



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 138th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 28 March 2018)*

Preparatory debate on the next resolution: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

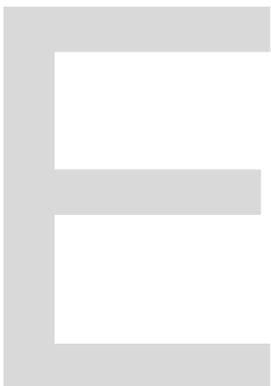
The debate took place on Monday 26 March with the Committee President Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana) in the chair. The Committee approved the appointment of three Rapporteurs for the next resolution, Mr. J. Echániz (Spain), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco). The debate was introduced by the two co-facilitators of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Ambassador J. Lauber (Switzerland) and Ambassador J. Gomez Camacho (Mexico), followed by the three Rapporteurs.

The co-facilitators outlined the consultation and negotiation processes that should lead to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration in December 2018. They briefed the Committee on the structure of the current draft, and welcomed the input of parliamentarians to this process. The co-facilitators underlined the need to change the narrative on migration. Most migration takes place within the same region - for example, Africans moving within Africa, Latin Americans within Latin America. Evidence was now available that showed that the economic contribution of migrants was around USD 7 trillion or nine per cent of global GDP. Most of these economic benefits stayed in the country of destination. Migration policy, and indeed the entire debate on migration, needed to be informed by evidence and respect for the human rights of people on the move.

The Rapporteurs shared their views on the key issues that the IPU resolution on this theme could address in order to support the development of common standards in the area of migration. During the debate, 35 delegates from all geopolitical groups took the floor. Delegates highlighted the need for a well-informed debate, including information on the push and pull factors of migration, on the various forms it took, as well as on the challenges and benefits it brought. Migration contributed to economic development. No country was exclusively a country of origin, transit or destination.

Delegates raised a number of priority issues. These included the development of comprehensive legislation that protects the rights of migrants, the need to address the root causes of migration, and the imperative to combat discrimination and xenophobia in the context of migration. Disaster-related migration required stronger responses that provided adequate protection for people who were forced to move. There was also a need to support migrants' participation in development and political decision-making, both in host countries and in countries of origin. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in all these areas, and in ensuring that gender equality and the rights of children were protected in all aspects of migration. The IPU could and should support them in this endeavor.

The President invited all Members to assist the Rapporteurs in drafting the resolution by providing written contributions by the deadline of 20 April 2018.



#IPU138

Consideration of the proposal for a debate on the theme *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons*

On Tuesday 27 March, the Committee gave further consideration to the proposal to hold a debate, which would not lead to a resolution, on the role of parliaments in ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. On the occasion of the 137th Assembly in October 2017, that proposal had been approved by the Committee without a vote. However, in light of opposing views on the matter, the President of the 137th Assembly subsequently referred the matter back to the Committee for further consideration at the 138th Assembly.

At the session on 27 March, the Committee worked in an atmosphere of mutual respect, where all delegates were able to give their views on the proposal and listen to the views of others. The proposal was presented by Belgium, then 28 delegates from all geopolitical groups took the floor to express their position. In order to avoid any possible doubt about the decision, the Committee held a roll call vote and voted in favour of holding this debate at the next Assembly.

Elections

The Committee elected new members to its Bureau (see pages 22-23).

The Committee elected Mr. A. Desai (India) as its new President. It reserved the decision of who will become vice-president until the 139th Assembly, when the new Bureau will meet for the first time.