



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

CL/195/SR.1  
12 December 2014

## **Summary records of the Governing Council**

**195<sup>th</sup> session**

**13 and 16 October 2014**

**Geneva (*Centre international de Conférences de Genève*)**

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## First session

Monday, 13 October 2014

*The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m., with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mr. Abdelwahad Radi (Morocco), in the Chair.*

Item 1 of the agenda

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (CL/195/A.1)

**The revised provisional agenda, contained in document CL/195/A.1, was adopted.**

Item 2 of the agenda

### APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 194<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (CL/194/SR.1)

**The summary records of the 194<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council, contained in document CL/194/SR.1, were approved.**

Item 3 of the agenda

### QUESTIONS RELATING TO IPU MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVER STATUS

#### (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the IPU (CL/195/3(a)-P.1)

**The President** said that the Executive Committee had examined and recommended approval of the decisions, set out in document CL/195/3(a)-P.1, relating to requests for reaffiliation to the IPU received from the National Assembly of Madagascar and the National Assembly of the Republic of Guinea. He took it that the Governing Council wished to approve those two decisions.

**It was so decided.**

**Mr. L. Fofana (Guinea)**, welcoming the decision to approve his Parliament's request for reaffiliation to the IPU, expressed gratitude for the IPU support from which his delegation had benefited in preparing to attend the current Assembly. The Guinean Parliament stood fully ready to join in disseminating the ideals of the IPU with a view to positively influencing international relations through an increasingly proactive parliamentary diplomacy. Indeed, with so many globalized issues now resonating in parliamentary work, among them international trade, climate change and migration, an outward focus was becoming ever more vital. After a succession of grave institutional crises experienced in Guinea over the previous decade, the re-establishment of its Parliament in 2013 had created favourable conditions for its reaffiliation with the Union. It was profoundly appreciative of the IPU's constant efforts to promote that outcome and was likewise grateful to all parliaments for their assistance in enabling his country and its people to overcome the multiple political and institutional hurdles faced along the way.

**Mr. J.M. Rakotomamonjy (Madagascar)** expressed sincere thanks for his Parliament's reaffiliation to the IPU, an event of historic importance for Madagascar, which, following the conduct of elections internationally recognized as free, transparent and fair, was now emerging decisively from its longest and most painful crisis responsible for, inter alia, the rampant poverty and lack of access to such fundamental rights as food, health and education. It lay with the National Assembly to restore lasting peace and stability for the Madagascan people, to which end it was strengthening its capacities and modernizing its working methods through an ambitious strategic plan and focusing on immediate concerns, including national reconciliation, confidence-building and investment for sustainable development, an arduous task to which it was fully committed. In that endeavour of starting afresh, the IPU was a collective strength for providing and

also leveraging the assistance needed for success in overcoming the challenges entailed. His Parliament looked forward to serving as a model for democracy and human rights and to working with the IPU in helping other countries in their transition to democracy.

**The President**, in warmly welcoming the two Parliaments back into the IPU fold, assured them of the ready availability of such IPU services and assistance as they might require.

**(b) Situation of certain Members**

**The President** said that, in examining the situation of certain Members, the Executive Committee had noted that the Parliament of Mauritania was liable for suspension under Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes owing to the non-payment of its dues. In the absence of any positive developments in the coming days concerning its arrears in contributions, there would be no option but to suspend its membership.

**The Secretary General** added that consultations were under way with the Parliaments of Fiji, Guyana, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as with the United States Congress, with a view to their affiliation or reaffiliation to the IPU, which now comprised a membership of 166 following the two newly approved Guinean and Madagascan reaffiliations.

Turning to developments in the situation of existing Members, he said that the dispute prompted in Cambodia by claims of election rigging in 2013 had been resolved through negotiation, with the result that opposition party members had finally taken up their seats in July 2014. Concerning the Central African Republic, where the National Assembly had been dissolved following a coup d'état, elections were anticipated at the end of the current 18-month transition period. In Egypt, where similar circumstances obtained, the hope was that the elections scheduled for November 2014 would usher in a functioning parliament, as had recently occurred in Fiji, where the IPU looked forward to providing technical assistance to the brand new parliament, the first to be installed in Fiji since 2006. In Haiti, the parliamentary crisis had been resolved following an agreement on quorums that would allow vacant seats to be filled, whereas in Libya, the legitimacy of the newly elected parliament was still being contested in some quarters. Under the road map currently being implemented in Thailand, the interim parliament was set to remain in place until after the elections scheduled for October 2015. Lastly, in Tunisia, the transition period was shortly due to end with parliamentary and presidential elections in October and November 2014.

**The Governing Council took note of the situation of certain Members.**

**(c) Observer status**  
(CL/195/3(c)-P.1)

**The President** drew attention to a request for observer status received from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), annexed to document CL/195/3(c)-P.1, and said he took it that the Council wished to approve the request, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

**It was so decided.**

**(d) Report on the participation of permanent observers to IPU Assemblies**  
(CL/195/3(d)-R.1)

**The Secretary General** outlined the five recommendations, detailed in document CL/195/3(d)-R.1, which had been approved by the Executive Committee following its four-yearly review of the participation of observers in the work of the IPU.

**The President** said he took it that the Council wished to endorse those five recommendations, including amendments to the text of practical modalities of the rights and responsibilities of observers at IPU meetings, which was annexed to the document under consideration.

**It was so decided.**

Item 4 of the agenda

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

**(a) On his activities since the 194<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council**  
(CL/195/4(a)-R.1.)

*The President* delivered his report on his activities since the 194<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council, as contained in document CL/195/4(a)-R.1. He additionally invited all Members to visit the IPU exhibition along the Geneva lakeside, one of the many activities organized to mark the auspicious occasion of the IPU's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was similarly highlighted by the IPU promotional video currently being screened on Geneva's public buses and trams.

Noting that the present report was the last he would deliver now that his term of office was about to end, he took the opportunity to thank the Council for the benefit of its trust and support throughout his three-year tenure.

**(b) On the activities of the Executive Committee**

*The President* stated that most of the subjects discussed by the Executive Committee during its full day of deliberations during the current session would be reported on under other items of the agenda.

**The Governing Council took note of the report of the President.**

Item 5 of the agenda

**INTERIM REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IPU SINCE THE 194<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**(a) Oral report of the Secretary General**

*The Secretary General* said that, since the 194<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council, the IPU had focused on its programmatic work, with an emphasis on actively furthering strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, as identified in the IPU Strategy 2012-2017 (respectively: strengthen democracy through parliaments; advance gender equality; and protect and promote human rights). Work had also continued on the draft Common Principles for Parliamentary Development, as would be reported under agenda item 10(b), and capacity-building support had been provided to 26 parliaments around the world. Implementation of the new working methods of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians had continued in accordance with the decisions taken in that regard, including the organization of numerous field missions. Work had started on designing a human-rights-based approach to the IPU's work in general.

Cooperation with the United Nations also continued to gather pace, including in the contexts of the Human Rights Council, notably its universal periodic review mechanism; the IPU contribution via robust in-country programmes to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5 of reducing child mortality and improving maternal health; and the IPU's participation in the high-level debate on climate change at the most recent United Nations General Assembly and likewise in the Second World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, where the new IPU Handbook *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples* had been extremely well received. Consultations were additionally in progress with heads of Geneva-based United Nations agencies with a view to further reinforcing cooperation.

Goodwill with the United States Congress was likewise being strengthened in a bid to encourage its reaffiliation with the Union, which was being championed within Congress in the form of a bill currently at the consultation stage. He would shortly be discussing the matter further in Washington with United States Secretary of State John Kerry, who had already declared himself in favour of reaffiliation, when he was a member of the Senate.

He had just returned from the 60<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Assembly in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and the historic first IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians had also just taken place. Lastly, as part of the activities commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU, a brochure *125 years of democratic struggle for peace*, which provided an overview of the IPU from the past, present and future perspectives, had been published in four languages.

**(b) International Day of Democracy 2014**  
(CL/195/5(b)-R.1)

**The Secretary General** outlined the IPU involvement in celebrating the International Day of Democracy 2014 on the chosen theme of *Engaging youth on democracy*, as described in document CL/195/5(b)-R.1. He also highlighted the activities organized by a total of 33 parliaments to mark the event, details of which were provided in the annex to the document and on a dedicated IPU website page ([www.ipu.org/idd](http://www.ipu.org/idd)).

**The Governing Council took note of the interim report of the Secretary General.**

Item 6 of the agenda

**FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE IPU**  
(CL/195/6-R.1)

**The President**, at the suggestion of the Secretary General, proposed that discussion of the item be deferred until the next meeting of the Council in order to allow for dissemination and consideration of the relevant information in the interim.

**It was so agreed.**

Item 7 of the agenda

**DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2015**  
(CL/195/7-P.1)

**Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada)**, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Finance, presenting the draft consolidated budget for 2015, set out in document CL/195/7-P.1, said that the Sub-Committee had collaborated closely with the Secretariat throughout the preparation of the draft, which had been carefully considered and reviewed. Now presented in a new and more concise format, the draft was structured in line with the IPU Strategy 2012-2017, with additional information contained in a summarized logframe. Thanks to a substantial increase in voluntary funding, the desired reduction in assessed contributions had been achieved and indeed would have been higher still without the expenditure to be incurred by the Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2015.

Drawing attention to provisions made for various activities and to the particulars relating to voluntary funding, as outlined respectively in section 1.1, paragraphs 6 and 8, of the document, she encouraged all Members to promote greater mobilization of resources for IPU activities. The Executive Committee commended the draft consolidated budget to the Council for adoption.

**The Secretary General**, highlighting the determined effort made to decrease assessed contributions on account of the budgetary constraints facing Members, said that a further decrease might be achieved in future if additional resources were indeed mobilized for IPU activities. On that score, he paid particular tribute to the United Arab Emirates for its generous voluntary contributions and also for its efforts to mobilize similar support from other Gulf and Arab States. Given the crucial importance of the IPU programmatic work in the run-up to the post-2015 development agenda, efforts had been directed to finding alternative funding for the IPU's core business, including the work of the Standing Committees and the Committee on Middle East Questions, in addition to gender-related activities. The hope was that the global economic environment would sufficiently improve over time to allow for the provision of more resources, which would also be promoted by success in the continuing quest for increased IPU membership. He urged careful perusal of the draft consolidated budget and the summarized logframe, which was a useful tool for results-based management.

**The President** suggested that the item be set aside for further consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

**It was so agreed.**

Item 8 of the agenda

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPU STRATEGY FOR 2012-2017**

**(b) Strategic Objective 2: Advance gender equality.**  
(CL/195/8(b)-P.1)

**The President** said that he was delighted to announce the launch of the *Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas*, co-published by the IPU, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and Stockholm University. Notwithstanding the substantial improvement indicated by the doubling of the number of women in parliament over the past 20 years, the pace of progress was unacceptably slow insofar as a further 20 years would be required to attain the major IPU goal of genuine democracy through gender parity in representation. The key to achieving that goal ultimately lay in an active demonstration of political will entailing the implementation of a range of support measures, including quotas for women, which sometimes proved to be a specifically complicated, delicate and controversial issue. The well-researched data contained in the unique *Atlas* served as an excellent guide to tools for action to promote the equitable participation of women in the world's parliaments.

**Ms. R. Kandawaswika-Nhundu (International IDEA)**, introducing the *Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas* on behalf of International IDEA Secretary-General, Mr. Yves Leterme, said that the co-publication was the product of ground-breaking progress achieved in recording measures in place for ensuring women's equal participation and representation with men in positions of power and decision-making. The aim of the *Atlas* was to inform parliamentarians, policymakers, political parties, civil society and gender equality advocates about the tools and resources potentially available for the implementation of such measures with a view to translating into implementable strategies the international commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. The *Atlas* was not prescriptive, focusing instead on examples of good practices, including with respect to intraparty democracy and the identification and nomination of candidates for elected positions. International IDEA was honoured to have worked in partnership with the IPU and Stockholm University in the cause of more equal parliamentary institutions worldwide.

Item 10 of the agenda

**REPORTS ON RECENT IPU SPECIALIZED MEETINGS**

**(a) International Parliamentary Conference on *Parliaments and the rights of indigenous peoples***  
(CL/195/10(a)-R.1)

**The President** said that the IPU was proud to be an active advocate of inclusive parliaments, recalling in that connection its recent launch of the Handbook for Parliamentarians on *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples*.

**The Secretary General**, presenting the report contained in document CL/195/10(a)-R.1, said that the three-day International Parliamentary Conference on *Parliaments and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, jointly organized by the IPU and the Bolivian Parliament in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 7-9 April 2014, represented a continuation of the work to strengthen democracy through the meaningful participation of all segments of society, including indigenous peoples, in decision-making. Annexed to the report was the conference outcome document, entitled the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, which built on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People adopted in Chiapas, Mexico, in 2010, and which had subsequently fed into the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Members were encouraged to respond to the calls for action set out in the new Declaration, the wide dissemination of which would be beneficial.

**(b) Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**  
(CL/195/10(b)-R.1)

**Ms. L.A. Rojas Hernández (Mexico)**, reporting on the parliamentary meeting detailed in document CL/195/10(b)-R.1, highlighted the statement contained therein, which had been produced by participants as a contribution to the First High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, likewise held in Mexico City on 14 April 2014. She outlined the 12 proactive measures for strengthening parliamentary institutions, as enumerated in the statement, which all Members were urged to read.

**(c) World e-Parliament Conference 2014**  
(CL/195/10(c)-R.1)

**Mr. H.-J. Ahn (Republic of Korea)**, presenting the report contained in document CL/195/10(c)-R.1, said that his National Assembly's hosting of the three-day World e-Parliament Conference in Seoul from 8 to 10 May 2014, had been particularly appropriate, given the top ranking attained twice in succession by the Korean Government's e-services in the biennial United Nations e-Government Survey. The National Assembly had shared with participants its experience and know-how of the e-parliament system, showcasing its innovative range of digital facilities, which had promoted interest in the effective benefits of information and communication technology in the parliamentary setting. The use of social media in encouraging public participation in the legislative process had also been explored. He urged continuing support and cooperation with a view to building on current e-parliament achievements and additionally called for active participation the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to be hosted by his country in 2015, which would address crucial water-related issues relevant to the forthcoming interactive debate of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

**(d) Event to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU**  
(CL/195/10(d)-R.1)

**The Secretary General** drew attention to the panel discussions, described in document CL/195/10(d)-R.1 that had taken place as part of the event held on 30 June 2014 to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU. With an overarching focus on the drive for democratic change, those interesting discussions had addressed three individual themes: the role of democracy in changing lives and making a difference; breaking gender inequalities in the context of women's political emancipation; and the link between the media and democracy.

**(e) Regional follow-up seminar on *The role of parliamentarians in the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations***  
(CL/195/10(e)-R.1)

**Mr. L. Gallo (Uruguay)** delivered the report, as contained in document CL/195/10(e)-R.1, on the two-day regional follow-up seminar on the chosen topic, which had been jointly organized by the IPU and his country's legislative power, the General Assembly, in Montevideo on 15 and 16 July 2014.

**(f) Parliamentary meeting at the XX International AIDS Conference**  
(CL/195/10(f)-R.1)

**Mrs. B. Bishop (Australia)** said that AIDS-related issues, including progress attained in that sphere, had been the subject of lively discussion at the well-attended parliamentary meeting convened on 21 July 2014 at the XX International AIDS Conference in Melbourne. She commended to Members the report on the meeting and its findings, as set out in document CL/195/10(f)-R.1.

**(g) Review of the draft Common Principles for Parliamentary Development**  
(CL/195/10(g)-R.1)

**Mr. F. Drilon (Philippines)** outlined the review of draft Common Principles for Parliamentary Development, which had taken place in Manila, on 28 and 29 August 2014, and also summarized its key outcome and conclusion, as contained in document CL/195/10(g)-R.1.

**(h) Ninth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament**  
(CL/195/10(h)-R.1)

**Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)**, reporting on the Ninth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament held in Geneva on 4 and 5 September 2014, expressed the hope that the outcome of the Meeting, given its focus on women's economic empowerment, would ultimately feed beyond the current Assembly into the Beijing +20 review. She thus drew attention to the key priorities and objectives identified in the report of the Meeting, as contained in annex I to document CL/195/10(h)-R.10, and to the Declaration, set out in annex II thereof, which had been adopted by the Meeting in solidarity with the Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram and the women and girls traumatized and oppressed as a consequence of the conflict situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

**(i) Regional Seminar for Asia-Pacific Parliaments on *Ending the cycle of violence against girls in Asia-Pacific***  
(CL/195/10(i)-R.1)

**Ms. S. Chaudhury (Bangladesh)** presented the outcome of the seminar, which had been organized jointly by the IPU and the Parliament of Bangladesh from 23 to 25 September 2014, and attended by delegates from 12 Asian and Pacific countries as well as representatives of national and international organizations. The Seminar adopted a set of conclusions, contained in document CL/195/10(i)-R.1, which identified priorities for parliamentary action at the national level to end violence against girls and women, and also formulated a number of actionable recommendations.

**(j) Seminar for African parliaments on *Translating international human rights commitments into national realities: The contribution of parliaments to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council***  
(CL/195/10(j)-R.1)

**Mr. H. Kouskous (Morocco)**, outlining the details of the two-day seminar for African parliaments held in Rabat, Morocco, on 29 and 30 September 2014, as reported in document CL/195/10(j)-R.1, said that the high-level of participation in the seminar had paved the way for wide-ranging deliberations on the chosen theme, with a particular focus on difficulties encountered in the implementation of international human rights standards and the consequences for human rights activities. The outcome recommendations set out in the report would be taken up at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights, due to take place in November 2014 in Marrakech.

**(k) First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians on *Taking Democracy to Task***  
(CL/195/10(k)-R.1)

**The Secretary General**, presenting the report contained in document CL/195/10(k)-R.1 on the historic First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians held in Geneva on 10 and 11 October 2014, drew particular attention to the list of measures formulated by participants for strengthening youth involvement in politics. The IPU would continue its efforts to reach out to its youth constituency, which provided a refreshing perspective to its work, and it indeed looked forward to the next such conference due to take place in 2015, in Tokyo, with the benefit of Japanese funding.

**The Governing Council took note of the reports on recent IPU specialized meetings.**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

**The Secretary General** announced that the quorum for the 195<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council was 107 delegates, given that 213 delegates were present at the first sitting of the Council.

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*

## Second session

Thursday, 16 October

*The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with the President of the IPU, Mr. Abdelwahad Radi (Morocco), in the Chair.*

### Item 15 of the agenda

#### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION** (CL/195/15-P.1 to P.4 and 15/-Inf)

**The President**, drawing attention to the voting procedure for the election of the IPU President, outlined in document CL/195/15/-Inf, said he took it that the Council wished to approve the proposal of the Executive Committee to appoint Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho) and Mrs. G. Requena (Venezuela) as the two tellers who would, in accordance with Rule 30.2 of the Rules of the Governing Council, ascertain the results of the voting to be conducted by secret ballot.

**It was so agreed.**

**The President** invited the four candidates, in alphabetical order, to present themselves and their visions for the IPU.

**Mrs. N.A. Assegaf (Indonesia)**, introducing herself as a parliamentarian from the world's third largest democracy where pluralism and diversity were highly valued, said that, were she to be elected as IPU President, she would work to strengthen engagement with Members in order to build universal democracy and enhance the IPU's effectiveness in advocating democratic values and gender equality through parliamentary cooperation. Bringing to bear her extensive experience of the IPU and other international organizations, she would seek to enhance respect for the Union and to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, including in the areas of international development goals, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. She would serve to bridge East and West, North and South, and developed and developing countries in the interest of all parliamentarians. She would further ensure that all geopolitical groups were well represented across the IPU structure, including through the introduction of Spanish as an official working language. She humbly requested Members to support her candidacy.

**Mrs. B. Bishop (Australia)** said that, were she to succeed Mr. Radi, she would work with the Secretary General and his team to take the IPU forward to greater prominence. As a strong woman candidate, moreover, her election would attest to the seriousness of the quest for gender equality and women in leadership. She was well placed to speak forcefully on behalf of parliamentarians and would endeavour to attract into the IPU fold both new and previous members, including the United States Congress. The higher international profile merited by the IPU as the pre-eminent parliamentary organization could be achieved only through peaceful leadership, which she was qualified to offer, together with a passionate and authoritative voice that would convey the desired messages from the membership. It was a wise organization that decided draw on the talents and strength of those representing one half of the world's population, including by supporting her bid.

**Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)**, congratulating President Radi for taking the IPU forward on a solid footing, said that he had enjoyed his recent enriching interaction with Members, in which he had frequently emphasized his simple rule of continually striving for improvement in the interest of a better and more peaceful future for the coming generations. Through his long-standing association with the IPU, he had acquired an insightful understanding and appreciation of its strengths that, were he to be elected president, would inform his efforts to work in close collaboration with the Secretariat to deliver value to the IPU membership. As IPU President, he would aim to be constantly hands-on and accessible to that membership while also reaching out to bring new Members into its fold, embracing diversity and equality as key priorities and leading from the front. He thanked all those who had expressed support for his candidacy.

**Mr. A. Shahid (Maldives)** expressed appreciation for the time taken by Members in recent days to convey to him their aspirations for the IPU and their concerns to surmount the challenges entailed in building better, fairer and more resilient democracies, improving gender equality and deepening youth involvement in public life. Belonging as he did to a small island State that faced the daily challenge of survival from climate change effects, he was all too familiar with the vital need for adaptation and preparedness. A dynamic organization with a diverse and expanding membership, a proud tradition as an open forum for all peoples worldwide and a clear strategy for guiding its progress and activities, the IPU must recommit to intensifying the efforts to fulfil its objectives by responding flexibly to new global issues and working collectively for solutions through respectful dialogue. If elected President, he would harness his long years and varied blend of appropriate expertise to that end.

**The President**, following an explanation of the voting procedure outlined in document CL/195/15/Inf, invited the Council to elect by secret ballot a new IPU president.

**A vote was taken by secret ballot, with Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho) and Mrs. G. Requena (Venezuela) acting as tellers.**

- Number of ballot papers: 340
- Invalid ballots: 0
- Number of valid ballots: 340
- Required majority: 171
  
- Number of votes obtained:
  - Mrs. N.A. Assegaf (Indonesia): 76
  - Mrs. B. Bishop (Australia): 99
  - Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): 108
  - Mr. A. Shahid (Maldives): 57.

**The President** invited the Council to elect a new IPU President in a second ballot restricted to the three candidates who, in the first ballot, had obtained the largest number of votes without having obtained the required majority.

**A second round of voting was taken by secret ballot, with Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho) and Mrs. G. Requena (Venezuela) again acting as tellers.**

- Number of ballot papers: 321
- Invalid ballots: 0
- Number of valid ballots: 321
- Required majority: 162
  
- Number of votes obtained:
  - Mrs. N.A. Assegaf (Indonesia): 57
  - Mrs. B. Bishop (Australia): 95
  - Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh): 169.

**Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) was elected to serve as President of the IPU for a three-year term, ending in October 2017.**

**Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)**, President-elect of the IPU, said that he and his fellow candidates, to whom he expressed thanks, were fundamentally united, notwithstanding their differing origins, by a sense of dedication and commitment to the welfare of humankind. He therefore spoke not only on behalf of his own Asia-Pacific region but also as part of the wider IPU forum of the world's parliaments, which had greatly honoured and humbled him by electing him as its next president. From that position, he would work to comprehend the needs of all Members and to build on the IPU's 125-year unique tradition with a view to creating a yet more compelling and respected organization of parliaments that took the lead in shaping a world in which people wanted to live. He reiterated his thanks to Members for their support and confidence in him.

**The President** congratulated his successor on his election.

Item 6 of the agenda  
(continued)

**FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE IPU**  
(CL/195/6-R.1)

*The Secretary General* confirmed that, in accordance with the details of income and expenditure provided in document CL/195/6-R.1, which he outlined, the IPU's overall financial performance was expected to remain within target up to the end of 2014. He further outlined the information likewise provided with respect to receipts, arrears of contributions, other accounts receivable, cash flow, capital expenditures and the Legacy Staff Pension Fund, drawing attention in addition to the tables showing operating income and expenses and unpaid contributions at 14 October 2014, contained respectively in annexes I and II to the document. Having now paid their outstanding dues in full, Chile, Lebanon and Mauritania were to be removed from the list of Members with unpaid contributions.

**The Governing Council took note of the financial situation of the IPU.**

Item 7 of the agenda  
(continued)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2015**  
(CL/195/7-P.1)

*The President* said he took it that the Council, in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, wished to approve the draft consolidated budget for 2015, as contained in document CL/195/7-P.1.

**It was so decided.**

Item 8 of the agenda  
(continued)

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPU STRATEGY FOR 2012-2017**

**(a) Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen democracy through parliaments**  
(CL/195/8(a)-P.1)

*The Secretary General*, outlining the development of the draft Common Principles for Support to Parliaments and the progress report provided in document CL/195/8(a)-P.1, drew attention to the nine specific principles elaborated as a result of that process, which were annexed to the document. Crucially, the principles were intended to address any lack of coordination and duplication of work in the delivery of technical assistance to parliaments, which should be needs-driven in each instance. The hope was that, if approved by the Council, the Common Principles would be formally launched at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in a ceremony involving the partners who had contributed to its development. The aim was to ensure the global reach and accessibility of the final text to all members of the parliamentary development community.

*The President* said he took it that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council wished to approve the draft Common Principles for Support to Parliaments, which were annexed to document CL/195/8(a)-P.1.

**It was so decided.**

**(b) Strategic objective 2: Advance gender equality.**  
(CL/195/8(b)-P.1)

*The Secretary General* drew attention to the overview of recent achievements in the area of advancing gender equality, as described in document CL/195/8(b)-P.1 under the headings of research and data; access and effectiveness; gender-sensitive parliaments; discrimination and violence against women; and upcoming priorities, notably the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, for which special celebrations would be organized at the next Assembly in Hanoi, and the Beijing +20 review.

**(c) Strategic objective 3: Protect and promote human rights**  
(CL/195/8(c)-P.1)

*The Secretary General* outlined the details pertaining to each of the five objectives identified for the promotion and protection of human rights, as set out in document CL/195/8(c)-P.1.

**(d) Strategic objective 5: Build parliamentary support  
for international development goals. Contribution to the post-2015 development agenda**  
(CL/195/8(d)-P.1)

*The Secretary General*, referring to the information on the parliamentary contribution to the post-2015 development goals, as described in document CL/195/8(d)-P.1, emphasized the action thus far taken by the IPU to ensure the inclusion of governance as a prerequisite for the successful attainment of those goals. He urged participation in the joint Parliamentary Hearing to be held at the United Nations in November 2014, which would again focus on sustainable development, thus providing an opportunity for injecting the parliamentary perspective into the final negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

**The Governing Council took note of the progress reports relating to implementation of the IPU Strategy 2012-2017.**

Item 9 of the agenda

**COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM**  
(CL/195/9-R.1)

*The Secretary General* drew attention to document CL/195/9-R.1, which contained a brief account of activities undertaken in cooperation with the United Nations system from 15 March to 15 October 2014. Underscoring the importance of United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/272 on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU*, adopted by consensus in May 2014 and described in the document, he outlined some of the activities likewise described with respect to the preparatory process for the Second World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in particular the launch of the IPU Handbook *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples*; the Parliamentary Hearing already referred to under item 8(d) of the agenda; the work of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among non-State actors, in which connection the IPU was now to receive UNODA funding of \$100,000 for the three-year project mentioned in the document; and work conducted in association with seven major United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, in which context he cited the relevance of the outcome resolution adopted by the current Assembly following its plenary debate on the emergency item concerning parliamentary support for an immediate and robust international response to the Ebola epidemic.

**The Governing Council took note of the report on cooperation with the United Nations system.**

Item 11 of the agenda

**ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

**(a) Meeting of Women Parliamentarians**  
(CL/195/11(a)-R.1)

*Mrs. M.N. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)*, President of the Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, in presenting the report of the recent session of the Meeting (CL/195/11(a)-R.1), held in Geneva on 12 October 2014, paid tribute to President Radi for his unflinching support of gender equality and women's rights throughout his mandate. In the Meeting's rich and informative session, an introduction to the new *Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas* had been followed by a discussion of women's access to political decision-making positions, including the role of political parties in women's electoral success. An interactive panel discussion on the topic *Women's influence on parliament* had then focused on women-driven legislative reforms and the

transformation of parliamentary culture through women's leadership, identifying success factors and also obstacles preventing women's full contribution to financial, technical and scientific spheres. The Meeting had also prepared amendments to the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights in order to incorporate a gender perspective; heard presentations by the candidates for the IPU presidency; elected a substitute member to its Coordinating Committee; and selected the Beijing +20 review, with a focus on measures for prioritizing gender in the post-2015 development goals, as its topic of discussion at the next Assembly in Hanoi, where it would also organize a special event as part of the celebrations marking its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

**(b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

**(ii) Reports of the Committee**  
(CL/195/11(b)-R.1 and R.2)

**Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile)**, President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, reporting on the work of the Committee at its recent session in Geneva, said that the Committee had held talks with 11 delegations and complainants. Such meetings were essential to allowing the Committee to enhance its understanding of the cases before it, express its concerns and exchange views. He therefore thanked all the delegations concerned for their time.

During its session, the Committee had examined 31 cases concerning the situation of 143 members of parliament in 9 countries. Fifty-eight per cent of the cases were from Asia, 18 per cent from Africa, 16 per cent from the Americas and 8 per cent from Europe. Of those cases, 13 per cent concerned women members of parliament and almost 70 per cent concerned opposition members of parliament. Although freedom of expression was a direct or indirect concern in almost all the cases examined by the Committee, arbitrary detention or arrest, lack of due process in proceedings against members of parliament and torture or ill-treatment ranked, in that order, as the most frequent abuses.

The cases to be presented not only dealt with those issues but also focused on other grave crimes, such as murder, which brought to mind the upsetting killings in recent weeks of Gabriel Gomez in Mexico, Robert Serra in Venezuela and, most recently, Waris al-Younes from Syria and Ahmed Al-Khafaji from Iraq. Although the Committee was not examining those cases, their tragedy was a reminder that the protection of the human rights of parliamentarians was as important as ever.

In addition to the cases he would now present, following the order of the draft decisions set out in document CL/195/11(b)-R.2, the Committee was examining serious cases in many other countries where past concerns it had expressed remained valid. Those countries included Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burundi, Chad, Ecuador, Eritrea, Iceland, Iraq, Lebanon, Madagascar, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

**AFRICA**

**CAMEROON**

In Cameroon, the Committee had been following the case of Mr. Ambassa Zang since 2010. Mr. Zang, a former member of the National Assembly, had been accused of misappropriating public funds while in office as Minister of Public Works. From the outset, the Committee had been concerned about the fairness of the criminal proceedings. In October 2012, the matter had, however, been brought before the Budgetary and Financial Discipline Council, a process that allowed Mr. Ambassa Zang to appoint a lawyer to represent him in his absence, given that he had obtained political asylum abroad. However, in June 2014, criminal proceedings had been re-activated regarding the same facts that underpinned the accusations being examined by the Discipline Council. With the full cooperation of the Parliament of Cameroon, the IPU had been able to send an observer to attend the court hearing in the criminal case, which had taken place on 17 September 2014. The Committee looked forward to receiving the observations of the authorities on the trial observer's report and would continue closely to monitor respect for fair trial in both the criminal and disciplinary proceedings.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of Mr. Dieudonné Ambassa Zang.**

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Committee proposed decisions in three cases, the most recent being the arrest and prosecution of Mr. Jean-Bertrand Ewanga. In his case, the Committee was deeply concerned that he had been arrested and convicted simply for exercising his right to freedom of expression. The right to express one's view - even if that view was critical of a country's leadership - was not only an essential right in and of itself but also necessary to ensure that parliamentarians effectively carried out their functions as representatives of their constituents. The Committee was therefore hopeful that a resolution could be achieved in the case to ensure protection of that basic right.

Although alleged violations of the right to due process were likewise a concern in the case of Mr. Ewanga, it was perhaps more pronounced in the case of Mr. Diomi Ndongala, who had been sentenced seven months earlier in a trial marred by irregularities. The Committee was dismayed that the case had not yet been resolved, despite the recommendations made during the national political consultations in 2013. The Committee continued to urge the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resolve the matter and to take all necessary measures to ensure that Mr. Ndongala's health was protected while in prison.

On a more positive note, the Committee was pleased to state that Mr. Muhindo Nzangi, imprisoned for criticizing the Government on the radio, had been liberated under a recent amnesty law and resumed his parliamentary functions.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of Mr. Eugène Diomi Ndongala.**

## **ZAMBIA**

The Committee had mandated him as its President to conduct an on-site mission, in September 2014, to Zambia, where he had been at the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly. He wished to place on record his personal appreciation for the cooperation extended to him by the Zambian authorities.

Although the detailed mission report would not be placed before the Council until the next Assembly, his preliminary observations, endorsed by the Committee, were contained in the draft decision presently before the Council for endorsement.

The main focus of his findings revolved around respect for freedom of association of members of parliament. There had been incidents of undue police interference with opposition parliamentarians who simply wanted to meet with their constituents and supporters. In two cases, in 2012 and 2013, that abuse of police authority had led to the arbitrary arrest and detention of opposition members of parliament. No such incidents had been brought to his attention for 2014.

Believing that the Public Order Act placed undue strain on the right of freedom of assembly, the Committee encouraged the authorities to seize the opportunity to review and amend that legislation immediately, well before the next parliamentary and presidential elections. It expressed the hope that the authorities would heed that advice and put in place a national consultative process involving all political parties, the police and the National Human Rights Commission, as well as other interested parties, with a view to addressing the concerns and challenges regarding the Public Order Act.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of 20 parliamentarians.**

## **AMERICAS**

### **COLOMBIA**

The first of two very different cases in Colombia concerned that of several opposition members of the Colombian Congress who had received death threats. The situation was particularly worrying for Senator Ivan Cepeda, who had been repeatedly targeted.

The assassination of Senator Ivan Cepeda's own father, also a vocal opposition senator, was a stark reminder that the threats against his son must be taken extremely seriously. The Committee therefore asked the Colombian authorities to do everything possible to identify and bring to justice those responsible and provide Senator Ivan Cepeda and his colleagues with the necessary protection.

The second case in Colombia concerned that of former Senator Piedad del Socorro Zuccardi de García and of former member of parliament Mr. Oscar Arboleda Palacio, both of whom were being prosecuted for criminal conspiracy for having allegedly worked with paramilitary forces. An IPU trial observer had attended court hearings in both cases and expressed concern about a lack of fair trial in the proceedings and about the use of unreliable testimonies. The Committee would continue to monitor both trial proceedings, if need be through the continued presence of an observer.

In the light of the sheer number of cases that the Committee was examining in Colombia, it had suggested that a follow-up visit to Bogota take place with a view to promoting further progress in those cases.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the two Committee decisions relating, respectively, to the case of five parliamentarians and the case of Mr. Piedad del Socorro Zuccardi de García and Mr. Oscar Arboleda Palacio.**

## ASIA

### ISRAEL

The Committee was presenting for the first time the case of Knesset Member, Ms. Haneen Zoabi, who belonged to Balad, an Arab political party. On 29 July 2014, the Knesset Ethics Committee had suspended her for six months from all parliamentary activity except voting. The decision had been taken in large part because of her refusal in a radio interview to label the kidnappers of three Israeli teenagers, well before it became known that they had been killed, simplistically as terrorists, even though she had clearly stated that she did not agree with the kidnapping itself.

The Committee feared that Ms. Zoabi had been suspended on account of having exercised her freedom of speech by expressing a political position, which would not be the first time. The Committee therefore expressed the hope that the High Court of Justice would swiftly decide on the petition challenging the suspension and adopt a decision that fully recognized the right to freedom of expression, respect for which was essential for members of parliament.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of Ms. Haneen Zoabi.**

### MALAYSIA

The Committee presented for the first time the case of five Malaysian parliamentarians, opposition members who either faced charges or were being investigated under the Sedition Act.

The Committee was concerned about the impact of those proceedings on the right to freedom of expression. Indeed, the conviction of the late Mr. Karpal Singh, who had died in a car crash in April 2014, showed how the Sedition Act could punish remarks that seemed to fall squarely within the right to free speech. With regard to the case of Mr. Karpal Singh, as with the case of Mr. Anwar Ibrahim, the Committee would continue to follow closely the appeals filed by the defence lawyers in the hope of clearing the names of both men.

Returning to the case of the five parliamentarians, the Committee would likewise closely monitor the ongoing legal proceedings.

Moreover, the Committee was keen to examine in more detail what was at the heart of the case, namely the existence of the Sedition Act itself. It was interested to see, therefore, the continuing efforts being made by the authorities to review the Act. The Committee believed that the Malaysian Parliament had a particular responsibility to ensure that those efforts succeeded, not only because they required legislative action, but also because the Parliament had a special interest in ensuring that its members could speak out freely.

The Committee had engaged in a very useful exchange of views with the Malaysian delegation in Geneva and welcomed the invitation extended by the delegation to go to Malaysia. Indeed, the Committee believed that a visit would enhance its understanding of the review of the Sedition Act, identify opportunities for sharing other countries' legislative experiences in promoting respect for free speech while safeguarding social and religious cohesion, and acquire a full understanding of the application of the Act in the pending proceedings against members of parliament.

A **delegate of Malaysia** said that, as had already been explained to the Committee, the cases under consideration had not arisen as part of any attempt to silence the political opposition but because they had entailed contraventions of the Malaysian Sedition Act of 1948, which remained in force pending the outcome of the review currently underway.

**The Governing Council endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of five parliamentarians.**

#### OMAN

The Committee was now making public the case of Mr. Talib Al Mamari, a member of the Shura Council of Oman, who was in prison for having participated in a public demonstration. The decision to make the case public was timely, given the visit made to Oman by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of association and expression in September 2014. The freedom to assemble and to express opinions lay at the heart of the entire parliamentary exercise. The Committee therefore urged that the Court of Appeal issue an exemplary ruling upholding those rights. The Committee also welcomed the invitation extended by the Omani delegation for a future visit and looked forward to such an opportunity to exchange views, in a spirit of dialogue and openness, with the Omani authorities.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of Mr. Talib Al Mamari.**

#### PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Unsurprisingly, his report on the situation of the Palestinian parliamentarians would be very gloomy. The Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council was in an Israeli prison cell for the third time in eight years, which the Committee regarded as an affront to the authority of the Palestinian Legislative Council. It also feared that his arrest might again be based on his political affiliation alone. It was therefore keen to hear from the Israeli authorities as to whether Speaker Dweik was now the subject of recognizable charges of specific criminal activity against him. If so, it called on the Israeli authorities to try him in a fair and transparent legal process, guaranteeing the full right of defence, or otherwise to release him without delay.

Mr. Dweik was maybe the most symbolic recent Palestinian prisoner but he was not alone. More than 1,000 Palestinians had reportedly been arrested by the Israeli authorities since June 2014. One fifth of the members of the Palestinian Legislative Council were behind Israeli bars. Three were facing criminal charges and 26 were said to be in administrative detention. That deplorable situation prevented the Palestinian members of parliament from carrying out the mandate for which they had been elected. It also showed total disregard for the right of the Palestinian people to be represented by persons of their choice.

The Committee was particularly concerned about the continued practice of administrative detention. Even when Palestinian members of parliament were released, they remained subject to renewed arrest, a practice lending weight to claims that the use of such detention was arbitrary. The Committee therefore called on the Israeli authorities to abandon that practice and either release the administrative detainees or, should there be concrete and convincing proof of criminal involvement, prosecute them in full accordance with normal criminal procedure.

In the cases of Mr. Marwan Barghouti and Mr. Ahmad Sa`adat, who continued to serve their long prison terms, the Committee regrettably had nothing new to report. It continued to call for the release of both men, given that their trials had not met fair-trial standards. Until that happened, the Committee was keen to visit them in prison and urged the Israeli authorities finally to accede to its request.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the four Committee decisions relating, respectively, to the case of Mr. Marwan Barghouti, the case of Mr. Ahmed Sa`adat, the case of 33 parliamentarians and the case of Mr. Aziz Dweik.**

## EUROPE

### TURKEY

He was very pleased to inform the Council that a delegation of the Committee had been able to conduct an on-site mission to Turkey from 24 to 27 February 2014, the full report of which, together with the comments of the Turkish authorities, was contained in document CL/195/11(b)-R.1.

The Committee was particularly satisfied that all the detained parliamentarians had been released and - with the exception of Mr. Dicle - sworn in to parliament following recent decisions by the Constitutional Court. Noting with interest the ongoing efforts by the authorities to resolve outstanding concerns in the cases, it trusted that those efforts would also be acknowledged in the upcoming judicial proceedings.

Lastly, the Committee also urged further investigations into the murder of Mr. Sinçar, which had occurred in 1993.

**The Governing Council unanimously endorsed the Committee decision relating to the case of 10 parliamentarians.**

Concluding his presentation, he said that parliaments and human rights were inextricably linked. When the rights of parliamentarians were violated, it was not only the members of parliament themselves who were threatened but also the institution of parliament as a whole. Likewise, when a member of parliament from one country had his or her rights violated, it weakened everyone. For that reason, parliamentary solidarity was so important and such a key pillar of the Committee's work.

When members of parliament were under threat, the activation of solidarity from colleagues not only had an extremely positive concrete impact on any individual case but also strengthened the institution of parliament as a whole. Such solidarity was indispensable for the Committee's work and could make all the difference in both advancing the serious cases faced by the Committee, further promoting and protecting human rights and, consequently, further empowering parliaments around the world. He therefore encouraged Council Members to keep parliamentary solidarity in mind and to use their powers as parliamentarians to help their fellow colleagues in need.

**The Governing Council took note of the reports on activities of Committees and other bodies.**

*The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.*

# Third sitting

Thursday, 16 October

*The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with the President of the IPU, Mr. Abdelwahad Radi (Morocco), in the Chair.*

## **TRIBUTE TO MR. ABDELWAHAD RADI, OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE IPU**

**Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)**, speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee and also representing the African Group, paid tribute to Mr. Radi for his outstanding leadership of the IPU. Acting always with quiet dignity, he had embodied the core values of the Union, promoted partnership and brought together diverse forces. His long and illustrious political career spanning the provincial, regional, national and international levels had included service as both a member and Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament and as a minister. Moreover, he had received Morocco's highest national award from its King in recognition of his contribution to parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation.

During his distinguished term of office, he had promoted implementation of the reforms needed to enhance the effectiveness of IPU Assemblies and Standing Committees and advocated continually for modern gender-sensitive and inclusive parliaments in a call that had surely resonated far and wide. The IPU had also adopted its very first collective road map, the IPU Strategy 2012-2017; launched the ground-breaking Global Parliamentary Report aimed at bridging the gap between parliament and the people; adopted a Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments; established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians; and organized the First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, which he had inaugurated. Such accomplishments had left an indelible impression on the Union, which would remember him above all for being a people's President – easy-going, approachable, calm and self-effacing yet commanding respect and authority from all those around him.

He had unfailingly provided the Executive Committee with wise counsel and guidance and done the IPU proud whenever representing it at meetings the world over. He had also invariably retained his commitment to the principles of dialogue and negotiation to resolve differences, remaining objective and impartial in all circumstances. She conveyed the IPU's very best wishes to President Radi for the next chapter in his life.

**Two gifts were presented to Mr. Radi as a small token of appreciation for his contribution through his leadership to the work of the IPU.**

**The Secretary General** drew attention to a newly produced brochure *In his own words: Abdelwahad Radi*, which paid tribute to Mr. Radi and his legacy by bringing together quotations from outstanding speeches he had delivered during his presidency. Copies would be distributed to all Members, including for circulation in their home parliaments.

**Ms. B. Bounngong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**, speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, expressed deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Mr. Radi for his tremendous contribution to the IPU. During his tenure, he had promoted the IPU's international role and development through dedicated, tireless and energetic efforts and spearheaded the effective implementation of its many varied resolutions and programmes, in cooperation with parliaments, the United Nations system and others. He had also actively promoted the activities of the geopolitical groups in general and those of the Asia-Pacific Group in particular towards attainment of the IPU's common goals and values. Indeed, his significant achievements and exemplary leadership provided an excellent foundation for the IPU's further development. She wished all the best to him and his family in their future life.

**Mr. J.M. Corzo Román (Colombia)**, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), commended President Radi on the immensely important work he had accomplished during his term of office and thanked him for the recognition he had afforded to the geopolitical groups, without distinction. He had placed on the agenda matters of key concern to humanity and to parliaments, such as respect for international humanitarian law, protection of women's and children's rights, gender-based violence, promotion of young parliamentarians, refugees and public health issues, to name but a few among the many areas in which he had achieved success.

**Mr. V. Senko (Belarus)**, speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, expressed profound gratitude to President Radi for having so effectively discharged his functions throughout his term of office. As a result, the IPU had successfully increased its visibility and focus, meriting recognition for its contribution to the promotion of peace, security, cooperation and democratic values worldwide. Thanks to President Radi's outstanding input and leadership, the IPU enjoyed the full respect of its Members and commanded authority among international organizations. Political wisdom, dedication and commitment were the trademarks of that impressive leadership style, which had strengthened the IPU and its capacity to address new challenges and achieve new successes.

**Mr. R. del Picchia (France)**, speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, recalled his first encounters many years earlier with Mr. Radi, who had embarked at a very young age on his long and flourishing career. Notwithstanding his rise to senior positions in his country's Parliament and Government, he had always retained a calm, measured and thoughtful approach in his constant quests to achieve balance and consensus in numerous settings. In the light of those qualities and his wisdom born of experience, he had been a natural choice for the position of IPU President and had indeed proven his worth, as demonstrated by the well-functioning IPU. He looked forward to Mr. Radi's continuing participation as a parliamentarian in the work of the IPU.

**Mr. A. Alahmad (Palestine)**, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that President Radi's three-year term had been marked by his outstanding activity and lively interaction with IPU Members. Thanks to his leadership, direct engagement and close follow-up of the work of the IPU and its Standing Committees, cooperation among parliamentarians from across the globe had been strengthened. During his tenure, the IPU had been palpably concerned with Middle East issues, including problems suffered by the people of the region owing to the continuing conflict and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other territories. Always highly supportive, President Radi had taken a personal interest in the efforts on that score by the Committee on Middle Questions. Noting that his home country had also been well served by his distinguished political and parliamentary career, the Arab Group wished him continuing good health and success in his future endeavours.

**The Secretary General** added that, while he and his IPU colleagues would have the opportunity to pay full and fitting tribute to Mr. Radi at a farewell event organized in his honour at the Secretariat, he nonetheless wished to take the present opportunity wholeheartedly to congratulate Mr. Radi on his leadership over his three-year term. A calm wisdom underpinned by long experience was the hallmark of his style, which, coupled with his prudent counsel, guidance and accessibility, had taken the IPU from strength to strength and fostered harmonious working relations. Mr. Radi had responded robustly to challenges and created new visibility and recognition for the IPU as a key player on the international scene. He had very effectively served the IPU membership and his successor was no doubt set to follow in his footsteps. Expressing the hope that Mr. Radi's involvement with the IPU would continue, he wished him all the best for the future.

**The President** said that he was truly grateful for the kind, generous and moving tributes paid to him; words spoken sincerely from the heart in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect were the greatest of all rewards. Any contributions he had made to the IPU over the past three decades and more had stemmed from his belief in its values, principles and goals, which mirrored those for which he had worked throughout his lifetime, among them democracy, human rights, social justice, rule of law and gender equality. The IPU strived for a better and more peaceful world and its values were universal, shared by all, irrespective of religious or other differences. A nationalist in his youth, he was now a Universalist who believed that life was a matter of give and take. His accomplishments were therefore thanks to his country, the IPU membership and his IPU colleagues. He expressed gratitude for the support and trust extended to him over his three-year term and paid tribute to the IPU staff for their dedication, competence and expertise, thanking in particular the Secretary General for his friendship and support. Lastly, in congratulating the President-elect, he wished him every success in his mission and assured him of his readiness to offer any required assistance.

Item 11 of the agenda  
(continued)

**ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES**

**(b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

**(i) Election of one titular member**  
(CL/195/11(b)-P.1)

*The President*, referring to the candidature presented in document CL/195/11(b)-P.1, said he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. B. Fabritius (Germany) as titular member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

**It was so decided.**

**(c) Committee on Middle East Questions**

**(i) Election of one titular member and two substitute members**  
(CL/195/11(c)-P.1 to P.3)

*The President*, referring to the candidatures presented in documents CL/195/11(c)-P.1 to P.3, said he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. M. Tašner Vatovec (Slovenia) as titular member of the Committee on Middle East Questions and Mr. R. Munawar (Indonesia) and Mr. F. Müri (Switzerland) as substitute members.

**It was so decided.**

**(ii) Report of the Committee**  
(CL/195/11(c)-R.1)

*Lord Judd (United Kingdom)*, President of the Committee on Middle East Questions, presenting the Committee's report (CL/195/11(c)-R.1), expressed appreciation for the commitment and patience of Committee members and for the vital support received from the IPU and its membership for the Committee's peacebuilding efforts. He outlined the details set out in the report concerning the matters covered during the Committee's recent two sittings and its roundtable discussion of the wider crisis in the Middle East, taking into account relevant Security Council resolutions. Having benefited beyond expectation from hearing the views of a wider cross-section of IPU stakeholders, the Committee now intended to incorporate roundtable discussions into its future meetings as a regular feature. President Radi's wise introductory remarks had proved invaluable to the discussion so effectively moderated by the Secretary General, whose presence in the face of competing demands on his time had left no doubt as to his commitment to the Committee and its cause.

**(d) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

**(i) Election of five members**  
(CL/195/11(d)-P.1)

*The President*, referring to the candidature presented in document CL/195/11(c)-P.1, said he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. L.F. Duque García (Colombia), representing GRULAC, as a member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law.

**It was so decided.**

**(ii) Report of the Committee**  
(CL/195/11(d)-R.1)

*Ms. G. Cuevas Barrón (Mexico)*, President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, presenting the report of the Committee's recent session in Geneva (CL/195/11(c)-R.1), outlined in particular the discussion that had taken place on the subject of refugee protection, with a focus on the continuing plight of Syrian refugees. In addition to describing the details of that discussion, the report contained the information provided to the

Committee through hearings with the delegations from countries hosting those refugees, specifically Iraq and Turkey. The Committee had also discussed statelessness issues and challenges entailed in the implementation of international humanitarian law and looked forward to Members' support for its committed work in those and other areas.

**(e) Gender Partnership Group**  
(CL/195/11(e)-R.1)

**Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada)**, Chair of the Gender Partnership Group, drew attention to the statistical information, set out in the report of the Group's recent session (CL/195/11(e)-R.1), relating to the participation of women delegates in the present Assembly and the gender composition of delegations. Standing at 32.1 per cent, the proportion of women delegates was another record high that nonetheless left room for improvement, while six single-gender delegations were now subject to the prescribed sanctions. She also outlined the information contained in the report concerning the positive progress achieved in women's participation in IPU bodies; implementation of the IPU's gender-mainstreaming policy; the situation of all-male parliaments, of which there were currently five; and the interesting discussions held with the delegations from Qatar and Tonga, which had raised hopes of impending progress in women's political participation in both those countries.

**(f) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU**  
(CL/195/11(f)-R.1)

**Mr. F. Al-Tenaiji (United Arab Emirates)**, President of the Forum of the Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, presenting the report on the recent one-day meeting of the Forum in Geneva (CL/195/11(f)-R.1), said that the meeting had been well attended by 60 participants, although it was to be hoped that young women parliamentarians would at similar meetings in future account for more than only one quarter of that number. He highlighted matters covered by the meeting, as described in the report, among them the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights from the youth perspective; measures for incorporating that perspective into the overall activities of the present Assembly; and election of the Forum's first Board, which had subsequently met to determine its future agenda, with updates available via Twitter and other social networking sites. The Forum looked forward to a successful Global IPU Conference of Young Parliamentarians in 2015, due to be organized in Tokyo in partnership with the Japanese Parliament, and would reconvene at the next Assembly in Hanoi.

**(g) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

**(i) Election of one Facilitator**  
(CL/195/11(g)-P.1)

**The President**, referring to the candidature presented in document CL/195/11(g)-P.1, said he took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. P. Burke (Ireland) as a Facilitator of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus.

**It was so decided.**

**The Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of committees and other bodies.**

Item 12 of the agenda

**132<sup>nd</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

**The President** confirmed that the 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly would be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 28 March to 1 April 2015, those dates having been selected in order to avoid any conflict with religious festivals. He invited the future hosts of that Assembly to address the Council.

**Ms. T.P. Tong (Viet Nam)** expressed appreciation for President Radi's important contributions to the IPU's advancement during his term of office and also congratulated his successor, Mr. Chowdhury, on his election. Ushering in as it would the end of the Millennium

Development Goals, 2015 promised to be a milestone year providing an excellent opportunity for parliaments to bring their voices to bear in the context of the new sustainable development goals to be introduced. Adoption of the Vietnamese proposal for the theme of the General Debate at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, relating to delivery on the promise of the post-2015 development agenda, was therefore highly appropriate. The Vietnamese National Assembly was sincerely grateful for the confidence and support demonstrated in it by the decision to accept its invitation to host that Assembly, which also served as acknowledgement of Viet Nam's active contribution to IPU affairs in particular and to the work of the international community in general. She looked forward to welcoming all IPU Members in Hanoi.

**A video entitled *Viet Nam, host of the 132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings* was screened.**

Item 13 of the agenda

**FUTURE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS**  
(CL/195/13-P.1)

**(a) Statutory meetings**

**The Secretary General** drew attention to the details of the next three Assemblies already approved by the Council, as set out in document CL/195/13-P.1, which included the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly due to be held in Geneva in October 2015. The Parliament of Colombia, however, had submitted a GRULAC-endorsed request for it to take over the hosting of that Assembly, with Cartagena as the venue. Among the reasons cited for the request was the opportunity such an Assembly would provide for showcasing Colombia's national peace and reconciliation programme and for signalling the support of the parliamentary community for the country.

The Executive Committee had examined and taken note of the request, which it had tentatively accepted on condition that a mission to Cartagena was promptly conducted to ascertain satisfaction of the hosting conditions and that additional costs incurred by the venue change were borne by Colombia. The Colombian delegation having provided an assurance that the latter condition would be met, it was now proposed that an assessment mission should take place in November 2014 and report on its findings to the Executive Committee. Given the time constraints, the Executive Committee recommended that the Council should authorize it to approve the Colombian request, provided that the findings of the assessment were positive and that written confirmation of responsibility for additional costs was received from Colombia.

**The President** said he took it that the Council wished to approve the mission proposal and the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

**It was so decided.**

**The Secretary General** said that preliminary consultations would now take place on the matter in the light of that approval and further informed the Council that the Zambian delegation had signed the agreement for hosting the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Lusaka in March 2016. The Council would also in due course be informed of the outcome of discussions currently in progress with potential hosts of future Assemblies.

**Mr. J.M. Corzo Román (Colombia)** welcomed with gratitude the consideration afforded to his Parliament's bona fide request to host the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly, as supported in writing by his country's President, and the proposed assessment visit to Cartagena. It would energetically pursue the efforts needed to host an event of such importance, which would signify the support of the world's parliamentarians for the peace established in Colombia after a period of violence spanning over 50 years. Now one of the strongest Latin American economies, Colombia budgeted generously for such purposes as compensating victims of the conflict, restoring land to dispossessed and displaced persons, and fighting inequality. Worldwide, violence and war must be replaced by respect for human rights, especially those of women and children, and for the rule of law as part of the duty to build solid foundations for the children and youth with whom the peaceful future of all nations lay. If the bid to host the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly in Colombia were successful, it would go by the name of the World Peace Assembly.

**(b) Specialized meetings and other events**

**The Secretary General** drew attention to the list of specialized and other meetings also set out in document CL/195/13-P.1, some of which had already been approved by the Council. The remaining meetings for which Council approval was now sought were funded from external sources and therefore had no budgetary implications for the IPU.

**The President** said he took it that the Council wished to approve the list of specialized and other meetings.

**It was so decided.**

**Mr. H. Takinami (Japan)**, speaking with reference to the newly approved Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be held in Tokyo in May 2015, said that he looked forward to welcoming participants for an active discussion and hoped that they would also take the opportunity to explore his country, in which cutting-edge technology existed alongside traditional culture. Senior parliamentarians were urged to send to the Conference their younger colleagues to whom they provided such vital guidance and support.

Item 14 of the agenda

**APPOINTMENT OF TWO AUDITORS FOR THE 2015 ACCOUNTS**

(CL/195/14-P.1 and P.2)

**The President**, referring to the candidatures presented in documents CL/195/14-P.1 and P.2, said he took it that the Council wished to appoint as auditors for the 2015 accounts Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) and Mr. H.R. Mohamed (United Republic of Tanzania).

**It was so decided.**

Item 16 of the agenda

**ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

(CL/195/16-P.1 to P.3)

**The President**, referring to the candidatures presented in documents CL/195/16-P.1 to P.3, said he took it that the Council wished to elect as members of the Executive Committee Mrs. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), Mr. R. del Picchia (France) and Mr. M. Uesugi (Japan).

**It was so decided.**

*The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.*