



Second Standing Committee  
Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade

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**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN OVERSEEING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF DEBT  
AND THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND CORRUPTION**

***Revised preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs  
Mrs. Alima Boumedienne-Thiery (France) and Mrs. Zoubida Bouayad (Morocco)***

The 115<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the Declaration of Presiding Officers of Parliaments entitled "The Parliamentary Vision of International Cooperation at the Dawn of the Third Millennium", adopted 1 September 2000, and the declaration entitled "Bridging the Democracy Gap in International Relations : a Stronger Role for Parliaments" adopted 9 September 2005,
- (2) *Further recalling* the Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which established eight goals with specific deadlines and target figures, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and that these goals represent criteria established by common agreement within the international community for the elimination of poverty, as well as the human development reports issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Summit Outcome adopted by Heads of State and Government on 15 September 2005,
- (3) *Recalling* the final declarations of the United Nations special conferences, and in particular the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey (Mexico) in 2002; the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2002; and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels (Belgium) in 2001,
- (4) *Recalling* the resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and in particular those adopted by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Lomé, 1985) on the role of parliaments and their contribution to the elimination of poverty and alleviation of the international debt burden; by the 74<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Ottawa, 1985) on the contribution of parliaments to the determination of measures and actions to eliminate the external debt burden borne by developing countries; by the 88<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Stockholm, 1992) on the need for a radical solution to the problem of debt in the developing world; and by the 102<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Berlin, 1999) on the need to revise the current global financial and economic model - as well as the final document of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference "North-South dialogue for global prosperity", held by the Inter-Parliamentary Union at Ottawa in 1993 - by the 107<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Marrakech, 2002) on the role of

parliaments in developing public policy in an era of globalisation, multilateral institutions and international trade agreements; by the parliamentary meeting held in connection with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002); by the 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Santiago, Chile, 2003) on Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world; by the 109<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Geneva 2003) on global public goods : a new challenge for parliaments; and by the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly (Manila 2005) on the role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG),

(5) *Recalling* the information document issued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the Second Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity, The Hague (Netherlands), 28-31 May 2001) entitled "The role of parliaments in fighting corruption",

(6) *Greatly concerned* by the fact that 1.2 billion people - one out of every five of the world's inhabitants - survive on less than the purchasing power equivalent of one US dollar per day,

(7) *Recalling* that peace is the first prerequisite of development and therefore of poverty elimination,

(8) *Recognizing* that peace and security and development are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

(9) *Aware* that parliaments have a crucial role to play in promoting the eight MDGs and that it is essential for them to adopt the necessary legislation and approve the appropriate budget allocations,

(10) *Greatly concerned* by the fact that in the current state of affairs, despite progress in some respects, financing for the MDGs, and thus their achievement by 2015, is not assured,

(11) *Observing* that commitments towards the target of 0.7% of GNP as ODA have still not been fulfilled by most countries, but *noting* that several countries have committed to their fulfilment over the next 10 years,

(12) *Noting* that despite progress made bilaterally, and multilaterally within the framework of the Bretton Woods institutions, in the area of debt cancellation, relief, and restructuring, the debt burden remains a major constraint on and an obstacle to economic growth and human development,

(13) *Convinced* that increased financial development assistance and debt cancellation will bear fruit only if beneficiary countries promote democracy, apply principles of good governance, and eradicate corruption,

(14) *Stressing* the need to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and to adopt policies that emphasise accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

(15) *Convinced* that globalization is a source of opportunities and challenges for all countries and affects daily human lives,

(16) *Noting* that many developing countries are increasingly excluded from international trade and capital flows, with direct consequences in terms of poverty,

(17) *Noting* the importance of a successful Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations for developing countries' development prospects as well as the usefulness of external "aid for trade" financing to help these countries boost their capacity to participate in global trade,

(18) *Observing* that the current international trade and investment system is biased toward developed countries in many sectors and poses problems for numerous developing countries,

1. *Urgently requests* the parliaments of countries that have approved the Millennium Declaration and that are also Members of the IPU to promote achievement of the MDGs in their countries by allocating national budget resources to programmes implemented for this purpose;
2. *Urges* developed country parliaments to require their governments to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7% of GNP to ODA, as required by the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus;
3. *Encourages* developing country parliaments to ensure that their governments mobilize the resources necessary for development, combat corruption, continue reforming their institutions, adopt economic and social policies to stimulate growth, establish national strategies for adapting policies to the MDGs, promote democracy and human rights, and follow the principles of good governance;
4. *Urgently calls* for both developed and developing country governments to submit country and regional reports to their parliaments annually on strategy application and execution;
5. *Encourages* parliaments to participate in the formulation of poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) within the ad hoc working groups;
6. *Suggests* the establishment of special committees, or working groups within committees, to monitor executive branch activities within the poverty reduction strategic framework;
7. *Recommends* that policies and budget documents be presented in such a way as to highlight achievement of the MDGs;
8. *Suggests* the organization of public debates on these poverty reduction strategic documents and the fielding of missions to monitor their implementation;
9. *Encourages* developed country parliaments to organize the monitoring of national aid policies and to field missions to assess their results;
10. *Suggests* that these reports be the subject of parliamentary debate at national, and where applicable, regional levels;

11. *Suggests* that provisions be made for the same type of approach (strategy and report) at the regional level;
12. *Encourages* donor countries, and in particular Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to issue reports on progress toward the eighth MDG (develop world partnership for development), indicating the quantitative and qualitative measures they have taken in pursuit of these goals, particularly in terms of debt forgiveness;
13. *Recommends* concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;
14. *Encourages* donor countries to continue and strengthen collaboration with United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, other donor countries, NGOs, and the private sector;
15. *Emphasizes* that debt has become unbearable for many developing countries, and *urgently calls* for acceleration in the establishment of effective procedures for debt forgiveness or viable rescheduling, while ensuring that developing countries do not become over-indebted again;
16. *Encourages* states to allocate the resources liberated from debt cancellation to MDG-related expenditures, particularly in areas of health, education, and gender equality, consistent with each country's poverty reduction strategy;
17. *Recommends* the study of other mechanisms to help countries suffering from heavy indebtedness, but whose income per capita is too high for assistance under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;
18. *Encourages* parliaments to implement the IPU recommendations for the fight against corruption, in particular the adoption of codes of ethics designed to prevent conflicts of interest, by regulating political party financing and ensuring the transparency of election campaigns;
19. *Recommends* the adoption of effective and deterrent anticorruption laws, and in particular to clearly and transparently regulate public procurement;
20. *Invites* States to consolidate and improve their laws on the freedom of information and communication, in the interests of achieving transparency in public life and the denunciation of corruption;
21. *Recommends* that parliaments ensure that transparent and objective information based on follow-up indicators and statistics is conveyed to civil society;
22. *Encourages* the use of control measures to verify the regularity and sincerity of public accounts;

23. *Encourages* the creation or consolidation of independent anticorruption committees, in coordination with the judiciary and civil society, with these committees to be provided with the financial and human resources required to function properly;
24. *Encourages* the adoption of transparent mechanisms for the appointment of senior public officials;
25. *Recommends* the adoption and ratification of the international conventions against corruption, and in particular the OECD and UN conventions;
26. *Suggests* the introduction of legislation to implement the provisions of these international conventions at national and, where applicable, regional level;
27. *Encourages* the development of parliamentary cooperation in the fight against corruption;
28. *Urgently calls* on countries participating in the current multilateral trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization to complete the current Doha Round of negotiations in a manner that significantly improves the trade and development prospects of developing countries.