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Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

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Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Ms. M. Vargas Barcena (Mexico) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland)***

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* that, according to its Statutes, working for peace and cooperation among peoples is one of the main purposes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
- (2) *Recalling* the IPU resolutions on *Achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples* (103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Amman, 2000); *Ensuring respect for and peaceful co-existence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalized world* (116th Assembly, Nusa Dua, 2007); *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* (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012); *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians's lives* (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013) and *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States* (136th Assembly, Dhaka, 2017),
- (3) *Recalling also* the IPU outcomes of general debates, namely the Quito Communiqué (128th Assembly, Quito, March 2013) and the Hanoi Declaration (132nd Assembly, Hanoi, April 2015), containing the parliamentary community's action towards implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- (4) *Recalling further* that sustaining peace has been defined in the substantively identical resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 (2016)) on 27 April 2016 "as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations' engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance",
- (5) *Recognizing* these resolutions and the SDGs as crucial steps towards more coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights,
- (6) *Convinced* that parliaments can significantly contribute to sustaining peace, and *highlighting* both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy, including its capacity to reduce tensions and mitigate and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,

(7) *Emphasizing* that peace is not only a political issue defined by the absence of violence and war but also the freedom from fear, and that it encompasses political, cultural, economic, social and educational issues,

(8) *Underlining* that, in view of the interdependent nature of development, human rights and peace and security, the strengthening of democracy, inclusive development, the promotion of human rights, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and good governance are among the most effective ways to sustain peace and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts,

(9) *Mindful that* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the need for sustainable peace and includes it as a cross-cutting issue,

(10) *Recognizing* that the SDGs apply to all States, while *acknowledging* that their implementation shall be adapted to the uniqueness of each and every State,

(11) *Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls on governments, parliaments and other stakeholders to design and deliver laws and programmes that meet the needs of the people, break down policy silos, uphold human rights, and leave no one behind,

(12) *Emphasizing* the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic and other minorities and persons with disabilities in national efforts towards sustaining peace,

(13) *Welcoming* the prioritization of prevention of violent conflict by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

(14) *Fully supporting* United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, peace and security which emphasizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, peace and security which recognizes the positive role of youth in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

(15) *Highlighting* the contribution of civil society to sustaining peace and implementation of the SDGs, and *welcoming* mutually beneficial interaction with it in order to build linkages to enhance citizens' well-being,

(16) *Reaffirming* the principle of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace which is understood as a broadly shared responsibility by the Parliament, the Government, and all other national stakeholders,

(17) *Acknowledging* that parliaments are best placed to guarantee inclusiveness through the representation and empowerment of women and girls, youth, and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious groups,

(18) *Recognizing* the contribution of regional actors, namely regional parliamentary assemblies, to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the substantively identical resolutions on sustaining peace by the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 (2016)) on 27 April 2016;
2. *Calls on* all parliaments to contribute to the implementation of the concept of sustaining peace and the SDGs, and to identify specific measures of implementation in accordance with their national context;
3. *Stresses* the importance of national ownership and leadership, and that the primary responsibility for identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs lies with national parliaments and governments;

4. *Underlines* that, in this regard, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and *acknowledges* inclusiveness itself as a means of conflict prevention;
5. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to bear in mind the notion of sustaining peace in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in their daily parliamentary work, and to include conflict prevention and the implementation of peacebuilding strategies in their parliamentary relations agenda;
6. *Also calls* on all parliaments to use the preventive potential of the parliamentary process fully as a way of mitigating and resolving conflict, including through inclusive dialogue processes to peacefully address the grievances of all segments of society;
7. *Invites* parliaments to adopt enabling legislation, including key budget laws in order to advance both the SDGs and sustaining peace agendas;
8. *Also invites* parliaments to apply all generic parliamentary functions to hold governments to account for the effective implementation of the sustaining peace framework and the SDGs, including the relevant law-making, oversight, budget, representative and elective functions;
9. *Calls on* parliaments to partner with civil society more regularly in order to build trust among the general public, ensure representation of a variety of needs and enable more effective access to decision-making processes;
10. *Recommends* parliamentarians to engage with governments, international organizations and civil society to promote gender equality, bearing in mind the impact of conflict on women and children, as well as the women, peace and security agenda of the United Nations, and to further promote the participation of women in peace processes, particularly, in mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, as well as in education and promotion of a culture of peace;
11. *Also recommends* parliamentarians to work with governments, international organizations and civil society in order to guarantee the protection of children from conflict at all times, and to avoid the use of children in armed conflict;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to monitor the implementation of the sustaining peace and sustainable development agendas informed by the work of independent oversight bodies such as supreme audit institutions, ombudsman institutions and national human rights institutions;
13. *Also calls* on parliaments to ensure implementation of international commitments and treaties by the government, including the 2030 Agenda and human rights obligations;
14. *Acknowledges* that particular attention must be paid to the prevention of violence in the context of elections, as pivotal moments of the political cycle, since politically stable situations provide an environment that is conducive to sustainable development;
15. *Recognizes* the responsibilities of political parties in this regard and the important role of free and fair elections and supporting institutions such as an independent electoral commission, the judiciary and free media;
16. *Emphasizes* the importance of reconciliation and transitional justice in conflict-affected countries, and *acknowledges* the important role of parliaments in national reconciliation;
17. *Encourages* parliamentarians to legislate and collaborate with governments, international organizations and civil society, in accordance to international law, and international humanitarian law, to reduce and limit the flow of arms in conflict-affected societies;

18. *Declares that* an effective implementation of the SDGs not only contributes to preventing the outbreak of conflict but also supports the sustainability of peace and development by significantly reducing all forms of violence;
19. *Looks forward* to the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24-25 April 2018 convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly; and
20. *Encourages* ever-closer cooperation among parliaments and regional assemblies within the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to contribute to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs.