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Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

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**REDISTRIBUTION OF POWER, NOT JUST WEALTH:
OWNERSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS**

***Preliminary draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. O. Benabdallah (Morocco) and Lord Judd (United Kingdom)***

The 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recognizing* that concentrations of world power have for long been inconsistent with the distribution of the world's populations, and the rise of economies such as those of China, India, Russian Federation and Brazil underlines that power in international institutions no longer adequately reflects global economic realities,
- (2) *Considering* that humanity is faced with acute and increasing global challenges, which transcend national borders, that these challenges include climate change, the sustainability and the security of world resources, world food supplies and widespread hunger, the failure of financial systems and international trade arrangements and international terrorism,
- (3) *Mindful* that there is precious little time left to respond effectively to these challenges, all of which threaten the future of humanity,
- (4) *Aware* that the priorities of existing multilateral institutions and forums are too often dominated by the needs of the traditionally known great powers and their economies, and that the preoccupations of these great powers frequently marginalize the needs of those nations and people most exposed to the consequences of the economic, social, cultural and political crises with which the multilateral institutions endeavour to grapple,
- (5) *Considering* that the traditionally known great powers disproportionately generate the very challenges that preoccupy them,
- (6) *Recognizing* that lasting stability and security depend on the demonstrably representative, transparent and accountable nature of political systems and their institutions, and that this holds true at the neighbourhood, local, provincial, national and international levels,
- (7) *Mindful* that the effective participation of women in decision-making at all levels is crucial for relevant, successful and effective policy, not least on global food security, and that the ownership of the agendas of global political institutions must therefore belong to all their constituent members and reflect their different perspectives,
- (8) *Considering* that speedy reform is essential at all levels to provide for inclusive and democratic decision-making and problem-solving and to combat alienation and instability,

(9) *Recalling* that the preamble and articles of the Charter of the United Nations spell out the objectives: "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, ... to develop friendly relations among nations, ... to achieve respect for the principles of respect for equal rights and self-determination among peoples, ... to achieve international cooperation in solving in international problems, of an economic, social cultural and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion",

1. *Believes* that it is imperative for international institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, to take immediate steps to ensure that their structures and arrangements for governance - including the preparation of agendas, voting arrangements, records of proceedings and methods of appointing Chief Executives - are made transparent and genuinely democratic and that all staff appointments are based on merit while seeking to achieve geographical, ethnic and gender balance;
2. *Calls* for the establishment of an inclusive and fully representative global economic council as an alternative to reliance on the G20;
3. *Considers* that the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General must invariably be an open and transparent process focusing on finding the best and most well-qualified person for the task;
4. *Demands* reform of the membership of the UN Security Council without further delay in order to ensure its credibility and effectiveness in the 21st century as distinct from the post-1945 era;
5. *Considers* that all appointments within the United Nations system must be made transparently and based on merit while striving to ensure geographical, ethnic and gender balance;
6. *Calls* for mandatory registers of lobbyists to be introduced at the national and international levels of policy- and decision-making in order to ensure greater transparency and accountability to citizens, and freedom of information;
7. *Believes* that notwithstanding the current financial and economic concerns, the defining and greatest challenge facing humanity - climate change - should be consistently and effectively pursued through a fair, transparent and open process, fully engaging men and women in all relevant aspects of civil society;
8. *Considers* that fulfilling the imperatives of equity should be a key outcome of Rio+20, and a vital component of any self-respecting governance system;
9. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to vigorously advocate for these priorities and demand immediate action by their governments to ensure their rapid implementation;
10. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to strive to generate widespread public understanding of why these priorities are essential and why any delay in implementing them can no longer be tolerated;
11. *Resolves* to ensure that every year, the Inter-Parliamentary Union undertakes a global review of progress towards integrity, accountability, inclusiveness and fully representative democracy in governance at all levels.