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116<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings  
Nusa Dua, 29 April to 4 May 2007



Third Standing Committee  
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/116/DR-pre  
19 January 2007

**PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL THROUGH  
UNIVERSAL DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL STANDARDS**

***Preliminary draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteur***  
***Mr. Jesu Das Seelam (India)<sup>1</sup>***

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) *Believing* that respect for diversity and equal rights are the sine qua non condition for the democratic and parliamentary polity,
- (3) *Reaffirming* that all individuals are equal in society and have the right to participate in the electoral process of their country irrespective of their creed, religion, gender, ethnic group, and so on,
- (4) *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 privileges granted to others,
- (5) *Acknowledging* the role played by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments in promoting equality and diversity,
- (6) *Further recognizing* the concepts and ideals of diversity and equality as enshrined in international treaties 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,
- (7) *Recalling* the Resolution adopted by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 1997) on ensuring lasting democracy by forging close links between Parliament and the Peoples,
- (8) *Recalling* the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994,

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<sup>1</sup> To date, the IPU Secretariat received no contribution from the other co-Rapporteur, Mrs. Natalia Narotchnitskaya (Russian Federation).

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;
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 enabling legislations so as to rid the electoral system of the deleterious effects of money and brawn in the electoral process.