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Third Standing Committee  
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/116/DR-rev  
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**PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL THROUGH  
UNIVERSAL DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL STANDARDS**

***Revised preliminary draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs  
Mr. Jesu Das Seelam (India) and Mrs. Natalia Narotchnitskaya (Russian Federation)***

The 116<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Convinced* that diversity and equal rights for all can be protected and promoted through universal democratic and electoral standards,
- (2) *Further convinced* that universal democratic electoral standards are an effective guarantee of diversity and equality rights,
- (3) *Believing* that respect for diversity and equal rights are the *sine qua non* for the democratic and parliamentary polity,
- (4) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and have the right to participate *in all aspects of* the electoral process of their country irrespective of their race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status, creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,
- (5) *Recognizing* that all individuals belonging to different religious, ethnic and cultural segments of society have an equal right to participate in the process of development and to enjoy the fair distribution of benefits resulting from development,
- (6) *Acknowledging* the role played by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and diversity,
- (7) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other core international Human Rights Instruments uphold the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, without discrimination, and that genuine democracy and harmony is an ideal to be achieved in international relations,
- (8) *Recalling* the Resolution adopted by the 98<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 1997) on ensuring lasting democracy by forging close links between Parliament and the Peoples,

(9) *Recalling* the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994,

(10) *Emphasizing* that the principle of democracy may be applied differently, according to varied culture, history and constitution of each nation,

1. *Urges* governments and parliaments to implement the international treaties they have ratified in earnest;
2. *Calls upon* governments and parliaments to ensure that countries give all sections of society equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process and to encourage and cooperate with the civil society in the electoral process;
3. *Urges* national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to heighten people's awareness of their rights and duties in a democracy;
4. *Encourages* parliaments and parliamentary bodies such as committees to monitor and evaluate the participation of minority groups and vulnerable sections of society in the electoral process;
5. *Urges* governments to provide a level playing field and give equal opportunities to all candidates and political parties to take part in the democratic and electoral process;
6. *Calls upon* parliaments to enact and enforce legislation to ensure a fair, transparent and peaceful election process, free of violence, influence and corruption.