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Mexico City, 15 - 23 April 2004



Standing Committee I -
Peace and International Security

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20 December 2003

**PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL RECONCILIATION, HELPING TO BRING STABILITY TO
REGIONS OF CONFLICT, AND ASSISTING WITH POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION**

Preliminary draft resolution prepared by the Co-rapporteurs
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The 110th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

- (1) *Recalling* that, pursuant to the provisions of Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, Member States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force,
- (2) *Recalling* that, except in the case of self-defence expressly provided for and outlined in Article 51 of the Charter, the Security Council alone is empowered to decide on measures not involving the use of armed force as defined in Articles 41 and 42 of the Charter,
- (3) *Drawing on* the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations on the settlement of disputes and in particular, the fact that the parties to a dispute shall seek first of all a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means of their own choice,
- (4) *Highlighting* the common objectives of the United Nations (as enshrined in Article 1 of the Charter) and the IPU (as per Article 1 of its Statutes), in particular the objectives of maintaining international peace and security and developing friendly relations among peoples and nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and mutual respect,
- (5) *Considering* the manifest link between peace, development and democracy,
- (6) *Convinced* that the development of democracy and the enjoyment of human rights are the surest means of preventing conflicts and restoring trust and peace in the post-war or post-conflict period,

(7) *Observing* that the reconciliation of peoples and nations is the crowning achievement of peace and the means of going beyond conflicts,

(8) *Affirming* that reconciliation should go hand in hand with forgiveness, not oblivion, and that reconciliation is characteristic of any pacified society which has turned to a future of joint reconstruction based on the values of mutual respect, equality and tolerance,

(9) *Recalling* that parliament is the institution *par excellence* that incarnates society in its diverse facets and opinions and relays and channels this diversity in the political process. Its mission is to defuse tensions and maintain balance between the rivalling aspirations of diversity and uniformity, and the individual and the collective with the aim of strengthening social cohesion and solidarity,

(10) *Recalling* the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (Cairo, September 1997) and the information document on IPU's stance (CONF/108/4-Inf. Doc.1),

(11) *Recognising* the role that the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments could and should play in restoring lasting peace by promoting international reconciliation,

1. *Reiterates* the call on governments made at the 109th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly to "promote reconciliation processes aimed at achieving sustainable solutions to internal conflicts";
2. *Reiterates* the call on parliaments made at the 109th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly to do everything possible "at the national level to facilitate the establishment of standing mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, as a way to promote action geared to achieving real peace";
3. *Requests* that parliaments engage in a policy of good offices and cooperation with parliaments of countries in conflict or undergoing reconciliation;
4. *Requests* that parliaments of countries engaged in a process of reconciliation meet and develop joint projects;
5. *Requests* that IPU establish committees to foster dialogue among MPs in cases where the peace and reconciliation processes fail to work;
6. *Urges* parliaments to make use of mechanisms to oversee the foreign policy of their governments to see the reconciliation processes through;
7. *Requests* that IPU develop democratic engineering activities;
8. *Proposes* that the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians develop its role and activities in truth and reconciliation commissions (TRCs) and make its expertise in the field of human rights available to TRCs;
9. *Recommends* systematic participation in United Nations peace restoration operations;

10. *Proposes* that parliaments establish where possible legally constituted TRCs; ensure fair representation of national diversity within TRCs, in particular that of women; ensure that TRCs have the resources they need to carry out their mandate; ensure that the work and outcomes of the TRCs are made public; monitor consideration of TRC recommendations by the Executive; and ensure follow-up of TRC recommendations;
11. *Recommends* that the imprescriptibility of serious crimes in violation of human rights be recognised;
12. *Encourages* the ratification of international human rights instruments, in particular the statutes of the International Criminal Court and special courts of justice established by the United Nations;
13. *Proposes* that human rights committees be established in each parliament;
14. *Recommends* the repeal of existing laws or amendment of amnesty bills that include imprescriptible crimes in international law;
15. *Encourages* IPU to deepen its role and activities in the areas of peace and security, in particular by developing its United Nations dimension by making its expertise in democracy available to stabilisation and peacekeeping operations;
16. *Recommends* that parliaments encourage governments to participate in and finance peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the United Nations;
17. *Encourages* the development of parliamentary diplomacy, technical assistance under bilateral cooperation as well as participation via consortia in multilateral cooperation projects;
18. *Encourages* the development of multilateral cooperation within and under the aegis of the IPU;
19. *Proposes* that consideration be made of and special attention be drawn to the bicameral parliamentary system to achieve representation of the various national groups;
20. *Encourages* the United Nations to pursue and intensify its efforts to prevent conflicts and maintain and consolidate peace worldwide, particularly in Africa, where slow and fragile development is a fertile breeding ground for instability, and in the Middle East, which, for over half a century, has been plagued by one of the most awful and bloodiest conflicts of recent times;
21. *Encourages* all international, regional, sub-regional and non-governmental organisations involved in promoting international reconciliation to stabilise conflict-prone regions and continue their efforts despite the failures and serious obstacles they encounter;
22. *Urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to become more involved in seeking solutions to conflicts and promoting international reconciliation through the following ways:

- a. Participate actively in concerted global efforts to resolve conflicts through dialogue among MPs and cooperation with competent international agencies, thereby contributing to peace and security;
 - b. Encourage in conflict-prone countries or regions all efforts likely to promote national reconciliation such as, *inter alia*, good governance, including respect for human rights and basic freedoms, and disarmament;
 - c. Recommend that international organisations and countries capable of so doing establish in post-conflict countries or regions, following the example of the *Marshall Plan*, substantial economic assistance programmes needed for reconstruction and lasting stability;
23. *Requests* that parliaments foster or support, as the case may be, national measures geared towards promoting national and international reconciliation such as promoting the concept and culture of peace, refraining from violence, outlawing terrorism, development and education for all, including education in the field of human rights;
24. *Requests also* that parliaments foster or support, as the case may be, measures geared towards strengthening peace and security such as reconstruction, the promotion of social justice, and combating poverty, corruption and environmental degradation;
25. *Calls on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to play a more meaningful part in the various debates, forms of concerted action and negotiations involving peace and security via the work of its Permanent Observer.