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**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN DEVELOPING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR
COOPERATION WITH A VIEW TO ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT
OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

***Preliminary draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium) and Mr. Given Lubinda (Zambia)***

The 122nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Deeply concerned* about the adverse impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable nations and sectors of the global community, and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015,
- (2) *Bearing in mind* that the current financial and economic crisis has its origins in developed countries, and that a broad international dialogue, with the active participation of all countries under United Nations auspices, is required to lead the world on the path of economic and social recovery,
- (3) *Concerned* that, according to the forecasts of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and regional development banks, foreign direct investment in and remittances to developing countries, especially in Africa, will decline dramatically in 2009-2010,
- (4) *Emphasizing* that, although official development assistance (ODA) from Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation-Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) countries rose by 10 per cent in real terms in 2008 (after an 8.5 per cent decline in 2007), ODA will probably decline again in 2009, due to the economic crisis,
- (5) *Recalling* relevant IPU resolutions, in particular those adopted at the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Copenhagen, 1994) on *International co-operation and national action to support social and economic development and efforts to combat poverty*, the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Jakarta, 2000) on *Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty*, 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*, the 112th IPU 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*, the 115th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 2006) on *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*, the 118th IPU Assembly (Cape Town, 2008) on *Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid* and the

120th IPU Assembly (Addis Ababa, 2009) on *The role of parliaments in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa,*

(6) *Noting* that according to the UN Secretary-General, important progress towards all eight MDGs has been made, but that the world community is not on track to fulfil its commitments, especially in sub-Saharan Africa,

(7) *Deeply concerned* that current climate changes pose risks that may unravel many advances in reducing poverty, in addition to the negative consequences of the economic crisis,

(8) *Recalling* the reports of the UN Secretary-General on: *The state of South-South cooperation* (23 August 2007 and 24 August 2009) and on *Promotion of South-South cooperation for development: a thirty-year perspective* (27 October 2009),

(9) *Considering* that the outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South-Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, fails to mention the positive role that parliaments can and should play to develop South-South cooperation and make it more efficient,

(10) *Emphasizing* that in a globalized world, South-South cooperation is more important than ever to achieve sustainable development in developing countries, considering that economic development, social progress and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing goals,

(11) *Recalling* that the South has a number of success stories, best practices and lessons learned in addressing major development challenges, such as microcredits, which have brought about a profound societal transformation in Bangladesh and in many other countries,

(12) *Aware* that South-South cooperation has a long history (creation of the UNDP South-South Unit in the late 1970s) and that it has an essential role to play in developing countries, as spelled out in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1998), in the successive South Summits (2000 and 2005) and in the Marrakech Declaration and Framework of Implementation of South-South Cooperation (2003),

(13) *Convinced* that organizations within the UN system, due to their universal membership, neutrality and political independence, represent essential vehicles to catalyse, support and strengthen South-South cooperation,

(14) *Recalling* General Assembly Resolution A/RES/58/220 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, adopted on 23 December 2003,

(15) *Recalling* that financing for development, as set forth in the Monterrey Consensus, is about tapping all available resources, not only development assistance and debt relief, but also financing from domestic resources, fair trade, foreign investment and remittances, that are all complementary,

(16) *Noting* the growing volume of ODA flows from southern contributors, and *observing* a lack of accessible and comprehensive information on these financing flows,

- (17) *Considering* that there is a need for standards, rules and regulatory frameworks that could enhance South-South cooperation, as well as for methodologies for gathering information on South-South flows of assistance and other forms of cooperation,
- (18) *Noting* that the private sector, civil society actors and individuals in business, science and human rights are assuming a new and dynamic role in South-South cooperation,
- (19) *Emphasizing* that achieving the internationally agreed development goals will not be possible without progress on gender equality and women's empowerment,
- (20) *Emphasizing* that women have been active and successful in building South-South non-governmental networks for improving their status and addressing major economic, social, environmental and political concerns,
- (21) *Noting* that the agenda for South-South cooperation has expanded significantly to include not only economic and technical cooperation, but also good governance, health and disease control, environmental issues and transnational security threats,
- (22) *Also noting* that OECD donor countries have partnered with middle-income development countries to provide development assistance to the least developed countries,
- (23) *Considering* that the rationale underlying triangular development cooperation is that southern contributors, which are still themselves developing, are better placed and have the relevant experience to respond to the needs and problems of other developing countries,
- (24) *Underscoring* that such programmes can be more cost effective as experts from developing countries are often paid less than nationals in donor countries and training costs (fees, use of facilities, travel, accommodation, etc.) are generally lower than in developed countries,
- (25) *Considering* that regional integration is an essential process which can overcome, by common accord, political, physical, economic and social barriers that divide countries from their neighbours and foster collaboration on the management of shared resources, regional public goods, climate change and the prevention of disasters,
- (26) *Stressing* in this respect that regional and subregional organizations play a prominent role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace building and are important partners of the United Nations in promoting international peace and security,
- (27) *Also stressing* that South-South cooperation and integration are highly complementary to North-South cooperation, with regional integration among developing countries being the cornerstone of the development cooperation policy of the European Union,
- (28) *Considering* that regional initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) or the Pacific Plan may further enhance regional cooperation with a view to meeting development, good governance and security challenges,

(29) *Aware that no single model of regional integration can be imposed since all integration strategies have to be adapted to particular interests and circumstances, but nonetheless that general features can be identified which impede or foster integration processes,*

1. *Calls on* the northern and southern parliaments and governments to support and develop South-South cooperation as an important tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
2. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to align their South-South cooperation agenda with the MDGs;
3. *Invites* southern country parliaments to implement the results of the successive South summits;
4. *Invites* southern country parliaments to take legislative or other initiatives in support of South-South cooperation efforts that foster achievement of the MDGs;
5. *Recommends* that donor country parliaments and governments, in addition to traditional bilateral and multilateral aid flows, contribute to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation to ensure sufficient funding for South-South projects and initiatives;
6. *Urges* parliaments to ask their governments to ensure that future UN documents on South-South cooperation make due mention of the important role that parliaments have to play in fostering South-South cooperation and making it more efficient;
7. *Calls on* the United Nations, working with other global institutions, to establish an effective mechanism to monitor the progress and delivery of the commitments made by the international community in support of South-South and triangular cooperation for development, while ensuring they are oriented towards achieving the MDGs;
8. *Invites* the UN system and its specialized agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of South-South cooperation by better coordinating and streamlining the various institutions and initiatives dealing with it, especially within the UN system;
9. *Invites* northern country parliaments and governments to ensure that a substantial part of public aid serves to promote South-South and triangular cooperation;
10. *Recommends* that northern country parliaments require their governments to allocate a substantial part of their public aid budget to triangular cooperation mechanisms which, besides being more cost effective, allow successful southern donor countries to share their experiences and best practices;

11. *Urges* southern donor country parliaments and governments to develop, in the framework of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), a code of good practices concerning South-South ODA and cooperation, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action;
12. *Invites* southern donor country parliaments and governments to put in place as soon as possible consistent and transparent accounting of both North-South and South-South ODA flows, as well as of other forms of cooperation, including in-kind contributions and shared natural and knowledge resources;
13. *Recommends* that northern and southern country parliaments require their respective governments to provide annual reports on their South-South and triangular cooperation;
14. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to analyse how South-South approaches can be applied to development issues and how policies and projects that have succeeded in reducing poverty in some developing countries could be adopted elsewhere to accelerate achievement of the MDGs;
15. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to conclude the São Paulo Round of negotiations of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which has the potential to generate significant additional trade flows;
16. *Requests* northern and southern country parliaments and governments in a position to do so to provide duty-free and quota-free market access to all products from all least developed countries;
17. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to create a platform for exchanging views among developing countries on South-South cooperation, flows of trade and direct investments in order to coordinate their actions in these areas;
18. *Invites* northern country parliaments and governments to make *Aid for Trade* available for enhancing South-South cooperation;
19. *Invites* northern country parliaments to encourage their governments to urge multilateral organizations, such as the Bretton Woods institutions and regional development banks, to develop and foster the implementation of programmes that promote trade and investment between countries of the South;
20. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to promote actively South-South investments and technology transfers by ensuring a secure and stable investment environment so as to reduce transactions costs and enhance legal security;
21. *Invites* parliaments to support actively South-South non-governmental networks created by women for improving their status and addressing major economic, social, environmental and political concerns;

22. *Calls* on both northern and southern country parliaments to step up their support for the parliamentary structures of regional organizations in order to consolidate regional integration and cooperation required to achieve the MDGs;
23. *Invites* southern country parliaments and governments to re-capitalize regional development banks in order to help establish or develop regional development funds;
24. *Invites* southern parliaments and governments to develop South-South regional cooperation in order to manage more efficiently regional public goods, including water resources, ecological assets such as cross-border forest basins or natural reserves, cross-border energy resources as well as disease control,
25. *Invites* regional and national parliaments of the South to hold their governments to account for their efforts to achieve the MDGs through South-South cooperation mechanisms and *requests* that the oversight capacity of these parliaments be strengthened in this respect;
26. *Invites* regional and subregional parliaments to promote and immediately initiate an exchange of information and best practices on South-South and triangular cooperation strategies and initiatives, and *also invites* governments to facilitate such exchanges in cooperation with national parliaments and the UN system.