The 112th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

(1) Deeply concerned at the fact that in today's world, many regions and whole societies are brutally affected by war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, all of which are grave breaches of international law,

(2) Convinced that there is no justifiable cause for those abhorrent crimes,

(3) Considering that, in keeping with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, there has been a development of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, and that it is of paramount importance to ensure that their provisions are enforced, and recalling in this respect the particular importance of ensuring respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Geneva Conventions and other instruments, treaties and agreements ensuring respect for human dignity,

(4) Considering that under international law, crimes against humanity are imprescriptible, and that this has been confirmed by the judgements of national and international courts,

(5) Recalling the resolutions on peace, security and disarmament adopted by the IPU since 1994,
Recognising the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in preventing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, and recalling in this respect that States party to the Rome Statute of the ICC have a duty to judge such crimes themselves or to refer persons suspected of such crimes to the jurisdiction of the ICC, and also that international humanitarian law, as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, places the obligation on States to search for and try persons alleged to have committed, or have ordered to be committed, grave breaches, regardless of the persons' nationality or where the violation took place,

Considering the agreements concluded with the ICC in order to combat war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, as well as the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism,

Concerned at the lack of dynamics in implementing the necessary mechanisms to support the Rome Statute of the ICC and to support the provisions adopted by the United Nations and other bodies to combat these crimes,

Concerned at the fact that the implementation of agreements on the prosecution and judgement of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism has been delayed, set aside, or omitted by States, thus subjecting these agreements to different interpretations and reducing their effectiveness, and alarmed at the possibility that this may be considered as a permissive attitude towards impunity,

Convinced that parliaments have a primary responsibility, and must play a central role, in the prevention, punishment and avoidance of impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and that a multilateral approach among parliaments is an appropriate way to implement the mechanisms required for the enforcement of judgements and penalties for these aberrant crimes,

Recalling finally that victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide have the right to truth, justice and reparation,

1. Invites all IPU Member Parliaments to assume, before their States and citizens, the responsibility for implementing and enforcing, through the enactment of national rules, the international agreements that have been concluded to punish and prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;

2. Recommends that through the inter-parliamentary activity of IPU Members, efforts be combined and experiences shared in order to develop the necessary mechanisms to pursue these objectives, and to avoid impunity for those who commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;

3. Urges Member Parliaments duly to codify, in line with international law, these abhorrent crimes in their domestic criminal law, and to establish the corresponding penalties and mechanisms to avoid impunity;
4. Invites those States which have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute and accede to the ICC, and to ratify the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court;

5. Recommends that all parliaments, including those of States which have not ratified the Rome Statute, enact rules for the domestic implementation of its provisions;

6. Recommends that all parliaments support and cooperate with the ICC and other competent bodies, and thus strengthen parliamentary action to eradicate war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;

7. Encourages parliaments to make the fullest possible use of their competences and roles to achieve these objectives;

8. Recommends that parliaments take account of international agreements on these subjects and of the considerations of the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and all related international or regional agencies, authorities and bodies;

9. Invites parliaments to include in their agendas, as a priority, the activities required to implement all mechanisms which may contribute to the prosecution and judgement of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, so as to avoid impunity for these crimes and to ensure the rights of the victims of such crimes to just reparation.