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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(b) Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

The Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation was jointly organized by the IPU, the Congress of Mexico and AWEPA, and took place in the afternoon of 14 April 2014 in Mexico City.

The Parliamentary Meeting was open to all members of parliament accredited to the High-level Meeting taking place on 15 and 16 April and was attended by representatives from over 30 national parliaments and three regional parliamentary bodies.

The participants produced a Statement as a contribution to the High-level Meeting, which appears below.

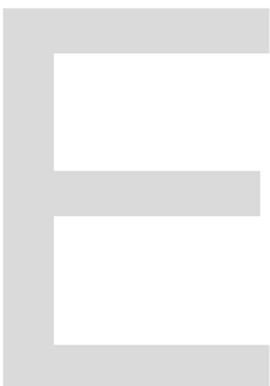
STATEMENT

Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the First High-level Meeting of the GPEDC 14 April, 2014 Mexico City, Mexico

We, Members of Parliament from over thirty national parliaments and three regional parliamentary bodies meeting on the occasion of the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), issue the following statement as a contribution to the final outcome of the High-Level Meeting.

We are aware of the opportunity the GPEDC presents to parliamentarians to appeal to development stakeholders to strengthen parliaments as institutions in line with their constitutional mandates.

Noting the commitments made through the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership, particularly those that pertain to the role of parliament in effective development cooperation, we are concerned at the continued underfunding of the capacity of parliaments to fulfil their basic functions, including budgetary oversight and policy-making, as well as at the chronic lack of involvement of parliaments in mutual accountability structures at country level. We are equally concerned that the findings of recent progress reports on the implementation of commitments made show limited progress across all indicators measured.



We acknowledge that reducing poverty and inequality as well as cooperation that fosters sustainable development, are top priorities in the post 2015 global development agenda. To this end, we see an urgent need for incorporating the parliamentary perspective into the discussion of new actors, models and mechanisms in the international development cooperation agenda. We reiterate the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a new framework for inclusive development partnerships. We also note that States affected by conflicts should receive special attention as recipients of development cooperation.

We underscore the importance of parliamentary solidarity between developed and developing countries, including through information sharing as a way of enhancing transparency and accountability in the resource sector, official assistance and other areas of mutual interest. At the same time, we encourage colleagues around the world to continue to work to strengthen their own parliamentary institutions through proactive measures to endow the parliament with greater oversight powers.

We therefore call for:

- I. A strong parliamentary involvement in the final review of the Millennium Development Goals and the design of the new development framework beyond 2015;
- II. Increased support for ensuring strong analytical and technical capacity for the execution of our duties in overseeing and scrutinizing all resources of development, domestic or foreign, public or private, so that they would benefit the nationals of recipient countries;
- III. The creation of an enabling environment on the part of the executive and development partners for parliamentary engagement in the budget process and parliamentary oversight of development expenditures;
- IV. The catalytic use of external assistance in bolstering the execution of oversight functions of parliaments and the involvement of parliamentarians in the budget process;
- V. Accelerated implementation of the commitment towards gender-disaggregated budgeting and monitoring systems; as well as stronger commitment to support the political empowerment of women as a proven way to improve development outcomes;
- VI. Widespread support for the establishment of Independent Fiscal Institutions and other expertise to support parliamentary budget and accounts committees in tandem with Supreme Audit Institutions;
- VII. More frequent and rigorous country-level monitoring of development cooperation commitments and the urgent inclusion of parliaments in all relevant processes;
- VIII. A leading role for parliaments in mutual accountability as a key enabler of effective development cooperation, particularly through the design and adoption of a national aid policy;
- IX. A stronger role for parliaments in creating legislative frameworks to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of international development cooperation, including through the participation of civil society and the private sector, as well as the media;
- X. Legislative action in promoting domestic resource mobilization, particularly with regard to tax policy, the extractive sector and illicit financial flows;
- XI. The institutionalization of this Parliamentary meeting so that it takes place regularly before the High-Level Meeting;
- XII. The High Level Meeting of the GPEDC to reaffirm and strengthen the existing commitments to parliamentary stakeholders in development effectiveness and to further strengthen the role of parliaments in monitoring all resources for development.