



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**

Preliminary 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 of armaments, especially of 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 ongoing stockpiling of arms on the world economy, on the global environment, and on sustainable development in the world,
- (4) *Mindful* of the United Nations Charter, and especially Articles 2 and 26 thereof,
- (5) *Conscious* of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other covenants, treaties and instruments related to human rights and respect of human dignity,
- (6) *Recalling* United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security",
- (7) *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,
- (8) *Concerned* that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a real threat, particularly when such weapons fall into the hands of autocratic, undemocratic regimes,
- (9) *Alarmed* at the widespread availability of vast quantities of light and anti-personnel weapons from small arms of all types to mortars and landmines,

(10) *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,

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

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

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

(14) *Conscious* that the achievements in the field of arms control over the past thirty years are not immutable, and could be reversed,

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

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

(17) *Believing* that verifiable regimes to limit the transfer of key technologies in the fields of missile launchers, propulsion, warheads and guidance systems are a key element in effective arms control,

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

(19) *Pledging* fuller parliamentary involvement in the disarmament process through pressure on governments and detailed scrutiny of military budgets and procurement programmes,

(20) *Eager* to help international parliamentary bodies such as the IPU, the respective assemblies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation 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,

(21) *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 and ratify, as the case may be, 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 make them a sustained process for 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 risks 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 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-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 Antipersonnel Mines and their Destruction;
16. *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;
17. *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 possibly be used for the proliferation of such weapons;
18. *Urges* parliaments to enact legislation holding governments responsible when they allow arms to be leaked to terrorists and organised crime groups;
19. *Urges* countries to ensure that the Open Skies Treaty is fully applied so as to guard against surprise attacks and engender mutual confidence;
20. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure the full implementation at all times of the Antarctic Treaty, 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, and which bans the deployment of weapons in space;
21. *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;
22. *Encourages* regional bodies such as the European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and others to campaign actively for the reduction and control of trade in small arms;
23. *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;
24. *Encourages* alternative perspectives of conflict prevention at the grass roots and community level, and *calls for* States to build on them throughout society, making funding available for women's organisations and non-governmental organisations;
25. *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" that aims at strengthening, consolidating, informing and guiding disarmament work in the future;

26. *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;
27. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that 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;
28. *Urges* increased access of women to the media and communications facilities, so that their message against conflict can be widely disseminated;
29. *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.