



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**

***Preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
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The 115th 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 declaration 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 73rd 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 74th 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 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Stockholm, 1992) on the need for a radical solution to the problem of debt in the developing world; and by the 102nd 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 107th 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 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Santiago, Chile, 2003) on Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world; by the 109th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Geneva 2003) on global public goods : a new challenge for parliaments; and by the 112th 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, the internationally recognized poverty line,

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

8) *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,

9) *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,

10) *Observing* that commitments undertaken in respect of official development assistance (ODA) (0.7% of GDP) have still not been fulfilled by most countries, but *noting* that several countries have committed to their fulfilment over the next 10 years,

11) *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,

12) *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,

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

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

15) *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. *Encourages* developed country parliaments to require their governments to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7% of GDP to ODA, as required by the Millennium Declaration and the Monterey 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 if possible, regional level;
11. *Suggests* that provisions being made for the same type of approach (strategy and report) at 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* enhancing the effectiveness of aid at national and international levels through better harmonization of procedures and coordination among donors;
14. *Encourages* donor countries to continue collaborating 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. *Proposes* the establishment of a formal link between debt cancellation and allocation of the resources so liberated to MDG-related investments, particularly in areas of health, education, and gender equality, pursuant to 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 their laws on the freedom of information and communication, in the interests of 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, 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 regional level;
27. *Encourages* the development of parliamentary cooperation in the fight against corruption.