



First Standing Committee -
Peace and International Security

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**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN STRENGTHENING MULTILATERAL REGIMES FOR
NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS AND FOR DISARMAMENT, IN THE LIGHT
OF NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES**

***Revised draft resolution prepared by the co-rapporteurs
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The 111th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recognising* the risks to international stability and security posed by the uncontrolled build-up and proliferation of armaments, and especially weapons of mass destruction,
- (2) *Deeply moved* by the suffering and destruction inflicted upon humankind by the fatal impact of arms and wars,
- (3) *Profoundly apprehensive* of the effects of the ongoing stockpiling of arms on the world economy, on the global environment, and on sustainable development in the world,
- (4) *Calling on* all States in areas of conflict to strengthen regional efforts in the field of confidence-building measures for the purpose of promoting a climate of security and stability, peaceful relations and good-neighbourliness,
- (5) *Mindful* of the United Nations Charter, and especially Articles 2 and 26 thereof,
- (6) *Conscious* of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other covenants, treaties and instruments related to human rights and respect for human dignity,
- (7) *Recalling* United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security,
- (8) *Reiterating* the importance of resolutions adopted by the IPU since 1994 on peace, security and disarmament, in particular at the 91st, 93rd, 94th, 96th, 98th, 102nd, and 108th Conferences, at the 109th Assembly and at the Special Session of the IPU Council, held in 1995,
- (9) *Concerned* that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a real threat, particularly when such weapons fall into the hands of undemocratic, autocratic regimes and unaccountable non-state actors, and in this connection *welcoming* United Nations Security

Council resolution 1373 on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and Security Council resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

(10) *Alarmed* at the widespread availability of vast quantities of light and anti-personnel weapons, from small arms of all types to mortars, landmines and man-portable air-defence systems (MANPADS), which pose a growing threat to civilian aviation,

(11) *Expressing appreciation* of the benefits of the arms control agreements already concluded, such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions (SORT) and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and *hoping* that they may be the precursors of further mutual arms reduction agreements, particularly between the superpowers,

(12) Recognizing in particular the key role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and the ongoing need to support and strengthen it,

(13) *Mindful* of the mutual confidence engendered by regional nuclear-weapon-free zones such as those in the South Pacific, Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America,

(14) *Valuing* the agreements concluded for the demilitarisation of Antarctica, space and the seabed as a way of protecting sensitive areas of the planet's ecosystem and as a means of containment of humankind's appetite for militarisation,

(15) *Determined* to play a positive role in preventing access to weaponry by terrorists, international criminals and irresponsible governments with offensive ambitions,

(16) *Conscious* that the achievements in the field of arms control over the past thirty years are not immutable, and risk being reversed,

(17) *Aware* that the full implementation of certain arms reduction agreements is subject to delay and disputed interpretations, which diminish their effectiveness,

(18) *Convinced* that a multilateral approach to disarmament is preferable to one-sided initiatives, and secures more durable confidence and greater international stability,

(19) *Believing* that multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory, verifiable regimes to limit the transfer of key technologies in the fields of missile launchers, and propulsion, warhead and guidance systems are a key element in effective arms control,

(20) *Committed* to the elimination of trade in lethal elements used for the production of weapons of mass destruction, such as fissile materials, toxins and biological and chemical agents,

(21) *Pledging* to bring about fuller parliamentary involvement in the disarmament process by bringing pressure to bear on governments and by ensuring detailed scrutiny of military budgets and procurement programmes,

(22) *Eager* to help international parliamentary bodies such as the IPU, the respective assemblies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Western European Union, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Andean Community, the Central American Parliament and others, work actively as forums for the promotion of mutual disarmament and a well-researched arms control agenda,

(23) *Insistent* that governments share all relevant information more fully with parliamentarians on a basis of mutual trust,

1. *Calls on* all parliaments to provide strong and effective support to all resolutions and recommendations on peace, disarmament and security previously adopted at IPU Conferences and Assemblies;
2. *Urges* national parliaments to press their governments to sign, accede to and ratify, as appropriate, all conventions, treaties and other international instruments aimed at ensuring arms control and greater international security;
3. *Calls on* governments and the international community to address the root causes which lead people to resort to violence at the individual, national and international levels;
4. *Encourages* all disciplines - including politics, law, economics, education, arts, planning and administration - to be based on the fundamental values of peace, justice, security and cooperation, so that disarmament may become a redemption for all of humankind;
5. *Invites* all countries to build on the existing achievements in disarmament and arms control, so as to ensure that they are sustained processes in the future;
6. *Calls on* the United Nations to work more closely with the IPU in reducing tensions and in defusing potential conflicts;
7. *Urges* parliaments also to focus on areas of particular international tension, such as the Near and Middle East, South and East Asia, the Caucasus, the Balkans and the Andean region;
8. *Further urges* the bold identification of the most dangerous threats to international order and stability, such as the conflicts in Kashmir, Israel/Palestine, the Taiwan Straits and Chechnya, and other potentially grave trouble spots in need of urgent political action to prevent conflict;
9. *Calls for* more actively sustained efforts for post-war reconstruction to prevent new outbreaks of armed conflict, terrorism and lawlessness, with a sustained concentration on the establishment of good governance and the rule of law;
10. *Calls on* multilateral organisations to support efforts to achieve the immediate cessation of all forms of occupation, as well as to recognise formally the responsibility of all occupying forces to remedy all ills caused by occupation;

11. *Encourages* the IPU and the United Nations to enhance the exchange of information, cooperation and planning among the two institutions and among their Member States;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to monitor closely all arms control initiatives and to report back to the IPU Assembly on progress made;
13. *Encourages* parliaments to incorporate appropriate codes of practice in national legislation to control the export of armaments of all types, more particularly focusing on items relating to weapons of mass destruction, such as components and precursors;
14. *Urges* the further development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and particularly the full implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 687, by which the Middle East should be declared a zone free from weapons of mass destruction;
15. *Calls for* accession by all States to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction, as well as to amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;
16. *Calls on* governments to increase support for the International Atomic Energy Agency and to negotiate and bring into force required comprehensive safeguard agreements, as well as additional protocols and enhanced nuclear safety arrangements;
17. *Encourages* the United Nations Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide thorough monitoring regimes in all States suspected of having clandestine programmes aimed at acquiring weapons of mass destruction;
18. *Further calls on* all countries to intensify efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to curb their proliferation, and to consolidate policies aimed at preventing the transfer, especially to terrorists, of equipment, materials and technology which may be used for the proliferation of such weapons;
19. *Urges* parliaments to enact legislation holding governments responsible when they allow arms to be leaked to terrorists and organised crime groups;
20. *Urges* countries to ensure that the Open Skies Treaty is fully applied so as to guard against surprise attacks and engender mutual confidence;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure the full implementation at all times of the Antarctic Treaty, the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (the Seabed Treaty) and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which bans the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space;

22. *Calls on* governments to pursue multilateral negotiations to conclude a convention for the non-weaponisation of outer space;
23. *Requests* the IPU to cooperate closely with the United Nations in its efforts to implement its Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects;
24. *Encourages* regional bodies such as the European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and others to campaign actively for the reduction and control of trade in small arms;
25. *Asserts* the vital role of women and women's organisations in bringing about the peaceful resolution of conflicts and in establishing peaceful, harmonious, non-aggressive societies built on family values;
26. *Encourages* alternative perspectives of conflict prevention at the grass-roots and community levels, and *calls for* States to build on them throughout society, making funding available for women's organisations and non-governmental organisations;
27. *Recommends* that the IPU further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, especially with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in implementing its Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, which is aimed at strengthening, consolidating, informing and guiding disarmament work in the future;
28. *Also recommends* that the IPU actively support the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, taking into account the recommendations pertaining to women and war that are contained in the Beijing Platform of Action of 1995;
29. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that, whenever applicable, legislation is compatible with the Statute of the International Criminal Court, with particular attention to ensuring that it includes provisions against crimes committed against women;
30. *Urges* increased access of women to the media and communications facilities, so that their message against conflict can be widely disseminated;
31. *Recommends* the development of multicultural, transnational and regional initiatives to allow women to play a full part in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, with the active participation of the IPU in this crucial role.