilities for raising these funds is through voluntary means, using the funding model followed by UNITAID;
5. *Calls on* the United Nations and the international community to remain focused on those most vulnerable to the current drought and famine conditions, especially women, children and the elderly;
6. *Urges* the Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union, the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO), UN Women, the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and other relevant international organizations to support the affected populations, especially women and children, in rebuilding their livelihoods and employment prospects, and strengthening their capacity to care for their families, so as to enable them to regain their health;
7. *Also urges* the global community to assist the affected countries in developing comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, including by addressing the root causes of famine and drought;
8. *Further urges* the global community to step up climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions aimed at curbing global warming and invest in measures that support vulnerable countries in addressing climate change;
9. *Calls in particular* on governments to take appropriate and immediate actions to end conflict and hostilities and remove anything that hinders humanitarian access in parts of Africa and Yemen;
10. *Urges* national authorities to ensure the safety of the staff and activities of humanitarian organizations, as well as operational health-care infrastructure and health-care staff in the regions affected by famine and drought, especially if they are also affected by conflict;
11. *Also urges* governments, relevant international and regional organizations, and the IPU Secretariat to support countries in strengthening their democratic institutions, including by paying close attention to the rule of law;
12. *Reaffirms* that, beyond this call for immediate global action to address the current famine and drought crisis, access to food and water is a basic human right; famine must never be used as a weapon of war and those who use it in this way should be brought to justice;
13. *Calls on* parliamentarians of IPU Member Parliaments to prioritize legislation that promotes food security and proper mitigation measures against famine and drought.

Executive Committee statement on the situation in Venezuela

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The IPU endorses the concerns of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on the cases before it of current and former parliamentarians from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The IPU expresses grave concern at the deteriorating political, economic and social situation in Venezuela. It expresses solidarity with the people of Venezuela and reiterates its commitment to defend parliamentary institutions wherever and whenever they come under assault. It calls on the executive, judicial and legislative authorities to remain within the limits of their respective purviews and thus respect the fundamental principle of the separation of powers. Any effort to usurp or replace the powers of one branch of the State from another undermines this well-established principle.

The IPU urges all sides to the crisis in Venezuela to give pride of place to dialogue as the sole means of resolving the current crisis and to ensure a speedy return to normalcy in the interest of the Venezuelan people. The IPU reiterates its offer to use its good offices to promote dialogue between the two sides and mediate the crisis in Venezuela.

The IPU calls for renewed efforts to ensure the establishment of strong and independent democratic institutions of State, which are at the heart of any vibrant and well-functioning democracy. It is appealing to all sides to put the interests of the country and the Venezuelan people before partisan interests.

Presidential statement on the recent attack on the Paraguay Parliament

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

The IPU strongly condemns the recent attack on the National Congress of Paraguay. It has learned that following street protests over a controversial bill that may extend the limit on presidential terms, demonstrators set fire to the National Congress in the capital, Asunción, and ransacked the offices of the members of parliament who supported the bill.

It is saddened by the death of at least one opposition protestor and the injuries sustained by others, as well as by the extensive damage caused to the parliament building.

The IPU reiterates that the institution of parliament is a forum for peaceful debate and deplores any attack on parliament, which it considers to be an attack on democracy itself. The use of violence to express public discontent cannot be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. Disenchantment should be expressed through peaceful and lawful means only.

The IPU calls for a return to calm by protestors and restraint by the authorities in order to preserve peace and order in Paraguay. The Paraguayan authorities are urged to uphold the rule of law and make every effort to preserve the hard-won democracy in Paraguay that has been in place since 1992.

Statement by the Executive Committee on support for a political settlement in Syria

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

We, members of the Executive Committee, gathered for our 275th session in Dhaka, Bangladesh, express our deep concern over the continuing tragic situation in Syria as a result of ongoing confrontation between the authorities of the country and a substantial part of the civil society, and opponents of the Government on one hand, as well as over a persistent threat of terrorism towards the Syrian people as a whole, on the other.

We note with satisfaction that a political process in order to reconcile all parties to the conflict in Syria is being developed step by step on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2254 of 18 December 2015, which determines priority areas for multilateral efforts and calls for collective work to initiate and support effective negotiations between the Government of Syria and the whole spectrum of the Syrian opposition.

We express our strong support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, to facilitate a meaningful negotiation process in Geneva and for other peace efforts aimed at an immediate ceasefire in Syria and consultations between the parties to the conflict, such as the initiatives of Russia, Iran and Turkey in the context of peace talks in Astana.

As demonstrated by the significant attention given to the conflict in Syria at all recent IPU Assemblies, we have no doubt that the world's parliamentarians remain very keen to contribute to a comprehensive, inclusive and peaceful resolution of the crisis in Syria, particularly to end the suffering of its people.

Determined that the Inter-Parliamentary Union must play a significant role in this respect, we have decided to establish an IPU Executive Committee Working Group on Syria in order to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to advance an inclusive and comprehensive political settlement in Syria, as well as to support effective global efforts to combat international terrorism in the region.

The Working Group will comprise six members of the Executive Committee and one representative from each of the six geopolitical groups. We also invite the Syrian Parliament and representatives of the Syrian political opposition to cooperate in the activities of the Working Group.

The outcomes of the Working Group's activities shall be reported on and presented to the Executive Committee for further consideration at its session during the 137th IPU Assembly.

We request the IPU Secretariat make the necessary arrangements and determine appropriate modalities to ensure the effective and proper functioning of the Working Group. The Working Group may organize on-site fact finding missions provided that all security arrangements for the members of the Working Group are ensured by the appropriate authorities.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

Mr./M. Saber Chowdhury

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS - MEMBRES**AFGHANISTAN**

ZWAK, Hamayon (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of the People <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre du peuple</i>
KOOFI, Fawzia (Mrs./Mme) President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of the People Chair of the Women Affairs Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple Présidente de la Commission des affaires féminines</i>
ATA, Mohammad Tayeb (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Commission des relations internationales</i>
KHAN, Latif (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Chairman of the International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Président de la Commission des relations internationales</i>
STANIKZAI, Mohammad Akbar (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
SIDIQI, Farhad (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
MOHSENI, Mohammad Azim (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
HASHIMI, S. Hafizullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Elders <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des anciens</i>
RESHAD, Ahmad Shakib (Mr./M.)	Acting Chief of Staff to the Deputy Speaker, House of the People <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Vice-Président a.i., Chambre du peuple</i>
ADEL, Nezamudin (Mr./M.)	Director General, International Relations Department, House of the People <i>Directeur général, Relations internationales, Chambre du peuple</i>
TIMOR, Abdul Jalil (Mr./M.)	Head, IPU Focal Point, House of Elders <i>Chef, point focal de l'UIP, Chambre des anciens</i>

ALBANIA – ALBANIE

PALOKA, Edi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
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ALGERIA - ALGERIE

CHIHEB, Seddik (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
BENBADIS, Faouzia (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
MANI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
MEFTALI, Yamina (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>

DJELLOUT, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
DADA, Mohamed Idris (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of the Nation <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Nation</i>
MAAZOUZ, Amal (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Council of the Nation <i>Sous-Directeur, Conseil de la Nation</i>
SI BACHIR, Noureddine (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Executive Assistant, National People's Assembly <i>Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SLIMANI, Bachir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National People's Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>

ANDORRA - ANDORRE

MATEU, Vicenç (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the General Council <i>Président du Conseil général (DA)</i>
CAMP, Joan Carles (Mr./M.)	Member of the General Council Committee on the Economy Committee on Town and Country Planning <i>Membre du Conseil général (PLA)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie</i> <i>Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'urbanisme</i>
GILI, Rosa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the General Council Chair of the Committee on Town and Country Planning Committee on the Economy Deputy chair of the Committee on Health and Environment <i>Membre du Conseil général (PS)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'urbanisme</i> <i>Commission de l'économie</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé et de l'environnement</i>
ARASA, Eva (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Protocol, General Council <i>Protocole, Conseil général</i>

(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)

(PLA: Liberal Party / Parti Libéral)

(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti Social-démocrate)

ANGOLA

GAMBÔA, Exalgina (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
DANDA, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNITA)</i>
YABA, ALberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
ELIAS, Carolina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
TITO, Lindo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Casa-CE)</i>
SALUCOMBO, Nvunda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>

VALENTE, Idalina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
AMADO, Idalia (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale</i>
CUNUIJI, Estáquio (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
SITA, Silvia (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale</i>

SOARES, Miguel (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)

(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)

(Casa-CE: Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition / Convergence ample de sauvetage de l'Angola-Coalition électorale)

ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE

PINEDO, Federico (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate <i>Président pro-tempore du Sénat (RP)</i>
CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (MPN)</i>
TUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Secretary of the Senate <i>Secrétaire parlementaire au Sénat</i>
PERRONE, Damian (Mr./M.) Aide to the Speaker <i>Aide du Président</i>	

(RP: Republican Proposal / Proposition républicaine)

(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (ÖVP)</i>
KARLSBOECK, Andreas (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (FPÖ)</i>
MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (Grüne)</i>
BAYR, Petra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)</i>
VELBERG, Sophie (Mr./M.) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Division of Multilateral Relations and Development Cooperation, National Council <i>Division des relations multilatérales et de la coopération au développement, Conseil national</i>

(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / Parti populaire)

(FPÖ: Freedom Party of Austria / Parti de la liberté)

(Grüne: Greens / Les Verts)

(SPÖ: Social Democratic Party of Austria / Parti social démocrate)

BAHRAIN - BAHREIN

FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
ALMANSOOR, Abdulwahab (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>

SALMAN, Jameela (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
TAQAWI, Sawsan (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
ALARADI, Ali (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
ALJAWDER, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
ALKOOHEJI, Isa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL ABDAN, Huda (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Specialist, Council of Representatives <i>Spécialiste du protocole, Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL KHALIFA, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist, Council of Representatives <i>Spécialiste du développement des relations parlementaires, Conseil des Représentants</i>
ALROWAIE, Yousif (Mr./M.)	Director of Committee and Sitting Affairs Department, Council of Representatives <i>Directeur du Département des affaires des commissions et des séances, Conseil des Représentants</i>
MAJED, Sayed (Mr./M.)	Media Specialist, Shura Council <i>Spécialiste des médias, Conseil Consultatif</i>

BANGLADESH

RABBI, Fazle (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Library Committee Business Advisory Committee Committee on Petitions <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de bibliothèque</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission des pétitions</i>
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning Library Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère de la planification</i> <i>Commission de bibliothèque</i>
KHASRU, Abdul Matin (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du droit, de la justice et des affaires parlementaires</i> <i>Membre de la Commission permanente des règles de procédure</i>
KHAN, Muhammad Faruk (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs Standing Committee on Ministry of Defence <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>

RAZZAQUE, Muhammad Abdur (Mr./M.)	<p><i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère de l'aviation civile et du tourisme</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de la défense</i> Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance Standing Committee on Ministry of Industries Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des finances</i></p>
<p>CHOWDHURY, A B M Fazle Karim (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i></p>	<p><i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'industrie</i> <i>Commission permanente du ministère de l'agriculture</i> Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Railways Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des chemins de fer</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'administration publique</i></p>
RASHID, Kazi Firoz (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Post and Telecommunications <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère des postes et des télécommunications</i></p>
MAHMUD, Muhammad Hasan (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment and Forests Library Committee Standing Committee on Ministry of Education <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère de l'environnement et des forêts</i> <i>Commission de bibliothèque</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'éducation</i></p>
MONI NAWAZ, Dipu (Ms./Mme)	<p>Member of Parliament Chair of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs Standing Committee on Ministry of Defence <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Présidente de de la Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de la défense</i></p>
BADAL, Mayeen Uddin Khan (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of Parliament Committee on Petitions Standing Committee on Public Accounts <i>Membre du Parlement (JSD)</i> <i>Commission des pétitions</i> <i>Commission permanente des comptes publics</i></p>
BADSHA, Fazle Hossain (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of Parliament House Committee Standing Committee on Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives</p>

IMAM, Fakhrul (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre du Parlement (WPB)</i> <i>Comité de la Chambre</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'administration locale, du développement rural et des coopératives</i> Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires intérieures</i>
MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère des affaires sociales</i>
KHAN, Waseqa Ayesha (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Public Accounts <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente des comptes publics</i>
AKTER, Navana (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Committee on Public Undertakings <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission des entreprises publiques</i>
MANNAN, Rowshan Ara (Ms./Mme) Adviser <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
SIDDIQUE, Tahjib Alam (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
HOWLADER, Md. Abdur Rob (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Senior Secretary, Parliament <i>Secrétaire principal, Parlement</i>
HAQUE, Mohammed Shahidul (Mr./M.)	Foreign Secretary <i>Ministre des affaires étrangères</i>
KIBRIA, A Y M Golam (Mr./M.)	Additional Secretary, Parliament <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement</i>
HELAL, Md. Abu Al (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Parliament <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement</i>
ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Parliament <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement</i>
(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)	
(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)	
(JSD: Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal /)	
(WPB: Workers Party of Bangladesh / Parti des travailleurs du Bangladesh)	

BELARUS

RAKHMANOV, Sergei (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Republic Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security <i>Membre du Conseil de la République</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et de la sécurité nationale</i>
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BELGIUM - BELGIQUE

VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Pol (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Group of facilitators for Cyprus, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Community Competences Committee on European Affairs Parliamentary Committee on the Legislative Follow-up
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<p>DESTEXHE, Alain (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group, Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i></p>	<p><i>Membre du Sénat (N-VA)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i> <i>Comité parlementaire chargé du suivi législatif</i> Member of the Senate Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs</p>
<p>GRYFFROY, Andries (Mr./M.)</p>	<p><i>Membre du Sénat (MR)</i> <i>Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i> Member of the Senate Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (N-VA)</i> <i>Commission des matières transversales et compétences régionales</i></p>
<p>MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i></p>	<p><i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i> Member of the Senate Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee on European Affairs Committee on Institutional Affairs Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Community Competences <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Coprésident du Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i> <i>Commission des affaires institutionnelles</i> <i>Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires</i></p>
<p>BATTHEU, Sabien (Mrs./Mme)</p>	<p>Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure, Communications and State Enterprises Committee on the Interior, General Affairs and Civil Service Select Committee on Rules and Reform of Parliamentary Proceedings <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Open VLD)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'infrastructure, des communications et des entreprises publiques</i> <i>Commission de l'intérieur, des affaires générales et de la fonction publique</i> <i>Commission spéciale du règlement et de la réforme du travail parlementaire</i></p>
<p>CRUSNIÈRE, Stéphane (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the House of Representatives Committee on External Relations Committee on Finance and Budget Special Committee for Follow-up on Missions Abroad <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PS)</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i> <i>Commission des finances et du budget</i> <i>Commission spéciale chargée du suivi des missions à l'étranger</i></p>
<p>DESEYN, Roel (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair of the Accounting Committee Deputy Chair of the Special Committee on International Tax Fraud/Panama Papers Committee on Finance and Budget</p>

DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.)
Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation
LUYKX, Jan (Mr./M.)
Ambassador
Ambassadeur

(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)
(MR: Movement for Reform / Mouvement Réformateur)
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
(Open VLD: Flemish Liberals / Libéraux flamands)
(CD&V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands)

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CD&V)
Vice-Président de la Commission de la comptabilité
Vice-Président de la Commission spéciale "fraude fiscale internationale/Panama Papers"
Commission des finances et du budget
Director, Senate
Directeur, Sénat

Deputy Director, House of Representatives
Premier Conseiller de direction, Chambre des Représentants

BHUTAN - BHOUTAN

KINGA, Sonam (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation
CHUKI DORJEE, Kesang (Mrs./Mme)

Chairperson of the National Council
Président du Conseil national

TENZIN, Pema (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national

TSHERING, Karma (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national

KUENGA, Kuenga (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national

RANGDOL, Karma (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

TSHERING, Tshering (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

DUBA, Duba (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Secretary, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP

Director, Secretariat, National Assembly
Directeur du Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale

PENJORE, Rinzin (Mr./M.)
Secretary, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP

Director, Secretariat, National Council
Directeur du Secrétariat du Conseil national

DECHEN (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Committee Secretary, National Council
Secrétaire de commission, Conseil national

DECHEN (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE

MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ, Edith (Mrs./Mme)
President of the Group, Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation
*Présidente du Groupe, Bureau des femmes
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,
Funding and Trade
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS-IPSP)
*Commission permanente du développement durable, du
financement et du commerce*

COIMBRA CORNEJO, Alvaro (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

GUZMAN GOMEZ, Beatríz Flora (Ms./Mme)	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> Member of the Chamber of Deputies
ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms./Mme)	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> Member of the Chamber of Deputies
(MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)	
(UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique)	

BOTSWANA

MOLATLHEGI, Kagiso P. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and Climate Change Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight Chair of the Standing Committee on National Assembly Staff <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille de la faune, du tourisme, des ressources naturelles et du changement climatique</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille de la gouvernance et de la surveillance</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Development Finance and Estimates Committee Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille de la finance, du commerce et du développement économique</i> <i>Commission des finances et des prévisions budgétaires</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
KENEWENDO, Bogolo J. (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Security and Government Assurances Parliamentary Caucus on Women Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille de la santé et du VIH/sida</i> <i>Présidente du Comité du portefeuille des affaires étrangères, de la défense, de la justice, de la sécurité et des assurances gouvernementales</i> <i>Forum parlementaire des femmes</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms./Mme) President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)</i> <i>Présidente du Forum parlementaire des femmes</i>
DITHAPO, Barbara N. (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
SAUBI, Babui (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Clerk Assistant I, Research Unit, National Assembly <i>Assistante principale, Service de recherche, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOTSUMI, Lesego E. (Ms./Mme) Ambassador/Permanent Representative	

Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

MOGOTSI, Maipelo (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat

Diplomate

VATS, Pankui (Mr./M.)

Diplomat

Diplomate

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

BRAZIL - BRESIL

LINS, Atila (Mr./M.)

Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation

Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation

CARNEIRO, Laura (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)

CAJADO, Claudio (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PMDB)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)

ROCHA, Jose (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PR)

RODRIGUES, Maria Helena (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés

BACELAR, João Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies

Membre de la Chambre des Députés

LOUREIRO, Marcos Alberto (Mr./M.)

Chief of Staff, Chamber of Deputies

Chef du Secrétariat, Chambre des Députés

ARAUJO, Silvia (Mrs./Mme)

Administrative Secretary

Secrétaire administrative

PERNA, Andrea (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

RAICOSKI, Guilherme (Mr./M.)

Diplomat

Diplomate

Federal Senate

Sénat fédéral

(PSD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party / Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)

(DEM: Democrats / Démocrates)

(PSB: Brazilian Social Democratic Party / Parti socialiste brésilien)

(PR: Party of the Republic / Parti de la République)

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)

BURKINA FASO

BAKYONO, Bienvenue (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

ABGA, Armand (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)

OUATTARA, Lassina (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)*OUEDRAOGO SAWADOGO, Honorine W.
(Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAREN)

TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

(MPP: Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès / People's Movement for Progress)
(UPC: Union pour le progrès et le changement / Union for Progress and Change)
(CDP: Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès / Congress for Democracy and Progress)
(PAREN: Parti de la renaissance nationale / National Rebirth Party)

BURUNDI

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr./M.) Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation
NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr./M.) Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate
Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat
BANYANKIYUBUSA, Joseph (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat
NDIKUMAZAMBO, Ida (Ms./Mme) Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat
MUHIMPUNDU, Xavière (Mrs./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
NDIKUMANA, Pierre Célestin (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
GWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr./M.) Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr./M.) Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr./M.) Head of Protocol, National Assembly
Chef du protocole, Assemblée nationale
HAVYARIMANA, Venuste (Mr./M.) Assistant, National Assembly
Assistant, Assemblée nationale
NDAYISENGA, Richard (Mr./M.) Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller, Assemblée nationale
BIMENYIMANA, Prosper (Mr./M.) Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller, Assemblée nationale

CABO VERDE

TAVARES CORREIA, Austelino (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MpD)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
DA SILVA ÉVORA, Walter (Mr./M.) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ALFAMA PEREIRA, Celita Annie (Ms./Mme) Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (Mr./M.) Parliamentary Technical Adviser
Technicien parlementaire

(MpD: Movement for Democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

YANG, Sem (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation
Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights,
Complaint Reception, Investigation.
Membre du Sénat
Vice-Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme,
de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes
KHIEU, Muth (Mr./M.) Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat
PUM, Sichan (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Senate

NHEM, Thavy (Mr./M.)	Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Health, Social Affairs, Youth Rehabilitation and Labour <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé, des affaires sociales, de la réinsertion des jeunes et du travail</i>
TIOULONG, Saumura (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Présidente du Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias</i>
SRUN, Dara (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary-General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HEANG, Thul (Mr./M.)	Director of the International Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Directeur du Département des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)	Director, Senate <i>Directeur, Sénat</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
OUM, Sariith (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KIM, Sochetra (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Senate <i>Assistant, Sénat</i>
KONG, Kunthea (Mrs./Mme)	Assistant, Senate <i>Assistante, Sénat</i>

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN

CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
NDANGA NDINGA, Badel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
KOULTCHOUMI AHIDJO, Oumoul (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)</i>
MBA MBA, Grégoire (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
TSOMELOU, Jean (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (SDF)</i>
YENE OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
MOUGNOL MEKENG, Mireille Pauline (Mrs./Mme)	Director, General Administration, National Assembly <i>Directrice de l'Administration générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administrative</i>	

INDJECK, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Presidency of the Republic
Conseiller, Présidence de la République

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)

(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union nationale pour la démocratie et le progrès)

(SDF: Front social démocratique / Social Democratic Front)

CANADA

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Mrs./Mme)

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation

*Bureau des femmes parlementaires,
Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate (CPC)

Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee
Library of Parliament Joint Committee*Membre du Sénat (PCC)**Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de la personne**Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce
international**Comité mixte de la bibliothèque du Parlement*

DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs

*Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires
des Nations Unies*

Member of the Senate(LPC)

Chair of the Transport and Communications Committee

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee

*Membre du Sénat (PLC)**Président du Comité des transports et des
communications**Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce
international*

CALKINS, Blaine (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (CPC)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to
Information, Privacy and EthicsChair of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of
the Standing Committee on Access to Information,
Privacy and Ethics

Liaison Committee

*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PCC)**Président du Comité permanent de l'accès à
l'information, de la protection des renseignements
personnels et de l'éthique**Président, Sous-comité du programme et de la
procédure du Comité permanent de l'accès à
l'information, de la protection des renseignements
personnels et de l'éthique**Comité de liaison*

CHEN, Shaun (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (LPC)

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PLC)**Commission permanente des comptes publics*

ERSKINE-SMITH, Nathaniel (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (LPC)

Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing
Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and EthicsStanding Committee on Access to Information, Privacy
and Ethics*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PLC)**Sous-Comité du programme et de la procédure du
Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la
protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique**Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la
protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique*

HARDCASTLE, Cheryl (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Commons (NDP)

Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on International Human
Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and
International Development

SHIPLEY, Bev (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente du Sous-Comité des droits internationaux de la personne du Comité permanent des affaires étrangères et du développement international</i> Member of the House of Commons (CPC) Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PCC)</i> <i>Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire</i>
FORGE, Frédéric (Mr./M.)	Analyst, Library of Parliament, House of Commons <i>Analyste, bibliothèque du Parlement, Chambre des Communes</i>
GRAVEL, Line (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	International and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Directorate, Senate <i>Direction des affaires internationales et interparlementaires, Sénat</i>
LABRECQUE-RIEL, Colette (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Acting Clerk Assistant and Director General, International and Interparliamentary Affairs, House of Commons <i>Greffière adjointe a.i. et Directrice générale, Affaires internationales et interparlementaires, Chambre des Communes</i>

(CPC/PCC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)
(LPC/PLC: Liberal Party of Canada / Parti libéral du Canada)
(NDP: New Democratic Party / Nouveau parti démocratique)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

BAÏKOUA, Thimoleon (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
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CHAD - TCHAD

BECHIR, Achta (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economy and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie et du plan</i>
AYMADJI, Opportune (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Defence and Security <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)</i>
HAMIDI, Bechir Issa (Mr./M.)	Committee Assistant, National Assembly <i>Assistant de commission, Assemblée nationale</i>

(MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut)
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress / Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)

CHILE - CHILI

PASCAL, Denise (Mrs./Mme) President of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Presidente of the Family and Elderly Committee Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Committee Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la famille et des aînés</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme et des peuples indigènes</i>
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*Commission de l'agriculture, des forêts et du
développement rural*

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Foreign Affairs Committee
Transport and Telecommunications Committee
Special Joint Committee on Budgets
Membre du Sénat (PS)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des transports et des télécommunications
Comité mixte spécial du budget

MONSALVE, Manuel (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
President of the Commission of Treasury
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)
*Président de la Commission du trésor*PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Director of International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
*Directrice des affaires internationales, Chambre des
Députés*

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

CHINA - CHINE

CHEN, Changzhi (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National People's Congress
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale*Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

DUAN, Qiang (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation
Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
*Commission de la protection de l'environnement et de la
conservation des ressources*

SU, Zelin (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairman of the Law Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Vice-Président de la Commission des lois

WANG, Xiaochu (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

WU, Xiaoling (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairperson of the Financial and Economic Affairs
Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires
financières et économiques*

LI, Xiaobin (Mr./M.)

Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National
People's Congress
*Directeur général du Bureau des affaires étrangères,
Assemblée populaire nationale*

LAN, Mei (Ms./Mme)

Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's
Congress
*Directrice du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée
populaire nationale*

HUO, Wenjun (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director of the International Organizations and
Conferences Department of the MFA, National People's
Congress
*Directeur adjoint des organisations internationales et des
conférences du MAE, Assemblée populaire nationale*

HUANG, Qianqian (Ms./Mme)

Staff, Department of Translations and Interpretation,
MFA, National People's Congress

LIU, Ke (Ms./Mme)	<i>Secrétariat du Département des traductions et de l'interprétation, MAE, Assemblée populaire nationale</i> Attaché, Department of Translations and Interpretation, MFA, National People's Congress
QIAN, Jinghua (Mr./M.)	<i>Attachée, Département des traductions et de l'interprétation, MAE, Assemblée populaire nationale</i> Secretary to the Vice-Chairman, National People's Congress <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHANG, Chen (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Vice-Chairman, National People's Congress <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
XIE, Zhangwei (Ms./Mme)	First Secretary of the International Economy Department of the MFA, National People's Congress <i>Première Secrétaire du Département de l'économie internationale du MAE, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WU, Fan (Ms./Mme)	Senior Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Fonctionnaire principale du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SHEN, Zheyi (Mr./M.)	Senior Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Fonctionnaire principal du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHENG, Yi (Ms./Mme)	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
HUANG, Lijin (Mr./M.)	
WEI, Xing (Mr./M.)	

COMOROS - COMORES

ABDOU, Ousseni (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Assembly of the Union <i>Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
CHARIF, Maoulana (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Union Finance Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
OUMOURI, Hadjira (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Union Chair of the Production Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la production</i>
MOINA ANRAFA, Ali Tabibou (Ms./Mme) Assistant <i>Assistante</i>	
BACO, Alamed Bacar (Mr./M.) Aide-de-camp	

CUBA

FERRER GÓMEZ, María Yolanda (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power President of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
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<i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	<i>(CPC)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
BARREDO MEDINA, Lazaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i> <i>(CPC)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
ACOSTA BROOKS, Surina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power Women and Children Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i> <i>(CPC)</i> <i>Commission de la femme et de l'enfant</i>
MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesús Rafael (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Officer, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir</i> <i>populaire</i>

(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)

CYPRUS - CHYPRE

KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AKEL)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente des réfugiés,</i> <i>des personnes enclavées, disparues ou lésées</i>
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Relations Officer A', House of Representatives <i>Chargée des Relations internationales A', Chambre des</i> <i>Représentants</i>

(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)

CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

DOUBRAVA, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (S)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>
OBERFALZER, Jiří (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Human Rights and Petitions <i>Membre du Sénat (ODS)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des mandats et des immunités</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la science, de la culture, des</i> <i>droits de l'homme et des pétitions</i>
ADÁMEK, František (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Administration and Regional Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CSSD)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'administration</i> <i>publique et du développement régional</i>
GROSPÍČ, Stanislav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Mandate and Immunity Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (KSCM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles et juridiques</i> <i>Commission des mandats et immunités</i>
LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies

	Committee on Agriculture <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (TOP 09)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i>
SARAPATKA, Milan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (Ind)</i>
VÁHALOVÁ, Dana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Budget <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CSSD)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i>
KYNSTETR, Petr (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
UKLEIN, Jiří (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms./Mme)	
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs./Mme)	
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
HOVORKA, Milan (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
MONEM, Mohiuddin (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	
UTSAV, Parekh (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(S: Severočeši)	
(ODS: Civic Democratic Party / Parti démocrate civique)	
(CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)	
(KSCM: Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia / Parti communiste de Bohême et de Moravie)	
(TOP 09: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 / Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09)	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE

RI, Jong Hyok (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême (WPK)</i>
Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
KIM, Chung Song (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
HYON, Jong Hung (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
PAK MYONG GUK (Mr./M.)	Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Fonctionnaire, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
KIM, Nam Hyok (Mr./M.)	Official, Supreme People's Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée populaire suprême</i>

(WPK: Workers' Party of Korea / Parti du travail de Corée)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the Senate Committee on Defence and Security <i>Président du Sénat (Ind)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
President, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	

TSHISOLA VULUKA, Gaby (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Decentralized Territorial Entities <i>Membre du Sénat (Ind)</i> <i>Commission des entités territoriales décentralisées</i>
BOKONA WIIPA, Francois (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Political, Administrative and Legal Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission politique, administrative et juridique</i>
MBUKU LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Economy, Finance and Budget Control Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)</i> <i>Commission économique et financière et du contrôle budgétaire</i>
MUSAFIRI SHUKURU, Esperence (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on External Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AHUDE)</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
BYAZA SANDA, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire Général, Assemblée nationale</i>
KATAKO MASUDI, Josué (Mr./M.)	Head of Cabinet of the First Deputy Speaker, Senate <i>Chef de Cabinet du Premier Vice-Président, Sénat</i>
MULAMBA PENE KAHOVA, Bernard (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Planning Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur de planification, Assemblée nationale</i>
MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
(Ind: Independant - Majority / Indépendant - Majorité)	
(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie)	
(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)	
(AHUDE: Alliance for Humanism and Democracy / Alliance pour l'humanisme et la démocratie)	

DENMARK - DANEMARK

ELLEMANN-JENSEN, Jakob (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Danish Parliament Foreign Policy Committee Foreign Affairs Committee European Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (PL)</i> <i>Commission de la politique extérieure</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
DUE, Karina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Environment and Food Committee Greenland Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (DPP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement et de l'alimentation</i> <i>Commission du Groenland</i>
BRAMSEN, Trine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Danish Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Defence Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i> <i>Commission de la défense</i>

GAARDSTED, Karin (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Climate, Energy and Building Committee Business, Growth and Export Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission du climat, de l'énergie et de la construction</i> <i>Commission des affaires, de la croissance et des exportations</i>
SCHNOOR, Pernille (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Danish Parliament Children's and Education Committee Gender Equality Committee Health Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (A)</i> <i>Commission de l'enfant et de l'éducation</i> <i>Commission de l'égalité entre les sexes</i> <i>Commission de la santé</i>
SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr./M.)	Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Defence Committee Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (RGA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission de la défense</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
DETHLEFSEN, Claus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director, Danish Parliament <i>Directeur adjoint, Parlement danois</i>
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Consultant, Danish Parliament <i>Consultante, Parlement danois</i>
LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire assistante de la délégation</i>	Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament <i>Haut fonctionnaire, Parlement danois</i>
(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral) (DPP: Danish People's Party / Parti populaire danois) (SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (A: Alternative) (RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)	

DJIBOUTI

MOHAMED DAOUD, Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FRUD)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
OMAR MOHAMED, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPP)</i>
SAID GOUMANEH, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Legislation and Administration <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSD)</i> <i>Commission de la législation et de l'administration</i>

(FRUD: Front for Restoration of Unity and Democracy / Front pour la restauration de l'unité et la démocratie)
(RPP: People's Rally for Progress / Rassemblement populaire pour le progrès)
(PSD: Djibouti Social-Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate de Djibouti)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMÍN, Graciela (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committee Justice Committee Tourism Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)</i> <i>Comité des droits de la personne</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i> <i>Commission du tourisme</i>
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(PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)

EGYPT – EGYPTE

ABD EL AAL, Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABDEL MALAK IBRAHIM, Margret (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
HAMID RADWAN, Tarek Mohamed A. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
FAWZY ISSAK, Hany Naguib (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELWANY, Rania Amr (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELDEEN MOHAMMED, Ahmad Saad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ELSHIEKH, Yousry (Mr./M.),	Director, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur, Bureau du Président</i>
MAHMOUD KAMEL, Mahmoud Ali (Mr./M.)	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>
OMAR, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>
MORGAN, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
WAHEED, Aymen (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

EL SALVADOR

FLORES, Santiago (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Work Political Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)</i> <i>Commission du travail</i> <i>Commission politique</i>
MENDOZA, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Chair of the Defence Committee Environment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PCN)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la défense</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement</i>

ROSALES, Ivan (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Chief of the International Relations Unit, Legislative
Assembly
*Chef de l'Unité des relations internationales, Assemblée
législative*

(FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí)
(PCN: National Conciliation Party / Parti de conciliation nationale)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

MOHABA MESU, Gaudencio (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies
Président de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)

OBONO EDJANG, Silvia Paloma (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Committee on Social Affairs
*Membre du Sénat (PDGE)
Commission des affaires sociales*

ONDO NZE MADJA, Juan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)

EKUA ABE, Bienvenido Esono (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés

NSUE MBA, Basilio (Mr./M.)
Security Officer to the Speaker
Agent de sécurité du Président

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale)

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

KÜTT, Helmen (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Estonian Parliament
Membre du Parlement estonien (SDP)

KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr./M.)

Member of the Estonian Parliament
Membre du Parlement estonien (ERP)

KOKK, Aivar (Mr./M.)

Member of the Estonian Parliament
Membre du Parlement estonien (IRL)

TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Estonian Parliament
Membre du Parlement estonien (ECeP)

ALAJÕE, Maria (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Estonian Parliament
Secrétaire générale, Parlement estonien

LUTTER, Kadri (Ms./Mme)
Adviser to the Group
Conseillère du Groupe

Adviser, Foreign Relations Department, Estonian
Parliament
*Conseillère, Département des relations étrangères,
Parlement estonien*

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

(IRL: Pro Patria and Res Publica Union / Union Pro Patria et Res publica)

(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party / Parti estonien du centre)

ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE

RETA, Yalew (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of the Federation
Président de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)

AYENEW, Worku (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the Federation
Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)

GONDA, Hailu (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the Federation
Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)

DEJEN, Meles (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives

DESTA, Emeya (Mrs./Mme)	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i> Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Youth and Children's Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple Présidente de la Commission permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux jeunes et aux enfants</i>
FARA, Petros (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
ZEGEYE, Asmelash (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
CHEWAKA, Estifanos (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Chef du protocole, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
TAFESSE, Aschalew (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Chargée du protocole, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
MAREGN, Yassin (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of the Federation <i>Secrétaire, Chambre de la Fédération</i>
MELES, Freweini (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, House of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Chambre de la Fédération</i>
(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Éthiopie)	

FIJI - FIDJI

LUVENI, Jiko (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Présidente du Parlement</i>
TUITUBOU, Laisenia (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
VUNIWAQA, Mereseini (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
NAMOSIMALUA, Adi Veniana (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
EMBERSON, Jeanette (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Parlement</i>
WAINIU, Senitieli (Mr./M.)	Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Protocol <i>Directeur des relations interparlementaires et du protocole</i>
(FF: Fiji First / Les Fidji d'abord)	

FINLAND – FINLANDE

ELO, Simon (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PS)</i>
FILATOV, Tarja (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament

PARVIAINEN, Ulla (Ms./Mme)	<i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (CP)</i>
RÄSÄNEN, Päivi (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PDC)</i>
UOTILA, Kari (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (Vas)</i>
VIROLAINEN, Anne-Mari (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Chair of the Grand Committee (EU) <i>Membre du Parlement (KOK)</i> <i>Présidente, Grand Comité (EU)</i>
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary, International Affairs, Parliament <i>Secrétaire, Département des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Assistant, International Affairs, Parliament <i>Assistante, Département des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
(PS: The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais) (SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre) (PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien) (Vas: Left Alliance / Alliance de gauche) (KOK: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)	

FRANCE

MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (R)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Membre du Sénat (R)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées</i>
DURRIEU, Josette (Mrs./Mme) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Senate Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
GUITTET, Chantal (Mrs./Mme) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
JOURDA, Gisèle (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées</i>
POZZO DI BORGO, Yves (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Membre du Sénat (UDI)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées</i>
ROBILIARD, Denys (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Social Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>

PALLEZ, Christophe (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Questure, National Assembly
Secrétaire général de la Questure, Assemblée nationale

EIFERMANN, Didier (Mr./M.)
Executive Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

Adviser, National Assembly
Conseiller, Assemblée nationale

VANCE, Loïc (Mr./M.)
Executive Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

Adviser, Senate
Conseiller, Sénat

VELASCO, Karine (Mrs./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP
Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

Secretary, National Assembly
Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

PREUVOT, Perrine (Mrs./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP
Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

Services Administrator, National Assembly
Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale

AUBERT, Sophie (Mrs./Mme)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

(R: The Republicans / Les Républicains)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste)

(UDI: Union of Democrats and Independents / Union des démocrates et indépendants)

GABON

MASSIMA, Jean (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Committee on Finance, Law and Social Affairs
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
Commission des finances, des lois et des affaires sociales

NZE MOUENIDIAMBOU, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Finance, Law, Social Affairs and
Sustainable Development
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales
et du développement durable

OSSELE NDONG, Remy (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security
Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix
et de la sécurité internationale

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Finance, Law, Social Affairs and
Sustainable Development
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales
et du développement durable

SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

ROSSANTANGA, Lygie (Mrs./Mme)

Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Senate
Directrice des relations interparlementaires, Sénat

(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais)

GEORGIA - GEORGIE

KOBAKHIDZE, Irakli (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of Parliament
Président du Parlement (GD-DG)

BAKRADZE, David (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (MF-EG)

KATSARAVA, Sophie (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee
Committee on European Integration

	<i>Membre du Parlement (GD-DG)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des relations étrangères</i> <i>Commission pour l'intégration européenne</i>
MATIKASHVILI, David (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairman of the Legal Issues Committee Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (GD-DG)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des questions juridiques</i> <i>Commission du secteur économique et de la politique</i> <i>économique</i>
NATENADZE, Nikoloz (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i>
BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Chief Specialist, Department for International Relations <i>Spécialiste principal, Département des relations</i> <i>internationales</i>
GOCHASHVILI, Ana (Ms./Mme)	Head of the Public Relations and Information Department <i>Chef du Département des relations publiques et de</i> <i>l'information</i>
KOLBAIA, Tamar (Ms./Mme)	Head of the Department for International Relations <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales</i>
SAMKHARADZE, Nikoloz (Mr./M.)	Chief of Staff of the Speaker <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Président</i>
DZULIASHVILI, Archil (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
SARDLISHVILI, Sergo (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
(GD-DG: Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia / Rêve géorgien - Géorgie démocratique)	
(MF-EG: Movement for Freedom - European Georgia / Mouvement pour la liberté - Georgie européenne)	

GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the German Bundestag <i>Président, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i>
ROTH, Claudia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development <i>Vice-Présidente, Bundestag allemand (Bündnis90/Die</i> <i>Grüne)</i> <i>Sous-Commission de la culture et de l'éducation à</i> <i>l'étranger</i> <i>Commission de la coopération économique et du</i> <i>développement</i>
FABRITIUS, Bernd (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Vice-Président du Comité des droits de l'homme</i> <i>des parlementaires</i>	Member of the German Bundestag Chairman of the Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Président, Sous-Commission de la culture et de</i> <i>l'éducation à l'étranger</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'aide</i>

humanitaire

SÜTTERLIN-WAACK, Sabine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the German Bundestag Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection Committee of Inquiry on Cum/ex Trade <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques et de la protection des consommateurs</i> <i>Commission d'enquête sur les opérations cum/ex</i>
UHL, Hans-Peter (Mr./M.)	Member of the German Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention and Integrated Conflict Management Spokesman of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Sous-Commission de la prévention civile des crises, et du règlement des conflits</i> <i>Porte-parole, Sous-Commission du désarmement, la maîtrise des armements et la non-prolifération</i>
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Bundestag allemand</i>
LEUENBERGER, Saskia (Ms./Mme)	Head of the Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms./Mme) Assistant to the delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Ms./Mme) Assistant to the delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
RIMMEL, Michael (Mr./M.)	Office of the Speaker, German Bundestag <i>Bureau du Président, Bundestag allemand</i>
MAHDJOUBI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag <i>Bureau de la Vice-Présidente du Bundestag allemand</i>
PRINZ, Thomas (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
LORITZ, Marco (Mr./M.) Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	
SCHULTHEISS, Michael (Mr./M.) Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	
DIETRICH, Johannes (Mr./M.) Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	

(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)
(Bündnis90/Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)

GHANA

TETTEH, Joycelyn (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
GOMBILLA, Alhaji Ibrahim Abdulai (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Parlement</i>
BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Principal Assistant Clerk <i>Greffière principale adjointe</i>

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

GUATEMALA

ESPAÑA, Boris (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of the Republic <i>Membre, Congrès de la République (MF)</i>
PORRAS, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic <i>Membre, Congrès de la République (VIVA)</i>

(MF: Movimiento Reformador)

(VIVA: Vision with Values / Vision et valeurs)

GUINEA - GUINEE

FOFANA, Luceny (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)</i>
CAMARA, Fatoumata Boh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)</i>
SAGNO, Jean Edouard (Mr./M.)	Cabinet Director <i>Directeur de cabinet</i>

(RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel)

GUYANA

HARMON, Joseph (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Minister of State Committee of Privileges Parliamentary Management Committee <i>Membre du Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana (APNU-AFC), Ministre d'Etat</i> <i>Commission des privilèges</i> <i>Commission de gestion parlementaire</i>
BHARRAT, Vickram (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Statutory Instruments Committee <i>Membre du Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana (PPP)</i> <i>Commission des actes réglementaires</i>

(APNU-AFC: A Partnership for National Unity-Alliance for Change / Association pour l'unité nationale - Alliance pour le changement)

(PPP: People's Progressive Party / Parti progressiste du peuple)

HUNGARY - HONGRIE

BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Sustainable Development
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<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Committee for Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)</i> <i>Commission du développement durable</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
JÓZSA, István (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on European Affairs Vice-Chair of the Committee on Immunity <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des immunités</i>
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budget <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission du budget</i>
SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations, National Assembly <i>Chef du Bureau de l'UIP, Direction des relations</i> <i>étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise) (Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie) (MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois) (LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)	

ICELAND - ISLANDE

JÓNSDÓTTIR, Birgitta (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Constitutional and Supervisory Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (P)</i> <i>Commission constitutionnelle et de surveillance</i>
SIGURBJORNSDÓTTIR, Áslaug (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Economic Affairs and Trade Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (IP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques et du commerce</i>
MORGENSEN, Halldora (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (P)</i>
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
BANG, Arna (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Advisor, Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement</i>
(IP: Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance) (P: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)	

INDIA - INDE

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
PREMACHANDRAN, N.k. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (RSP)</i>
SOLANKI, Kirit Premjibhai (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
THAKUR, Viplove (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (INC)</i>
DESAI, Anil Yeshwant (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (SS)</i>
SINGH, Nagendra (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
SINGH, Raj Kumar (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>

DEV, Shumita (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (INC)</i>
ADHIKARI, Deepak (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (AITC)</i>
SEN, Dola (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (BJD)</i>
MISHRA, Anoop (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre du peuple</i>
KOUL, P.C. (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, House of the People <i>Co-Secrétaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
CHATURVEDI, Pradeep (Mr./M.)	OSD to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire de la Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
JASON, S. (Mr./M.)	Director, Council of States <i>Directeur, Conseil des Etats</i>
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr./M.)	Additional Director, House of the People <i>Directeur supplémentaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
CHATTERJEE, Somnath (Mr./M.)	Director <i>Directeur</i>
KSHIRSAGAR, Pankaj Vishnu (Mr./M.)	OSD (Media) to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire (médias) de la Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
KUMAR, Praveen (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Secretariat of the Council of States <i>Directeur adjoint, Secrétariat du Conseil des Etats</i>
ROY, Rashmi (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol Officer, House of the People <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre du peuple</i>
BIST, Umesh (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
SINGH, Bhupendra (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, Council of States <i>Attaché de liaison, Conseil des Etats</i>
SALEEM, Mohd (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
(RSP: Revolutionary Socialist Party / Parti socialiste révolutionnaire)	
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)	
(INC: Indian National Congress / Parti du Congrès national indien)	
(SS: Shivsena)	
(AITC: All India Trinamool Congress / Congrès des "racines" de tous les Indiens)	

INDONESIA - INDONESIE

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (Gerindra)</i>
ARAS, Andi Iwan Darmawan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Gerindra)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
KASE, Ferry (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Hanura)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Mrs./Mme) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Présidente du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>

NURSANTY, Evita (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee I <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire/</i> <i>Commission I</i>
SIHOMBING, Anton (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
PUTRI, Irene Yusiana Roba (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
ANGGORO, Heriyono Adi (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MIRZA, Muhammad Asrian (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WIDARSA, Avina Nadhila (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NUGROHO, Tarli (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HARDJONO, Sartomo (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
PRASETIYO, Herry (Mr./M.)	Staff, House of Representatives <i>Secrétariat, Chambre des Représentants</i>
GAFUR, Abdul (Mr./M.)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
TANSIL, Yuliana (Mrs./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
ADAM, Helmi (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)	
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)	
(Hanura: People's Conscience Party / Parti de la conscience du peuple)	
(Golkar: Party of Functional Groups / Parti des groupes fonctionnels)	
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)	
(PPP: United Development Party / Parti du développement uni)	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

LARIJANI, Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Président du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
JAFARZADEH IMENABADI, Gholam Ali (Mr./M.) President of the Group <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
HOSSEINI, Fatemeh (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
ZOLGHADR, Seyed Mostafa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>

REZAEI, Masoud (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
MOKHTAR, Jalil (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
ZARABADI, Hamideh (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
AFRASHTEH, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
AMIRABDOLLAHIAN, Hossein (Mr./M.)	Special Aid to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Aide particulier du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
GASHGAVI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
KORDLOU, Mohammad Hossein (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
YASREBI, Seyed Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Protocol Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller au protocole, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
TORKASHVAND, Zahra (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	Senior Expert, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Experte principale, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
TAYEFI, Mohammad Javad (Mr./M.)	International Department Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Département international, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
DASTGHEIB, Seyed Ahmad Reza (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
JAFARI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
LAVASANI, Mojtaba (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
NOURI SARI, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
SAHRAEI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
YOUSEFI, Alireza (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
EIZAD DOST, Masoud (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>

IRAQ

HAMOUDI, Humam Baqer (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives <i>Vice-Président du Conseil des Représentants</i>
HAMMOOD, Mohammed Noori (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
IBRAHIM, Sadiq Humadi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
AL-MUSAWI, Sameerah Jaafer (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants Commission des relations internationales</i>
MOHAMMAD, Renas Jano (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants Commission des relations internationales</i>
IBRAHIM, Fikrat Fayyadh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>

MOHAMMED, Ali Kareem (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
ALI, Hatim Farhan (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
WAHEED, Sarag (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
NABIL, Ali (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
MOHAMMED, Hayder Shareef (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
JUMAAH, Sabah (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
ANBORI, Abbas (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

IRELAND - IRLANDE

O'DONOVAN, Denis (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat (FF)</i>
HIGGINS, Alice-Mary (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (CEG)</i>
NOONE, Catherine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (FG)</i>
AYLWARD, Bobby (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FF)</i>
HART, Aisling (Ms./Mme)	Private Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire particulière, Sénat</i>
MATHEWS, Bernadette (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
MC ELDUFF, Brian (Mr./M.) Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	
(FF: Fianna Fail)	
(FG: Fine Gael)	
(CEG: Civic Engagement Group / Groupe de l'engagement civique)	

ITALY - ITALIE

LOCATELLI, Pia Eida (Ms./Mme) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé, Bureau des femmes parlementaires de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ISP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (ALA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SORIAL, Giorgio Girgis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Budget Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (M5s)</i> <i>Commission du Budget</i>
RADONI, Susanna (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser to the Group, Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies <i>Conseillère du Groupe, Chargée du protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme) Interpreter <i>Interprète</i>	Chamber of Deputies <i>Chambre des Députés</i>
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr./M.) Interpreter <i>Interprète</i>	Senate <i>Sénat</i>

PALMA, Mario (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(PSI: Italian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste italien)
(ALA: Alleanza Liberalpopolare Autonomie)
(M5s: Five Stars Movement / Mouvement 5 étoiles)

JAPAN - JAPON

SUZUKI, Shunichi (Mr./M.)
Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the
delegation
Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation
SATO, Masahisa (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

FUKUI, Teru (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors
Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (LDP-PJK)
Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

MIZUTANI, Kazuhiro (Mr./M.)

Director, House of Representatives
Directeur, Chambre des Représentants

MATSUSHITA, Kazufumi (Mr./M.)

Director, House of Councillors
Directeur, Chambre des Conseillers

NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, House of Representatives
Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants

HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms./Mme)

House of Representatives
Chambre des Représentants

Interpreter / *Interprète*

ENSO, Takako (Ms./Mme)

House of Representatives

Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chambre des Représentants

CHIDA, Masako (Ms./Mme)

House of Representatives

Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chambre des Représentants

IWAMOTO, Noriko (Ms./Mme)

House of Councillors

Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chambre des Conseillers

KAWAMURA, Shiho (Ms./Mme)

House of Councillors

Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chambre des Conseillers

SHIRAE, Kuniko (Ms./Mme)

House of Councillors

Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chambre des Conseillers

WATANABE, Masato (Mr./M.) Ambassador

Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(PJK: Party for Japanese Kokoro / Parti du Kokoro japonais)

JORDAN - JORDANIE

ALTARAWNEH, Atif (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Leader of the delegation

Président de la Chambre des Représentants

Chef de la délégation

TUBISHAT, Abdel Razzaq (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

Membre du Sénat

OTHMAN, Khalil (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

Membre du Sénat

AL-AJARMEH, Hasan (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BAKKAR, Khaled (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BANI MUSTAFA, Wafa (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

ELGHISHAN, Nabeel (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

AL-HEISAH, Marram (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALBARAISEH, Moh'd (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ADWAN, Firas (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALWAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Director of the Speaker's Office, House of Representatives <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NAIMAT, Hussam (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RAWASHDEH, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
OBIEDAT, Shadi (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire, Sénat</i>
SA'AIDEH, Bakir (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>

KENYA

ETHURO, David Ekwee (Mr./M.) President of the Group <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat</i>
MUSYOKA, Susan (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CORD)</i>
NJOMO, Jude (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)</i>
ONYURA, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CORD)</i>
PKOSING LOSIAKU, David (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)</i>
SANG, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)</i>
EDUNG, Edward (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the Speaker, Senate <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président, Sénat</i>
AMOLO, Lawrence (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the Group <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe</i>	Principal Clerk Assistant, Senate <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Sénat</i>
ALI MOHAMED, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire assistant de la délégation</i>	Senior Deputy Clerk, Senate <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Sénat</i>
MATHOOKO, Bonnie (Mr./M.)	Chief Research Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé principal de la recherche, Assemblée nationale</i>
LEMUNA, Moses (Mr./M.) Assisting Secretary <i>Secrétaire assistant</i>	Clerk Assistant, National Assembly <i>Greffier adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
MBAYA, Innocent (Mr./M.) Assisting Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire assistant du Groupe</i>	Clerk Assistant, Senate <i>Greffier adjoint, Sénat</i>
RADOLI, Lucy (Ms./Mme)	Legal Counsel, Senate <i>Conseillère juridique, Sénat</i>
SANDE, Marale (Ms./Mme)	Senior Research Officer, Senate

MUTULU, Francis (Mr./M.)

Chargée de recherche principale
Media Relations Officer, Senate
Chargé des relations avec les médias, Sénat

(J: Jubilee)

(CORD: Coalition for Reforms and Democracy / Coalition pour les réformes et la démocratie)

KUWAIT - KOWEIT

ALNUSF, Rakan (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Leader of the Delegation

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale**Chef de la délégation*

ALFADHALAH, Yousuf (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ABDULLAH, Khalil (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALTABTABAE, Waleed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALROWAIE, Oudah (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALTABTABAE, Omar (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALSUBAIE, Alhumaidi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

Member of the ASGP

*Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale**Membre de l'ASGP*

ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.)

Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National
Assembly*Chef du Département des affaires étrangères,*
Assemblée nationale

ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr./M.)

Director, National Assembly

Directeur, Assemblée nationale

ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr./M.)

Director, National Assembly

Directeur, Assemblée nationale

ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

MOHAMMED, Hussain (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALSAEID, Mohammad (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALSAMHAN, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALMUTAIRI, Nasser (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ANWAR, Sabri (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALMUTAWA, Muhammed (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALMUOUSHARJI, Saad (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALSHARAH, Waleed (Mr./M.)

Secretary, National Assembly

Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale

ALFARIS, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMUTAIRI, Hussain (Mr./M.) Interpreter <i>Interprète</i>	
ALSUBAIE, Sara (Mrs./Mme)	Political Researcher, Inter-Organizational Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Chercheur politique, Département des relations interorganisationnelles, Assemblée nationale</i>

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

SAYALAT, Sengnouane (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NUANTHASING, Khenthong (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
CHITMANONH, Amphay (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of Constituency Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires de la circonscription</i>
PHASATHANH, Thavisay (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chair of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Présidente du Forum des femmes parlementaires</i>
ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr./M.)	Director General of the Multilateral Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Directeur général du Département des relations parlementaires multilatérales, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOUTHAMMAVONG, Siriphone (Ms./Mme)	Officer of the Multilateral Parliamentary Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire du Département des relations parlementaires multilatérales, Assemblée nationale</i>

LATVIA - LETTONIE

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Parliamentary Inquiry Committee <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (ZZS) Commission des affaires juridiques Commission d'enquête</i>
ABOLTINA, Solvita (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the National Security Committee Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (VIENOTIBA) Présidente de la Commission de la sécurité nationale Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau, Parliament <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires, Parlement</i>

(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans)
(VIENOTIBA: Unity / Unité)

LEBANON - LIBAN

JABER, Yassine (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Budget and Finance Committee Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DLB)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et des expatriés</i>
SHABB, Bassem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly National Defence, Internal Affairs and Municipalities Committee National Economy, Trade, Industry and Planning Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FM)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale, des affaires intérieures et des municipalités</i> <i>Commission de l'économie nationale, du commerce, des industries et du plan</i>

(DLB: Development and Liberation bloc / Bloc de développement et libération)

(FM: Future Movement / Courant du futur)

LESOTHO

HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the Senate Chairman of the Sustainable Development Goals Committee Business Committee Committee on Standing Orders and Staff <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (ABC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des objectifs de développement durable</i> <i>Comité directeur</i> <i>Commission du règlement et du personnel</i>
LETHOBA, Montsuoé (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MAEMA, Fine (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
TSOAMOTSE, Mokhantsi Peter (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Private Secretary to the Senate Vice-President, Senate <i>Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président du Sénat, Sénat</i>

LUXEMBOURG

BERGER, Eugène (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies Speakers' Conference Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PD)</i> <i>Bureau de la Chambre des Députés</i> <i>Conférence des Présidents</i> <i>Président de la Commission des Finances et du Budget</i>
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(PD: Democratic Party / Parti Démocratique)

MADAGASCAR

RIVOTIANA, Richard Jean Bosco (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BEFOUROUACK, William (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly

*Membre de l'ASGP**Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Andriamitarijato Calvin
(Mr./M.)Inspector General, National Assembly
*Inspecteur général de l'Assemblée nationale***MALAWI**MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)

KACHIKHO, Anna Namathanga (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Social and Community Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)
Commission des affaires sociales et communautaires

MHONE, Ralph (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Government Assurance Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)
Commission sur l'assurance du gouvernement

MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Legal Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)
Commission des affaires juridiques

MPAWENI, Yaumi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Government Assurance Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)
*Commission de l'assurance du gouvernement*KALEMBA, Fiona (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
*Membre de l'ASGP*Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
*Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale*MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
*Secrétaire de la délégation*Chief Clerk Assistant, National Assembly
Greffier principal adjoint, Assemblée nationale

(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)

(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)

MALAYSIA - MALAISIEWEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MCA)

KURUS, Yunus (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (UMNO)

MONUTTY, Mohd Nor (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (PKR)

ANWAR, Nurul Izzah (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKR)

ABDUL, Johari (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKR)

MOHD AKIN, Shamsul Iskandar Yusre (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKR)

MOJIGOH, Dr. Makin Marcus (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (UMNO)*SAMSURI, Zamrizam (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Senior Assistant Secretary, House of Representatives
Secrétaire principal adjoint, Chambre des Représentants

SELAMAT, Suzana Akmam (Ms./Mme)

Secretary, House of Representatives
Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants

TING HAN, Lee (Mr./M.)

Secretary, House of Representatives

LEE, Ying Chung (Mr./M.)

Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants
Secretary, House of Representatives
Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants

(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / Association sino-malaisienne)

(UMNO: United Malays National Organisation / Organisation malaisienne nationale unie)

(PKR: People's Justice Party / Parti de la justice nationale)

MALDIVES

MANIKU, Moosa (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

RASHEED, Asma (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the People's Majlis

Vice-Président, Majlis du Peuple

Member of the People's Majlis

Social Affairs Committee

Petitions Committee

*Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)**Commission des affaires sociales**Commission des pétitions*

RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Petitions Committee

*Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)**Commission des pétitions*

ABDULLA, Abdul Baari (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple

NIZAR, Moosa (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple

ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Group

Secrétaire du Groupe Asie-Pacifique

Assistant Secretary General, People's Majlis

Secrétaire général assistant, Majlis du Peuple

(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)

MALI

TIMBINE, Moussa (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

First Vice-President of the National Assembly

Law Committee

*Premier vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)**Commission des lois*

CISSÉ, Amadou (Mr./M.)

Vice-President of the Standing Committee on

Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du**développement durable, du financement et du**commerce*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Committee on Public Works and Housing

*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (URD)**Commission des travaux publics et de l'habitat*

NIANGADOU, Hadi (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Law Committee

*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (CODEM)**Commission des lois*

TRAORÉ, Seydou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on Public Works and Housing

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)**Commission des travaux publics et de l'habitat*

DRAME, Maimouna (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on Work, Employment, Women's

Advancement, Youth and Sport

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)**Commission du travail, de l'emploi, de la promotion de la**femme, de la jeunesse et des sports*

SIDIBÉ, Modibo (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, National Assembly

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP
TOURÉ, Ibrahim. M (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Secrétaire général, Assemblée Nationale
Head of the International Relations Service, National
Assembly
*Chef du Service des relations internationales,
Assemblée Nationale*

(RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali)

(CODEM: Convergence for Mali's Development / Convergence pour le développement du Mali)

(URD: Republic and Democracy Union / Union pour la République et la démocratie)

MALTA - MALTE

GALEA, Mario (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)

VELLA, Andre (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Research Analyst, House of Representatives
Analyste de la recherche, Chambre des Représentants

(MLP: Malta Labour Party / Parti maltais du travail)

(PN: Nationalist Party / Parti nationaliste)

MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE

BABA SY, Marieme (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

TALEBNA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MAURITIUS - MAURICE

HANOOMANJEE, Santi Bai (Mrs./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

OSMAN CASSAM, Mahomed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

OREE, Gowkaran (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

RAMCHURN, Urmeelah Devi (Ms./Mme)

Acting Clerk of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale ad interim de l'Assemblée nationale

MEXICO - MEXIQUE

CUEVAS BARRON, Gabriela (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the International Affairs Committee
Membre du Sénat (PAN)
*Présidente de la Commission des affaires
internationales*

GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, North America
Committee
Membre du Sénat (PRI)
*Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures,
Amérique du Nord*

ORTIZ, Graciela (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
UN Affairs
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des
Affaires des Nations Unies*

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Legislative Studies Committee
Membre du Sénat (PRI)
Présidente de la Commission des études législatives

ROJAS, Laura (Ms./Mme)
President of the Standing Committee on Peace

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, International

and International Security <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Organizations Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PAN)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures, Organisations internationales</i>
POZOS, Raúl (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Administration Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PRI)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'administration</i>
MONREAL ÁVILA, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate President of the Jurisdictional Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (L)</i> <i>Président de la Commission juridictionnelle</i>
BAÑALES ARAMBULA, Ramón (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
VARGAS BÁRCENA, Marisol (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)</i> <i>Commission des relations étrangères</i>
GARCÍA BRAVO, María Cristina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
GUIRAO AGUILAR, Rafael (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
DAGER GRANJA, Ánuar (Mr./M.)	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>
PÉREZ RÍOS GÓMEZ, Ana Loredana (Ms./Mme)	Adviser <i>Conseillère</i>
PRÍA, Melba (Ms./Mme) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente</i>	
HUERTA, Andrea (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
RASHID, Adam (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)	
(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party / Parti de la révolution démocratique)	
(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)	
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)	

MONACO

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council Committee on Finance and National Economy Committee on Social Interests and General Affairs Committee on External Relations <i>Membre du Conseil national (HM)</i> <i>Commission des finances et de l'économie nationale</i> <i>Commission des intérêts sociaux et des affaires diverses</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
BOÉRI, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Heritage Committee on Finance and National Economy Committee on External Relations <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la culture et du patrimoine</i> <i>Commission des finances et de l'économie nationale</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation	International Relations <i>Relations internationales</i>

Secrétaire de la délégation

(HM: Monaco Horizon / Horizon Monaco)

MONGOLIA - MONGOLIE

MIYEGOMBO, Enkhbold (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the State Great Hural <i>Président, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
DAMDIN, Khayankhyarvaa (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
BORKHUU, Delgersaikhan (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
DANZAN, Lundeejantsan (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
DOLGORSUREN, Sumiyabazar (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
NAMSRAI, Amarzaya (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
OKTYABRI, Baasankhuu (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
NYAMTAISHIR, Nomtoibayar (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural <i>Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)</i>
DAMDINSUREN, Davaasuren (Mr./M.)	State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Great Hural <i>Secrétaire d'Etat du Ministère des affaires étrangères, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
DORJGOTOV, Temuulen (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, State Great Hural <i>Chargé du protocole, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
OCHIR, Enkhtsetseg (Ms./Mme)	Director-General of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Great Hural <i>Directrice générale du Département de la coopération multilatérale du Ministère des affaires étrangères, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
SHAR, Narantuya (Mrs./Mme)	Head of the Foreign Relations Department, State Great Hural <i>Chef du Département des relations étrangères, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
SODNOMDARJAA, Batbaatar (Mr./M.)	Head of the Press and Public Relations Department, State Great Hural <i>Chef du Département de la presse et des relations publiques, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
JUDAG, Bayarmaa (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor of the Foreign Relations Department, State Great Hural <i>Conseillère au Département des relations étrangères, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
BAASANBAT, Erdenebayar (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker, State Great Hural <i>Assistant du Président, Grand Khoural de l'Etat</i>
SHAGDARSUREN, Gan-Erdene (Mr./M.)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
GONCHIG, Ganbold (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

(MPP: Mongolian People's Party / Parti populaire mongole)

(MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire du Peuple mongol)

MOROCCO - MAROC

EL ABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PAM)</i>
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Councillors <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)</i>
EL HILAA, Rahhou (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)</i>
LAMARI, Souad (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PJD)</i>
TOUMI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PI)</i>
EL KHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants</i>
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	General Councillor, Parliamentary Diplomacy, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
SATRAOUY, Said (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Head, Division of International Relations and Cooperation, House of Representatives <i>Chef de la Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des représentants</i>

(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)
(PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti de l'Istiqlal)
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces / Union socialiste de forces populaires)
(RNI: National Rally of Independents / Rassemblement national des indépendants)
(RC: Independents Rally / Rassemblement des indépendants)

NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter H (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Rules, Orders and Internal Arrangements Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement, de la procédure et des modalités internes</i>
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Présidente du Groupe, Présidente du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Chairperson of the National Council Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>
SHIKONGO, Phillip Haitange (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
SHIKONGO, Michael Mukoya Shipandeni (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Member of the Security, Constitutional and Legal Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil national</i>
GOWASES, Clara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RP)</i> <i>Membre de la Commission des affaires constitutionnelles et juridiques</i>
JAGGER, Maria Bernadette (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Human Resources and Community Development

NEKUNDI, Veikko (Mr./M.)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
Présidente des ressources humaines et du
développement communautaire
Member of the National Assembly
Chairperson of the Economics and Public Administration
Committee

KANDETU, Lydia (Ms./Mme)

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
Président de la Commission de l'économie et de
l'administration publique
Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale,

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

MUPURUA, Juliet Undjee (Mrs./Mme)

Deputy Secretary, National Council
Secrétaire adjointe, Conseil national

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

DE WEE, Elizabeth (Mrs./Mme)

Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Greffière parlementaire principale, Assemblée nationale

Co-Secretary of the Group

Co-Secrétaire du Groupe

TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms./Mme)

Personal Assistant to the Speaker, National Assembly
Assistante particulière du Président, Assemblée
nationale

UUYUNI, Norbert (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
Greffier parlementaire, Conseil national

Co-Secrétaire du Groupe

NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam Nadula (Ms./Mme)

Personal Assistant to the Chairperson of the National
Council
Assistante particulière de la Présidente du Conseil
national

KANDUME, Ekonia (Mr./M.)

Security Officer, National Council
Agent de sécurité, Conseil national

(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

(RP: Republican Party / Parti républicain)

NEPAL

GHARTI, Onasari (Mrs./Mme)

Speaker of the Legislature - Parliament
Présidente de la Législature - Parlement (CPN)

KUMARI, Laxmi Rai (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament
Membre de la Législature - Parlement

TIKARAM, Chemjong (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament
Membre de la Législature - Parlement

SURENDRA, Prasads Jayswal (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament
Membre de la Législature - Parlement

JANGILAL, Ray (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament
Membre de la Législature - Parlement

BHATTARAI, Manohar Prasad (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, Constituent Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée constituante

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

BIRENDRA, Bahadur Karki (Mr./M.)

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

SABITRI, Adhikari (Ms./Mme)

Assistant to the Speaker
Assistante de la Présidente

(CPN: Unified Communist Party Nepal (Maoist) / Parti communiste népalais (maoïste))

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

AT SMA, Joop (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (CDA)

Leader of the delegation

Chef de la délégation

SCHRIJVER, Nico (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Cooperation Member European Affairs Committee Security and Justice Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (L)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la coopération pour le développement</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission de la sécurité et de la justice</i>
GERKENS, Arda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i>
DE ROON, Raymond (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PVV)</i>
MULDER, Agnes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CDA)</i>
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, House of Representatives <i>Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)	
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)	
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	
(PVV: Party for Freedom / Parti de la liberté)	

NIGER

TINNI, Ousseini (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)</i>
ABDOUL MALIK ALKASSOUM, Mahamadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPR Jamhouria)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles</i>
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)</i> <i>Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>
MAMADOU, Boulou (Mr./M.) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs <i>Commission des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs and Cooperation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (R)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la Coopération</i>
AMADOU MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques et du plan</i>
NOUHOU, Daouda (Mr./M.) Deputy Treasurer of the Group <i>Trésorier adjoint du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale ("P")</i> <i>Commission des finances et du budget</i>
MAHAMANE, Saley (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Defence and Security <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>

TIEMOGO, Boubakar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOUSSA, Mossi (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur de cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOUSSA, Moutari (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Technical Adviser, Law Committee, National Assembly <i>Conseiller technique de la Commission des lois, Assemblée nationale</i>
ABDOU, Boubacar (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
SOULEYMANE, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Aide-de-camp to the Speaker <i>Aide-de-camp du Président</i>	
WAHAB, Issa Abdoul (Mr./M.) Physician to the Speaker <i>Médecin du Président</i>	
(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme) (MPR Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République) (R: The Republicans / Les Républicains) (MNSD: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement national pour la société de développement) ("P": Parliamentary Group "Les Patriotes" / Groupe parlementaire "Les Patriotes")	

NIGERIA

IKON, Samuel Okon (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)</i>
BAYERO, Usman Nafada (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat Président de la Commission des affaires interparlementaires</i>
GAYA, Kabiru Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate Chairman of the Works Committee <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission des travaux</i>
IBRAHIM, Rafiu Adebayo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ODUAH, Stella Adaeze (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Women Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Présidente de la Commission des affaires féminines</i>
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)</i>
ADEDOYIN, Olufunke Adunni (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (APC)</i>
FASEYI, Samuel Duro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Committee on Air Force <i>Membre du Sénat Président de la Commission de l'armée de l'air</i>
SHEHU JABO, Bala (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary Corporate Affairs, Senate <i>Secrétaire des affaires institutionnelles, Sénat</i>
AUDU, Rabi Ada (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Senate <i>Sénat</i>
UMAR, Shehu (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Senate

Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
BELLO, Olatunji Babatunde (Mr./M.)

ASAN, Caroline Nguvaan (Mrs./Mme)

OKOH, Bernard Uzeme (Mr./M.)

Directeur adjoint, Sénat

Committee Clerk, House of Representatives
Greffier de commission, Chambre des Représentants
Committee Clerk, House of Representatives
Greffière de commission, Chambre des Représentants
Clerk, Senate Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
Secrétaire de la Commission du Sénat des affaires interparlementaires

(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

(APC: All Progressives Congress / Congrès progressiste)

NORWAY - NORVEGE

SVENDSEN, Kenneth (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

ELDEGARD, Gunvor (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Executive Committee, Bureau
of Women Parliamentarians
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Bureau des femmes
parlementaires*

LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms./Mme)

LOEDEMEL, Bjoern (Mr./M.)

FRASER, Thomas (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament
Sub-Committee on Finance
Vice-Président du Parlement (PP)
Sous-Commission des finances
Member of Parliament
Sub-Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs
Membre du Parlement (L)
*Sous-Commission du contrôle et des affaires
constitutionnelles*
Member of Parliament
Sub-Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs
Membre du Parlement (L)
Sous-Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles
Member of Parliament
Sub-Committee on Local Government and Public
Administration
Membre du Parlement (C)
*Sous-Commission de l'administration locale et de
l'administration publique*
Senior Adviser, Parliament
Conseiller principal, Parlement

Adviser, Parliament
Conseillère, Parlement

OMAN

AL-MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation
AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Ms./Mme)
Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians
*Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Bureau des femmes
parlementaires*

AL MANTHARI, Rayya (Ms./Mme)

AL BALUSHI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)

AL JABRI, Ali (Mr./M.)

AL RUSHEIDI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the Consultative Council
Président du Conseil consultatif

Member of the State Council
Membre du Conseil de l'Etat

Member of the State Council
Membre du Conseil de l'Etat
Member of the Consultative Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

Member of the Consultative Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif
Member of the Consultative Council

JADDAD, Al Nabi (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i> Member of the Consultative Council
AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i> Secretary General, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL HOSNI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL UWAIISI, Aiman (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>

PALESTINE

AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the delegation <i>Comité Moyen-Orient, Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Palestinian National Council Political Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission politique</i>
AL-WAZIR, Intisar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Committee on Social Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
BARHAM, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques</i>
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques</i>
QASIM, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (PLF)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
KHADER, Qais (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Political committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (DFLP)</i> <i>Commission politique</i>
SANDUKA, Zuheir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Committee on Budget and Finance <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (Ind)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances</i>
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Palestinian National Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil national palestinien</i>
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Palestinian National Council <i>Directeur général des relations interparlementaires, Conseil national palestinien</i>
RAMADAN, Yousef (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

(F: Fatah)

(PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)

(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

PANAMA

PRADO, Crescencia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)</i>
CASTILLO, Noriel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i>
WEVER, Franz (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

(CD: Democratic Change / Changement démocratique)

(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)

PHILIPPINES

PIMENTEL III, Aquilino "Koko" (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat (PDP-Laban)</i>
DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
SALOMON, Daniel T. (Mr./M.)	Chief of Staff of the President of the Senate <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Président du Sénat</i>
BELLEN, Edwin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Senate <i>Secrétaire adjoint à la législation, Sénat</i>
AYSON, Esperanza (Mrs./Mme) Deputy Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director General, Senate <i>Directrice générale adjointe, Sénat</i>
BUENDIA JR., Efren (Mr./M.)	Supervising Legislative Staff Officer I, Senate <i>Superviseur législative I, Sénat</i>
OCTAVO, Riza (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Legislative Staff Officer V, Senate <i>Fonctionnaire législatif V, Sénat</i>
BARIOU-BONDOC, Valerie (Ms./Mme)	Executive Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Assistante exécutive du Président du Sénat</i>
BANDILLO, Vicente Vivencio (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
IGNACIO DE GUZMAN, L.V. (Ms./Mme) Vice-Consul	
ARCE, Lauren (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
DIMARANAN-GAMO, Cathrinne Joy (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
FRANCIA, Albert (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(PDP-Laban: Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Laban)

POLAND – POLOGNE

KRUK, Elzbieta (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PiS)</i>
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PO)</i>
BUBULA, Barbara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PiS)</i>
SAWCKI, Marek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PSL)</i>
KACZMARSKA, Agnieszka (Ms./Mme)	Secretary General of the Sejm

Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire générale du Sejm</i>
KOWALSKI, Jakub (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Director, Research and Analysis Bureau, Senate <i>Directrice du Bureau de recherches et analyses, Sénat</i>
JASKIEWICZ, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director, International Relations Bureau of the Sejm <i>Directrice adjointe des relations internationales du Bureau du Sejm</i>
WOJCIK, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>
LUKASZUK, Tomasz (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
SKOCZYLAS, Pawel (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
DYSZLEWSKI, Adam (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(PO: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)	
(PiS: Law and Justice / Droit et justice)	
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party / Parti paysan polonais)	

PORTUGAL

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.) President of the Twelve Plus Group, Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe des Douze Plus, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
LACÃO, Jorge (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MARTINS, Hortense (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée de la République</i>
COUTO, Ana Maria (Ms./Mme)	Protocol, Assembly of the Republic <i>Protocole, Assemblée de la République</i>
ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Adviser, International Relations, Assembly of the Republic <i>Conseillère, Relations internationales, Assemblée de la République</i>
PINTO FERREIRA, Rita (Ms./Mme) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Directorate International Relations and Protocol, Assembly of the Republic <i>Direction des relations internationales et du protocole, Assemblée de la République</i>
HOSSAIN, Shakhawat (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

QATAR

AL-KUWARI, Issa Rabia (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-KHAYARIN, Hadi Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MEREKHI, Saqr Fahad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-JEHANI, Nasser Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Advisory Council <i>Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer Hemaïd (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head, Public Relations Section <i>Chef adjoint de la Section des relations publiques</i>
AL-QAHTANI, Hemoud Abdulqadir (Mr./M.)	First Legal Researcher <i>Premier chercheur juridique</i>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHUNG, Sye Kyun (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CHIN, Young (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly National Defence Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPK)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i>
KIM, Jung Hoon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Trade, Industry and Energy Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission du commerce, de l'industrie et de l'énergie</i>
PARK, Soon Ja (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Security and Public Administration Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (B)</i> <i>Commission de la sécurité et de l'administration publique</i>
KIM, Se Yeon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (B)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, des sports et du tourisme</i>
HAN, Jeoung Ae (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair Environment and Labour Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPK)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'environnement et du travail</i>
OH, Se Jung (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Future Planning, Science, Broadcasting and Communications Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission de la planification future, de la science, de la radiodiffusion et des communications</i>
LEE, Yong Ho (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Security and Public Administration Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission de la sécurité et de l'administration publique</i>
SUNG, Il Jong (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly

Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Health and Welfare Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LKP)</i> <i>Commission de la santé et de la protection sociale</i>
KANG, Byung Won (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly Environment and Labour Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPK)</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement et du travail</i>
WOO, Yoon Keun (Mr./M.) Head of the ASGP delegation <i>Chef de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Young Soo (Mr./M.)	Spokesman of the National Assembly <i>Porte-parole de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Il Kwon (Mr./M.)	Director General, International Affairs and Protocol Bureau <i>Directeur général du Bureau des affaires internationales et du protocole</i>
LEE, Baek Soon (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Conseiller diplomatique du Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MOON, Sung Hwan (Mr./M.)	Director, Protocol Division <i>Directeur de la Division du protocole</i>
KIM, Hyun Sook (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Division <i>Directrice adjointe de la Division des conférences interparlementaires</i>
GU, Byeong Seong (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director of Protocol Division <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division du protocole</i>
KIM, Jin Soo (Mr./M.) HWANG, Jun Yeon (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i> Deputy Director of the Protocol Division <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division du protocole</i>
KIM, You Jeong (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
IM, So-Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Su Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
WI, Jin Su (Mr./M.)	Program Officer <i>Chargé de programme</i>
CHUNG, Yeon Hwa (Ms./Mme)	Program Officer <i>Chargée de programme</i>
YANG, Yong Beom (Mr./M.)	Program Officer <i>Chargé de programme</i>
KIM, Gyeong Hun (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Program Officer <i>Chargé de programme</i>
LIM, Kyu Eun (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Program Officer <i>Chargée de programme</i>
KIM, Sen Bom (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary to the Secretary General <i>Secrétaire du Secrétaire général</i>
HWANG, Gap Yong (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
MOON, Jung Ah (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>

(MPK: Minjoo Party of Korea / Parti Minjoo de Corée)

(B: Bareun Party / Parti Bareun)

(LKP: Liberty Korea Party / Parti coréen de la liberté)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE

OPREA, Dumitru (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Labour and Social Protection ITC Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (NLP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission du travail et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Commission des systèmes d'information (ITC)</i>
DINICĂ, Silvia-Monica (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on Economy, Industries and Services Committee on Transport and Energy <i>Membre du Sénat (USR)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie, des industries et des services</i> <i>Commission des transports et de l'énergie</i>
PAȚURCĂ, Roxana-Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on Budget, Finance, Banking and Capital Market <i>Membre du Sénat (SDP)</i> <i>Commission du budget, des finances, des banques et du marché des capitaux</i>
BOGDAN, Gheorghe-Dănuț (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Environment and Ecological Balance <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement et de l'équilibre écologique</i>
CUCȘA, Marian-Gheorghe (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Control over the Activity of the Romanian Intelligence Service <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ALDE)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission mixte du contrôle parlementaire sur les activités du Service roumain des renseignements</i>
BÂGNEANU, Ioana (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, General Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies <i>Conseillère, Direction générale des affaires étrangères, Chambre des Députés</i>
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate <i>Directrice, Direction des relations extérieures multilatérales, Sénat</i>

(NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti libéral national)

(USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats / Alliance des libéraux et démocrates)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

UMAKHANOV, Iliyas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Science, Education and Culture Committee <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
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TOLSTOI, Petr (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma <i>Vice-Président, Douma d'Etat (UR)</i>
GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairperson of the Science, Education and Culture Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
AFANASAIEVA, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BOTASHEV, Rasul (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat</i>
CHEPA, Alexey (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on International Affairs <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (JR)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i>
SKLYAR, Gennady (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat</i>
SLUTSKY, Leonid (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the State Duma Chairperson of the International Affairs Committee <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (LDPR)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i>
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Leading Consultant of the International Cooperation Department, State Duma <i>Consultant dirigeant du Département de la coopération internationale, Douma d'Etat</i>
YAKOVLEVA, Marina (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Principle Counsellor, International Cooperation Department, State Duma <i>Conseillère principale du Département de la coopération internationale, Douma d'Etat</i>
SHCHERBAKOV, Lev (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Secretariat, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ILINA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Head of Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de département, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ABRAMOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of Division, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de division, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TKACHENKO, Mikhail (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation, Secretary of the Eurasia Group <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Secrétaire du Groupe Eurasie</i>	Deputy Division Head, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>

KOZHEVNIKOV, Kirill (Mr./M.) Personal Assistant / <i>Assistant particulier</i> MARTYNOV, Alexandr (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i> Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ERMOSHIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
PARFENOVA, Maria (Ms./Mme)	Protocol, Council of the Federation <i>Protocole, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BYKOV, Aleksey (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
MERSIYANTSEVA, Miloslava (Ms./Mme)	Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GAMBASHIDZE, Ilia (Mr./M.)	Assistant to Mr. Tolstoi <i>Assistant de M. Tolstoi</i>
ESIPENKO, Tatiana (Ms./Mme)	Roscongress Foundation, Council of the Federation <i>Fondation Roscongress, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SHEREMETEVA, Tatiana (Ms./Mme)	Roscongress Foundation, Council of the Federation <i>Fondation Roscongress, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
RASKLADKA, Artem (Mr./M.)	Roscongress Foundation, Council of the Federation <i>Fondation Roscongress, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SHESTERIKOV, Yury (Mr./M.)	Governor of Saint Petersburg's Envoy, Council of the Federation <i>Envoyé du gouverneur de Saint-Pétersbourg, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms./Mme) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP <i>Interprète, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant, Council of the Federation <i>Assistante, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOVA, Yulia (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	State Duma <i>Douma d'Etat</i>
GOLOGRUDOV, Konstantin (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	State Duma <i>Douma d'Etat</i>
(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée) (JR: A Just Russia / Russie juste) (CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste) (LDPR: Liberal Democratic Party of Russia / Parti libéral démocrate de la Russie)	

RWANDA

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'arc (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (FPR Inkotanyi)</i>
SEBUHORO, Celestin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Development and Finance <i>Membre du Sénat (FPR Inkotanyi)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission du développement</i>

KAMBANDA, Jeannine (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

économique et des finances
Clerk to the Chamber of Deputies
Greffière de la Chambre des Députés

(FPR Inkotanyi: Rwandan Patriotic Front Inkotanyi / Front patriotique rwandais)

SAMOA

ILI, Setefano Taateo Tafili (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée législative

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

TOMASSONI, Mirco (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Great and General Council
Membre, Grand Conseil général (SSD)

BRONZETTI, Denise (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Great and General Council
Membre, Grand Conseil général (PS)

MARFORI, Lucia (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

International Relations Official, Great and General Council
Fonctionnaire, Relations internationales, Grand Conseil général

(SSD: Socialist Democratic Left / Gauche socialiste démocratique)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

DA GRAÇA DIOGO, Jose (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ADI)

AZEVEDO, Beatriz (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP)

CASSANDRA CORREIA, Carlos Manuel (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Executive Board President
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président du Conseil d'administration

SANTIAGO DAS NEVES, Delfim (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

BOA MORTE, Domingos (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly
Sécretaire général, Assemblée nationale

BARROS, Diemebà (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Adviser to the Speaker
Conseillère du Président

XAVIER, Ludmila (Ms./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

DO ROSÁRIO, Manuel (Mr./M.)

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

(ADI: Action démocratique indépendante / Independent Democratic Alliance)

(MLSTP: Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe / Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement)

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALSAMAAN, Yahya (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Consultative Council
Président du Conseil consultatif

ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the Consultative Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

ALBADI, Fahad (Mr./M.)

Member of the Consultative Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

ALHAIZAAN, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALKHATHLAN, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
BINSHALHOUB, Turki (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSHEDDI, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSOHAIM, Yazeed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Consultative Council <i>Chargé du protocole, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALANGARI, Saad (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

SENEGAL

SOUARE, Djimo (Mr./M.) Président délégué du Groupe, Leader of the delegation <i>Acting President of the Group, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economy, Finance, Planning and Economic Cooperation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY) Commission de l'économie, des finances, du plan et de la coopération économique</i>
GUEYE, Alioune Abatalib (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Law and Human Rights Committee Defence and Security Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des lois et des droits humains Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
SECK DIENG, Penda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economy, Finance, Planning and Economic Cooperation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY) Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'économie, des finances, du plan et de la coopération économique</i>
THIAM, Fatou (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDS)</i>
CISSÉ, Baye Niass (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
(BBY: Benno Bok Yakaar) (PDS: Senegalese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique sénégalais)	

SEYCHELLES

PREA, Nicholas (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (LDS)</i>
LETOURDIE, Jany (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LDS)</i>
WILLIAM, Waven (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Parti Lepep)</i>
SOPHOLA, Noline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Parti Lepep)</i>
ALEXIS, Jutta (Ms./Mme)	Clerk, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>

(LDS: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise)
(Parti Lepep: Seychelles People's Progressive Front / Front progressiste du peuple seychellois)

SIERRA LEONE

BUNDU, Ibrahim Rassim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the Government Business Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (APC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires gouvernementales</i>
SMITH, Rosaline J. (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the Lands and Environment Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (APC)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des terres et de l'environnement</i>
NGEVAO, Mohamed Momoh (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk of Committees, Parliament <i>Greffier de commissions, Parlement</i>

(APC: All People's Congress Party / Congrès du peuple réuni)

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR

LIM, Sylvia (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Special Select Committee on Nominations for Appointment as Nominated Members of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (WPS)</i> <i>Comité spécial des nominations des membres du parlement</i>
BIN SAPARI, Zainal (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
ARUMUGUM, Palaniappan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Languages Head Specialist <i>Spécialiste principal des langues</i>
SEOW, Angeline (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Executive Clerk <i>Greffière exécutif</i>

(WPS: Workers' Party / Parti des travailleurs)

(PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

MBETE, Baleka (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
TAU, Raseriti (Mr./M.)	Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
DLAKUDE, Dorries (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
LOTRIET, Annelie (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (DA)</i>
MADLOPHA, Celiwe Qhamkile (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
MBATHA, Moses Siphon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (EFF)</i>
MATEME, Hunadi Euphemia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>

MONNAKGOTLA, Mpho Roseline (Ms./Mme)	Researcher, National Assembly <i>Chargée de recherche, Assemblée nationale</i>
SITHOLE, Dumisani Job (Mr./M.)	Division Manager <i>Directeur de division</i>
PAULSE, Cheryl-Anne (Mrs./Mme)	Acting Team leader, National Assembly <i>Responsable d'équipe a.i., Assemblée nationale</i>
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
HLONGWANE, Sibongile (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante particulière de la Présidente</i>
MALEKANE, Eunice (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante particulière de la Présidente</i>
MBADLANYANA, Thembanani (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Secretary General, National Council of Provinces <i>Assistant particulier du Secrétaire général, Conseil national des provinces</i>
MOLLOY-TITUS, Rosalind Maureen (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant, National Assembly <i>Assistante particulière, Assemblée nationale</i>
DLABAZANA, M. (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker <i>Conseiller de la Présidente</i>
KUBHEKA, M. (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker <i>Conseiller de la Présidente</i>
MAZIBUKO, Zanele Emily (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, National Council of Provinces <i>Secrétaire, Conseil national des provinces</i>
MADLALA, David (Mr./M.)	Researcher, National Assembly <i>Chargé de recherche, Assemblée nationale</i>
SETH, Solaiman Alam (Mr./M.)	
Honorary Consul <i>Consul honoraire</i>	

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)

(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

(EFF: Economic Freedom Fighters / Combattants pour la liberté économique)

SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD

MAKANA, Anthony Lino (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i>
Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
AKEC, Paul Mayom (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Legislation and Justice Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i> <i>Commission de la législation et de la justice</i>
ALEX, Janet Aya (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale</i>
KUANY, Bor Gatwech (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i>
LARJOK WOUL, Mary Nyarieka (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i>
DENG, Abraham Biar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale (SPLM)</i>
SAID, Alalla Younis (Mr./M.)	Clerk, National Legislative Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée législative nationale</i>
DENG, Ayaga Garang (Mr./M.)	Secretary, National Legislative Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée législative nationale</i>
Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

(SPLM: Sudan People Liberation Movement / Mouvement populaire de libération du Soudan)

SPAIN - ESPAGNE

ECHÁÑIZ, José Ignacio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre, Congrès des Députés (PP)</i>
ARAGÓN, Carmen (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PP)</i>
BURGOS, Tomás (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Spokesman of the Popular Parliamentary Group Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PP)</i> <i>Porte-parole du Groupe parlementaire populaire</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LÓPEZ, Óscar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PP)</i>
VALENTÍN, Matilde (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PSOE)</i>
ÁLVAREZ, Ana (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat</i>
BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, Congress of Deputies <i>Conseillère, Congrès des Députés</i>
GÓMEZ-BERNARDO, Teresa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Congress of Deputies <i>Congrès des Députés</i>
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire) (PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)	

SRI LANKA

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Committee of Selection Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders Chairman of the Committee on High Posts <i>Président du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Président du Comité de sélection</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement</i> <i>Président de la Commission des postes de haut niveau</i>
MAHAROOOF, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North and East Reconstruction Committee on Public Enterprises Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de réconciliation</i> <i>et reconstruction dans le nord et l'est</i> <i>Commission des entreprises publiques</i> <i>Commission spéciale du Parlement pour le Programme</i> <i>des Nations Unies de développement durable à</i> <i>l'horizon 2030</i>
MASTHAN, Kader (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North and East Reconstruction <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i>

VIYALANDERAN, Sathasivam (Mr./M.)	<p><i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'agriculture et des terres</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'administration interne et de la gestion publique</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de réconciliation et reconstruction dans le nord et l'est</i> Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <i>Membre du Parlement (ITAK)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance des affaires juridiques (anti-corruption) et des médias</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de la jeunesse, des sports, des arts et du patrimoine</i> <i>Commission spéciale du Parlement pour le Programme des Nations Unies de développement durable à l'horizon 2030</i></p>
WIJERATNE, Rohini Kumari (Mrs./Mme)	<p>Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de la femme et du genre</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'éducation et du développement des ressources humaines</i> <i>Commission spéciale du Parlement pour le Programme des Nations Unies de développement durable à l'horizon 2030</i></p>
<p>DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i></p>	<p>Secretary General of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i></p>
<p>(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié) (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté) (ITAK: Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi)</p>	

SUDAN – SOUDAN

<p>AL-MANSOUR, Al-Fatih Izzeldin (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i> HUSSAIN ADAM AHMED, Al Amin (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du Commerce</i></p>	<p>Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCP)</i> Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chair of the Economic Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NUP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires économiques</i></p>
<p>HASSAN OSMAN, Mathapa (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i></p>	<p>Member of the National Assembly Justice Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Dem UP)</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i></p>
<p>AWAD ALSEED, Mahassn (Ms./Mme)</p>	<p>Member of Parliament</p>

BURA AYASH, Salih Yahya (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre du Parlement</i> Member of Parliament
ABAKUR, Ibrahim Salih (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre du Parlement</i> Member of Parliament
ABDALLA KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
YAGHOUB, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Council of States
Member of the ASGP	<i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des Etats</i>
<i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HAMZA MOHAMED, Ahmed Abdelrahman (Mr./M.)	Deputy Protocol Director
	<i>Directeur adjoint du protocole</i>

(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)

(NUP: UMMA Party for Reform and Development / Parti OUMMA pour les réformes et le développement)

(Dem UP: Democratic Unionist Party / Parti démocratique unioniste)

SURINAME

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Chairman of the Ministry of Natural Resources Committee
<i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	<i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)</i>
JAGGERNATH, Djoties (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly
NADING, Aida (Mrs./Mme)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VHP)</i> Member of the National Assembly
OEDIT, Dino (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)</i> Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

(VHP: Progressive Reform Party / Parti progressiste et réformiste)

SWAZILAND

MSIBI, Themba (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the House of Assembly
Leader of the Delegation	<i>Président de l'Assemblée</i>
<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
KHUMALO, Marwick T. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly
MAGAGULA, Sifiso S. (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i> Member of the House of Assembly
GAMA, Lungile (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i> Member of the Senate
MAHLALELA, Lungile (Ms./Mme)	<i>Membre du Sénat</i> Member of the House of Assembly
SHABANGU, Nonhlanhla (Ms./Mme)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>
Secretary to the delegation	
<i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

SWEDEN - SUEDE

AHLIN, Urban (Mr./M.)	Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the delegation	<i>Président du Parlement (SDP)</i>
<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL	Committee on Finance
<i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	<i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i>
AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.)	<i>Commission des finances</i> Member of Parliament

President of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Président du Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i> JÖNSSON, Johanna (Ms./Mme)	Committee on Justice <i>Membre du Parlement (M)</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i> Member of Parliament Committee on Labour <i>Membre du Parlement (CP)</i> <i>Commission du travail</i> Member of Parliament Committee on Defence <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission de la défense</i> Member of Parliament Committee on Transport and Communications <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des transports et des communications</i>
OLSSON, Kalle (Mr./M.)	
LINDBERG, Teres (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i> ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller international, Parlement</i> International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseillère internationale, Parlement</i>
HERMANSSON, Ralph (Mr./M.)	
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i> MÅNSSON, Ann-Louise (Ms./Mme)	Head of the International Department, Parliament <i>Chef du Département international, Parlement</i> International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller international, Parlement</i>
SONDÉN, Björn (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i> FRISELL, Johan (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i> SÖDERLUND, Hedvig (Ms./Mme) Diplomat <i>Diplomate</i>	
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré) (CP: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)	

SWITZERLAND - SUISSE

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires,</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i> CARONI, Andrea (Mr./M.) Deputy Leader of the delegation <i>Chef adjoint de la délégation</i> CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chair of the Finance Committee <i>Membre, Conseil national (PS)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des finances</i>
	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre, Conseil des Etats (FDP/PLR)</i>
	Member of the National Council Chairperson, Committee on Social Security and Public Health <i>Membre, Conseil national (FDP/PLR)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la sécurité sociale et de la santé publique</i>
LOHR, Christian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre, Conseil national (CVP/PDC)</i>

LOMBARDI, Filippo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre, Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure</i>
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP <i>Vice-Président de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations <i>Chef adjoint, relations internationales</i>
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Secretariat, International Relations <i>Secrétariat, relations internationales</i>
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste) (FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux) (CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	

THAILAND - THAILANDE

LIENGBOONLERTCHAI, Surachai (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i>
SAMPATISIRI, Bilaibhan (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
CHANDRUANG, Charlie (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Technology, Information and Mass Communication <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la science, de la technologie, de l'information et de la communication de masse</i>
WASINONDH, Kitti (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly First Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Premier Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales, de l'enfant, de la jeunesse, de la femme, des aînés, des invalides et des défavorisés</i>
SUWANNACHEEP, Saowanee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Third Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Science, Technology, Information and Mass Communication <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Troisième Vice-Présidente de la Commission des sciences, de la technologie, de l'information et de la communication de masse</i>
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>

et de la sécurité internationale

BOONYALEEPUN, Chalermchai (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
First Deputy Secretary, Coordinating Committee on the
National Legislative Assembly Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative**Premier Sous-Secrétaire de la Commission permanente
des affaires de l'Assemblée nationale législative*

KRAIRIKSH, Sakthip (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

Member of the National Legislative Assembly

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative**Commission permanente des affaires étrangères*

PUTORNJAI, La Or (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General, Senate

Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat

TESTHOMSAP, Sirawasa (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary

Secrétaire de la délégation

Organizations, House of Representatives

*Directrice du Bureau des Organisations**interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants*

NANDAKWANG, Arpone (Mr./M.)

Assistant Secretary to the delegation

Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, House

Secrétaire assistant de la délégation

of Representatives

*Directeur de la Division de l'Union interparlementaire,**Chambre des Représentants*

SUNGTO, Neeranan (Ms./Mme)

Assistant Secretary to the delegation

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives

*Secrétaire assistante de la délégation**Chargée principale des affaires étrangères, Chambre des*

MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr./M.)

Assistant Secretary to the delegation

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives

*Secrétaire assistant de la délégation**Chargé principal des affaires étrangères, Chambre des*

SIRIWONG, Kanjanat (Ms./Mme)

Assistant Secretary to the delegation

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Senate

*Secrétaire assistante de la délégation**Chargée principale des affaires étrangères, Sénat*

KUNKLOY, Chollada (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the ASGP

Advisor on Legislative Procedure, House of

Membre de l'ASGP

Representatives

Conseillère sur la procédure législative, Chambre des

TALEERAT, Yossawadee (Ms./Mme)

Interpreter

Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives

*Interprète**Chargée des affaires étrangères, Chambre des*

SUKPORNCHAIKAK, Kanon (Mr./M.)

Assistant Secretary to the delegation

Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives

*Secrétaire assistante de la délégation**Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des*

KOTTHEN, Panya (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

*Représentants**Membre de l'ASGP*

Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary

Organizations, House of Representatives

Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des organisations

SUWANNAPONG, Panpimol (Ms./Mme)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

*interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants**Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente***TIMOR-LESTE**

DA COSTA, Aderito Hugo (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation

Speaker of the National Parliament

*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation**Président du Parlement national (CNRT)*

NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament

Politics, Security and Foreign Affairs Committee

*Vice-Président du Parlement national (CNRT)**Commission de la politique, de la sécurité et des affaires*

CORREIA, Brigida (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Parliament

	Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité nationale</i>
GUTERRES, Aniceto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Justice, Public Administration, Local Government and Anti-Corruption <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, de la justice, de l'administration publique, du gouvernement local et de la lutte anti-corruption</i>
MARCAL, Leonel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee on Health, Education, Culture, Veterans and Gender <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Commission de la santé, de l'éducation, de la culture, des anciens combattants et du genre</i>
SOARES, Izilda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Vice-President of the Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des finances publiques</i>
DOS REIS, Maria Angelica (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Commission des finances publiques</i>
BELO, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement national</i>
LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr./M.)	Principal Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseiller principal, Parlement national</i>
DO REGO, Lília (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Secretary General, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire du Secrétaire général, Parlement national</i>
PINTO, Julio (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Political Adviser to the Speaker, National Parliament <i>Conseiller politique du Président, Parlement national</i>
MAGALHAES, Deddinho (Mr./M.)	Secretary, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire, Parlement national</i>
DE DEUS EXPOSTO, Ligia (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
CORTE REAL, Marta (Ms./Mme)	Technical Assistant, National Parliament <i>Assistante technique, Parlement national</i>
RAMOS, Jemmy (Mr./M.)	Technical Assistant, National Parliament <i>Assistante technique, Parlement national</i>
ABRÃO DA SILVA (Ms./Mme) Security Officer to the Speaker <i>Agent de sécurité du Président</i>	
(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor) (FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)	

TURKEY - TURQUIE

ÇAKIR, Coşkun (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i>
CERİTOĞLU KURT, Lütfiye Ilksen (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

AYATA, S. Sencer (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i> Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)</i>
ATICI, Aytuğ (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)</i>
GİZLİGİDER, Ebubekir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i>
KAVCIOĞLU, Sahap (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Committee on Budget and Planning <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i> <i>Commission du budget et du plan</i>
YILDIRIM, Ahmet (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
SERT, Hasan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i>
KUMBUZOĞLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire général, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ÖZTÜRK, Necati (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
AKSELİ, Saren (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
GÜNER, Mumtaz (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ÖNAL, Elif Esra (Mrs./Mme)	Staff, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétariat, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)
(CHP: Republican's People Party / Parti populaire républicain)

TUVALU

TAUTELEIMALAE TAUSI, Otinielu (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Président du Parlement</i>
PUGA SEMELI, Andrew (Mr./M.)	Acting Clerk of Parliament <i>Greffier a.i. du Parlement</i>

UGANDA - OUGANDA

ALITWALA KADAGA, Rebecca (Mrs./Mme) President of the IPU African Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe africain de l'UIP, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairperson of the Business Committee <i>Présidente du Parlement (NRM)</i> <i>Présidente du Comité directeur</i>
MAGYEZI, Raphael (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the Public Service and Local Government Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NRM)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du service publique et de l'administration locale</i>
MUKODA ZABWE, Julie (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Public Service and Local Government Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Ind)</i> <i>Commission du service publique et de l'administration locale</i>
MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Physical Infrastructure Committee

OSORU, Mourine (Mrs./Mme)	<i>Membre du Parlement (FDC)</i> <i>Commission des infrastructures matérielles</i> Member of Parliament Human Rights Committee Gender, Labour and Social Development Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NRM)</i> <i>Comité des droits de la personne</i> <i>Commission des questions de genre, du travail et du développement social</i>
SSEBAGALA SENGENDO, Abdu Latif (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Government Assurances Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Ind)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des assurances du gouvernement</i>
LUBOWA KIBIRIGE, Jane (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to Parliament, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale, Parlement</i>
GAMUSI WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Parlement</i>
TUMUKWASIBWE Robert_(Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Parlement</i>
OKEMA, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Senior Clerk Assistant, Parliament <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Parlement</i>
KANGO, Jonathan (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant particulier de la Présidente</i>
BWALATUM, Moses (Mr./M.)	Public and Media Relations <i>Relations publiques et médias</i>
KABOGOZA, Phillip (Mr./M.)	Protocol to the Speaker <i>Protocole de la Présidente</i>
SENFUMA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Media Assistant <i>Assistant médias</i>
OKWALINGA, Deogratiou (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp de la Présidente</i>	

(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)

UKRAINE

TARASYUK, Borys (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (BP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
POROSHENKO, Oleksii (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee Chairperson of the Committee on Taxation and Customs Policies <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i> <i>Président de la Sous-commission de la Commission de la taxation et des politiques douanières</i>
PTASHNYK, Viktoriia (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Committee on Economic Policy <i>Membre du Parlement (PPSU)</i> <i>Commission de la politique économique</i>

SHKRUM, Al'ona (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee Chairperson of the Committee on State Building, Regional Policies and Local Self-Government <i>Membre du Parlement (BP)</i> <i>Présidente de la Sous-Commission de la Commission de la création de l'Etat, des politiques régionales et de l'autonomie locale</i>
USOV, Kostiantyn (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Informatization and Communications <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'informatisation et de la communication</i>
LOKSHYN, Viacheslav (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Directorate <i>Directeur adjoint, Direction des relations interparlementaires</i>
MYKHALIUK, Oksana (Ms./Mme) Acting Deputy Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe a.i.</i>	Chief Consultant, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Directorate <i>Consultante principale, Direction des relations interparlementaires</i>
YUDIN, Yaroslav (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe</i>	Chief Consultant, Committee on Foreign Affairs Secretariat, <i>Consultant principal, Secrétariat de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>

(BP: Batkivschyna Party / Parti Batkivshyna)
(PPB: Petro Poroshenko Bloc / Bloc Petro Poroshenko)
(PPSU: "Samopomich" Union / Union "Samopomich")

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

AL-QUBAISI, Amal (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALBASTI, Afraa (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALMEHRZI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALEGHFLI, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
JASEM AHMAD, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALREMEITHI, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-AQILI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Chief Parliamentary Communication Coordinator, Federal National Council <i>Coordinateur principal des communications, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-BLOOSHI, Hamda (Ms./Mme)	Head of Parliamentary Research Section, Federal National Council <i>Chef de la Section de la recherche parlementaire, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Head of Communication, Federal National Council <i>Chef de la communication, Conseil national de la</i>

AL-SHEHHI, Salama (Ms./Mme)	<i>Fédération</i> Protocol, Federal National Council <i>Protocole, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MARRI, Bader (Mr./M.)	Protocol, Federal National Council <i>Protocole, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-ZAABI, Mariam (Ms./Mme)	Researcher, Federal National Council <i>Chercheuse, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALKINDI, Aliya (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
GHAOUI, Patricia (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALHADDABI, Amal (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-DHANHANI, Wadha (Ms./Mme)	Media, Federal National Council <i>Médias, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
EL-NAEIMY, Yasser (Mr./M.)	Media Speaker's Office, Federal National Council <i>Médias au Bureau de la Présidente, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
HMOUD, Mamduh (Mr./M.)	Media, Federal National Council <i>Médias, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

EVANS, Nigel (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>
D'SOUZA, Frances (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (CB)</i>
MCINNES, Liz (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
RANA, Diljit Singh (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)</i>
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, British IPU Group <i>Directeur, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director, British IPU Group <i>Directrice adjointe, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
EDWARDS, Rhiannon (Ms./Mme)	Executive Assistant, British IPU Group <i>Assistante exécutive, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
HELME, Philippa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Principal Clerk, Table Office, House of Commons <i>Chargée principale du dépôt de rapports, Chambre des Communes</i>
MOELLER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Assistant to the ASGP Secretariat <i>Assistant du Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	Senior Committee Assistant, House of Commons <i>Assistant principal de commission, Chambre des Communes</i>
ATKINS, Martyn (Mr./M.) Temporary Joint Secretary to the ASGP <i>Co-Secrétaire temporaire de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk (Procedure), House of Commons <i>Greffier (procédure), Chambre des Communes</i>

(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur)
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)
(CB: Crossbench)
(L: Labour / Parti travailliste)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

CHENGE, Andrew John (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
HIJA, Juma (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
GALLOS, Tawhida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LYIMO, Suzan (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CHADEMA)</i>
MCHENGERWA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
MILLYA, James (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CHADEMA)</i>
SERUKAMBA, Peter (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
NDUGULILE, Faustine (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)</i>
CHOHOLO, Lukindo (Mr./M.) Assistant to Leader of the delegation <i>Assistant du Chef de la délégation</i>	Assistant to the Deputy Speaker, National Assembly <i>Assistant du Vice-Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
UKHOTYA, Eliufoo (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	IPU Desk Coordinator, National Assembly <i>Coordinateur du Desk UIP, Assemblée nationale</i>

(CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania / Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)

(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development / Parti de la démocratie et du développement)

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs./Mme) President of the GRULAC, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du GRULAC, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Chair of the Public Health Committee Labour Issues Committee Education and Culture Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (FA)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la santé publique</i> <i>Commission du travail</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
HEBER, Luis Alberto (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du</i> <i>développement durable, du financement et du</i> <i>commerce</i>	Member of the Senate Chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee Constitution and Legislation Committee Public Funds Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (NP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires administratives</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution et de la législation</i> <i>Commission des fonds publics</i>
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and Secretary of the GRULAC <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	Head of International Relations <i>Chef des relations internationales</i>

(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)

(NP: National Party / Parti national)

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) - VENEZUELA (REPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DE)

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Mrs./Mme) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly President of the Standing Committee on Domestic Policy <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD) Présidente de la Commission permanente de la politique intérieure</i>
GONZÁLEZ, Eudoro (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD)</i>
PICHARDO, Adriana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD)</i>
PROSPERI, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD)</i>
CORREA, José Gregorio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD)</i>
TEIXEIRA, Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MUD)</i>
JABOUR, Yul (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Policy Sovereignty and Integration, Parliamentary Delegation to Parlasur <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PCV) Commission permanente de la politique étrangère, de la souveraineté et de l'intégration, Délégation parlementaire de Parlasur</i>
DELGADO, Nora (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)</i>
MARTÍNEZ UBIEDA, Alejandro (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation <i>Assistant de la délégation</i>	

(MUD: Democratic Unity Roundtable alliance / La Table de l'unité démocratique)
(PCV: Communist Party of Venezuela / Parti communiste vénézuélien)
(PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela)

VIET NAM

TONG, Thi Phong (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Première Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Van Giau (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
HA, Ngoc Chien (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Ethnic Council <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Président du Conseil ethnique</i>
VU, Hai Ha, (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MAI, Thi Phuong Hoa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Judiciary Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
DO, Manh Hung (Mr./M.)	Vice-Chairman of the Office of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DANG, Ngoc Huy (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the First Vice-President, National Assembly <i>Conseiller de la Première Vice-Présidente, Assemblée nationale</i>

NGUYEN, Tuong Van (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Directrice générale adjointe du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAN, Kim Chi (Mrs./Mme)	Head of Division, Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Chef de division, Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Thi Hoai Thu (Ms./Mme)	Head of Division, Protocol Department <i>Chef de division, Département du protocole</i>
NGUYEN, Thi Hai Yen (Mrs./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
HOANG, Tung (Mr./M.)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
Interpreater / <i>Interprète</i>	
DINH, Ngoc Canh (Mr./M.)	
Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
DO, Huy Binh (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Press</i>	

ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
JERE, Mathews (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)</i>
KALOBO, Pavyuma (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Youth and Sport <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Ind) Commission de la jeunesse et du sport</i>
LUO, Nkandu (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	
MWEWA, Rogers (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Committee on Information and Broadcasting Services <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF) Président de la Commission de l'information et des services de radiodiffusion</i>
KATUTA, Given (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FDD)</i>
MWINGA, Doris K (Mrs./Mme)	Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
CHELU, John (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDA, Naomi (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MAAMBO, Loveness (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
NGULUBE, Roy (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>

(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)

ZIMBABWE

MADZONGWE, Edna (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Senate
Joint Business of the House Committee
Standing Rules and Orders Committee
Liaison and Coordination Committee
Présidente du Sénat
Commission mixte des travaux de la Chambre
Commission du règlement et de la procédure
Commission de liaison et coordination

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Committee
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC-T)
Commission du service publique, du travail et de la protection sociale
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes

CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Higher and Tertiary Education
Committee on Information and Communications
Technology, Postal and Courier Services
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Comité du portefeuille de l'enseignement supérieur et tertiaire
Commission des technologies de l'information et de la communication, des services postaux et de messagerie

MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Higher and Tertiary Education
Standing Committee on Information and
Communications Technology, Postal and Courier
Services
Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Comité du portefeuille de l'enseignement supérieur et tertiaire
Commission des technologies de l'information et de la communication, des services postaux et de messagerie
Comité du portefeuille des affaires étrangères

NHAMBU, Betty (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes

MUTOMBA, William (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Industry and Commerce Committee
SMEs and Cooperative Development Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Commission de l'industrie et du commerce
Commission du développement des PME et des coopératives

WADYAJENA, Mayor Justice (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment
Committee
Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee

CHOKUDA, Kennedy Mugove (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
MAKONI, Roselyn (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe
CHINYEMBA, Gift (Mr./M.)
Aide to the Speaker
Aide de la Présidente

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes
Commission de la justice et des affaires juridiques et parlementaires
Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly
Chargée principale des relations extérieures, Assemblée nationale

Director in the President's Office, Senate
Directrice au Bureau de la Présidente, Sénat

Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly
Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

Senate
Sénat

(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change (T) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)
(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

FAHAM ALSULAMI, Meshal (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker / <i>Président</i>
AL SULAIMI, Khamis (Mr./M.)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
BINSAMNOH, Aisha (Ms./Mme)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
FAWZY, Maye (Ms./Mme)	Officer, General Secretariat <i>Fonctionnaire, Secrétariat général</i>

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

KIDEGA, Daniel Fred (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker Chairperson of the EALA Commission <i>Président (NRM)</i> <i>Président de la Commission EALA</i>
BYAMUKAMA, Dora (Mrs./Mme)	Member EALA Commission <i>Membre (NRM)</i> <i>Commission EALA</i>
MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to Parliament <i>Secrétaire général</i>
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme)	Senior Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulière principale du Président</i>
MUGUME, Stephen (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Clerk Assistant <i>Greffier principal adjoint</i>
ODIKO, Bobi (Mr./M.)	Senior Public Relations Officer <i>Chargé principal des relations publiques</i>

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMÉRICAIN**

ALCALÁ RUIZ, Blanca (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Présidente</i>
CARMONA, Mariana (Mrs./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)**

KOSSO, Mahamat Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
HAMAN, Tchiouto (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Director, Cooperation and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs <i>Directeur de la coopération et des affaires interparlementaires</i>
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
WAYOR, Ahmed Moussa (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)

TOUNGARA, Aminata (Mrs./Mme)

Leader of the delegation

Chef de la délégation

IBRAHIM, Sadiq (Mr./M.)

Second Deputy Speaker

Deuxième Vice-Présidente

Member

Membre

MAGBAGBEOLA, Nelson (Mr./M.)

Secretary, Member of the ASGP

Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP

SOME, Bertin (Mr./M.)

Secretary General

Secrétaire général

Director of Parliamentary Affairs and Research

Directeur des affaires parlementaires et de la recherche

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE (UN)****ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)**

WATKINS, Robert (Mr./M.), Resident Coordinator / *Coordinateur résident*

WANGDI, Pem (Ms./Mme), Director, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator / *Directrice, Bureau du coordinateur résident*

UMEZU, Shin (Mr./M.), Team Leader of the South Asia and South East Asia, Department of Political Affairs / *Chef d'équipe pour l'Asie du Sud et l'Asie du Sud-Est, Département des affaires politiques*

MOHSIN, Nazzina Binte (Ms./Mme), Communications and Partnerships Officer / *Chargée de la communication et des partenariats*

REES, Edward (Mr./M.), Peace and Development Advisor, Office of the Resident Coordinator / *Conseiller paix et développement, Bureau du coordinateur résident*

JANG, Sejin (Mr./M.), Asia and Pacific Division / *Division Asie et Pacifique*

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

LAUTZE, Susan Lorraine (Ms./Mme), Representative in Bangladesh / *Représentante au Bangladesh*

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)**PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

FOGSTAD, Helga (Ms./Mme), Executive Director / *Directrice exécutive*

McDOUGALL, Lori (Ms./Mme), Representative / *Représentante*

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

BEIGBEDER, Edouard (Mr./M.), Representative, Bangladesh Office / *Représentant, Bureau du Bangladesh*

FAIZULLA, Sakil (Mr./M.), Communication Manager / *Chef de la communication*

RAHMAN, Azizur (Mr./M.), Social Policy Specialist / *Spécialiste de la politique sociale*

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP New York / *Chef d'équipe, Processus de participation politique, Bureau de New York*

MUKEERJEE, Sudipto (Mr./M.), Country Director / *Directeur régional*

GEBREZGHI, Beniamin (Mr./M.)

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

KALDUN, Beatrice (Ms./Mme), Head and Representative, Dhaka Office / *Chef et représentante, Bureau de Dhaka*

SNEGDHA, Sherin Sultana (Mrs./Mme), Secretary to the Head of Office, Dhaka Office / *Secrétaire du Chef du Bureau de Dhaka*

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS**

FANSA, Khaled (Mr./M.), Senior Protection Officer and Acting Representative, Bangladesh / *Chargé de protection et représentant p.i., Bangladesh*

OAKESHOTT, Nicholas (Mr./M.), Regional Protection Officer, Bangladesh / *Chargé de protection régional, Bangladesh*

KARIM, Fahmida (Ms./Mme), Assistant, External Relations Officer, Bangladesh / *Assistante, chargée des relations extérieures, Bangladesh*

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)**BUREAU DE LA COORDINATION DES AFFAIRES HUMANITAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

SMITH, Robert (Mr./M.), Partnerships Coordination Section / *Section de la coordination des partenariats*

**UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)
ENTITE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EGALITE DES SEXES ET L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES (ONU
FEMMES)**

HUNTER, Christine (Ms./Mme), Representative / *Représentante*

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

ASKEW, Ian David (Mr./M.), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research / *Directeur du
Département santé et recherché génésiques*

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*

SALVADOR, Edwin (Mr./M.), Deputy Head, Country Office, Dhaka / *Chef adjoint, Bureau régional, Dhaka*

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)
FONDS MONETAIRE INTERNATIONAL (FMI)**

KAENDERA, Stella (Ms./Mme), Resident Representative in Bangladesh / *Représentante résidente au
Bangladesh*

**LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
LEAGUE DES ETATS ARABES**

KHADHUM, Fadel (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs / *Secrétaire général assistant aux
affaires juridiques*

NASRADDIN, Manal (Ms./Mme), Director of International Organizations Department / *Directrice du Département
des organisations internationales*

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

NIHAWI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director, Parliamentary Relations / *Directeur des relations parlementaires*

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

**COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)
ASSOCIATION PARLEMENTAIRE DU COMMONWEALTH**

CHAUDHURY, Shirin Sharmin (Ms./Mme), Chairperson / *Présidente*

**FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION
(FP- ICGLR)**

**FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS
LACS (FP-CIRGL)**

HIGIRO, Prosper (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MBODI, Jenny (Ms./Mme), Administrative Assistant / *Assistante administrative*

GLOBAL ORGANISATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION**

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.), Chair, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament / *Président, Vice-Président du Parlement indonésien*

MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

EMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.), Head of the PABSEC Russian Delegation, Chairman of the PABSEC Legal and Political Affairs Committee

HAIJYEV, Asaf (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)**ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M.), Honorary President / *Président honoraire*

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)**PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFERATION NUCLEAIRE ET LE DESARMEMENT (PNDN)**

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator / *Coordinateur global*

ROBSON, Matt (Mr./M.), Coordinator for South-East Asia and the Pacific / *Coordinateur pour l'Asie du Sud-Est et le Pacifique*

DAY, Rachel (Ms./Mme), Research Officer / *Chargée de recherche*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

RAKHMANOV, Sergei (Mr./M.), Leader of the delegation, Chairman of the Standing Committee / *Chef de la délégation, Président de la Commission permanente*

SHUMYANTSEV, Alexander (Mr./M.), Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department / *Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires*

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)**

KILIC, Mahmut Erol (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

KELECEVIC, Boris (Mr./M.), Deputy Head, Bangladesh Office / *Chef adjoint du Bureau du Bangladesh*

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)**FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE (FICR)**

ULLA, Azmat (Mr./M.), Head of the Regional Office, Bangladesh / *Chef du Bureau regional, Bangladesh*

INTERNATIONAL IDEA

TOMMASOLI, Massimo (Mr./M.), Representative / *Représentant*

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL / INTERNATIONALE LIBERALE

BENNION, Phillip (Mr./M.), Member of the Human Rights Committee / *Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme*

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL / INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW
TO A POSSIBLE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION
PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS EN VUE D'UNE
AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION EVENTUELLE**

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

ABDUL RAHMAN, Siti Rozaimeriyanty (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Legislative Council <i>Membre du Conseil législatif</i>
PEHIN ABDUL RAHIM, Pehin Ghani (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Council <i>Membre du Conseil législatif</i>
ASAR, Pehin Judin (Mr./M.)	Clerk to the Legislative Council <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil législatif</i>
ISMAIL, Rose Aminah (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil législatif</i>

SOLOMON ISLANDS - ILES SALOMON

NASIU, Ajilon Jasper (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of National Parliament <i>Président du Parlement national</i>
PALUSI, Brian Ross (Mr./M.),	Sergeant-at-Arms <i>Sergent d'armes</i>

VANUATU

AMBLUS, Edwin (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Premier Vice-Président du Parlement</i>
TETER, Raulu Leon (Mr./M.)	Acting Clerk of Parliament <i>Greffier a.i. du Parlement</i>

ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 136th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 136^{ème} ASSEMBLEE

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)**
**ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE
LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS**

JAFAROV, Aidyn (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General
Secrétaire general adjoint

AKULICH, Andrey (Mr./M.)

Adviser
Conseiller

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 136th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE
LA 136^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

SATYARTHI, Kailash (Mr./M.), Global Chairperson of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation / *Directeur général de la Fondation pour les enfants Kailash Satyarthi*

JENČA, Miroslav (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs / *Sous-Secrétaire général aux affaires politiques*

VERBUNG, Gerda (Ms./Mme), SUN Movement Coordinator / *Coordinatrice de SUN Movement*

LOPEZ CLAROS, Augusto (Mr./M.), Director, Global Indicators Group, World Bank Group / *Directeur du Groupe des indicateurs mondiaux, Banque mondiale*

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

ABDUR, Mohammed (Mr./M.), Executive Director, Institute of Conflict, Law and Development Studies (ICLDS) / *Directeur exécutif de ICLDS*

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme

FAIROOZ, Maliha (Ms./Mme), Investment and Partnership Coordinator, Restless Development Nepal / *Coordinatrice investissement et partenariat, Restless Development Nepal*

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies

KUMAR, Nagesh (Mr./M.), Social Development Division, ESCAP / *Division du développement social, ESCAP*