



SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 128th IPU ASSEMBLY

Quito (Ecuador)

22-27 March 2013

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INTRODUCTION

The 128th IPU Assembly was inaugurated on 22 March 2013 at a ceremony held at the plenary chamber of the National Assembly of Ecuador.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: (Delegations of national parliaments of 118 countries): Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Associate Members: Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Millennium Campaign, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Health Organization (WHO), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO); (ii) African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Baltic Assembly, Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA), Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC), Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD), Maghreb Consultative Council, Pan-African Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Members (PUOIC); (iii) Socialist International; and (iv) Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Penal Reform International and World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU)

Of the 1,198 delegates who attended the Assembly, 619 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 33 presiding officers, 38 deputy presiding officers and 202 women (32.6%).

INAUGURAL CEREMONY**FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2013**

The inaugural ceremony opened at 7.35 p.m., in the presence of H.E. Mr. Rafael Correa Delgado, President of the Republic of Ecuador.

Mr. FERNANDO CORDERO CUEVA, Speaker of the National Assembly of Ecuador, said he was very pleased to welcome all delegates to the city of Quito, a World Heritage Site, for the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

He underscored the commitment of the National Assembly of Ecuador to the common objectives of all parliaments: to promote peace, strengthen democracy, defend the rule of law and protect and promote human rights, all through integrated and transformational policies.

Wherever they were from, the parliamentarians gathered in Quito had all seen not only the ways different social groups lived among and alongside each other, but also the various negative consequences of the current world system, including poverty, social inequalities, social exclusion, environmental disasters and military interventions or conflicts that led to insecurity and undermined global peace. There were many who defended the status quo but parliamentarians needed to speak out against those injustices in the world, in particular the current inequalities in the world economy and the unfair distribution of wealth globally.

It was time for a new approach to world markets, whose effects and powers should not be allowed to continue unfettered. A vision for a new world order was needed, where the markets were allowed to enable growth and eliminate poverty, social inequalities and injustice. Ecuador and other Latin American countries had adopted the concept of "buen vivir", an approach based on human beings living in harmony with themselves, others and nature in order to counter social alienation, to ensure the participation and integration in society of the most vulnerable groups, to promote solidarity and to not overexploit the precious natural resources that human beings needed in order to live. In the coming days delegates would reflect on parliaments' role in developing that vision as they discussed the theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development "buen vivir": New approaches, new solutions.

The time had come to recognize the increasing importance of regional mechanisms in resolving conflict. Within the IPU, the geopolitical groups needed a higher profile and greater support to achieve their aims of bringing the world closer together and realizing a better model for development to the benefit of all. The essential objective of all parliaments was to respond to the needs of their citizens and he hoped that delegates would conduct their work and discussions during the Assembly in that spirit.

Mr. PHILIPPE DOUSTE-BLAZY, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development, conveyed the greetings of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and commended the IPU for its long-standing commitment to international development objectives, as underscored by the theme of the 128th Assembly. The outcome of the Assembly's discussions would contribute greatly to the wider deliberations underway on the post-2015 development agenda and the setting of sustainable development goals.

The concept of "buen vivir" linked well-being and development to living in harmony with nature and not relying on unrestrained production and consumption. It was possible to eradicate extreme poverty and to meet the health, energy and developmental needs of all people without harming the environment or disregarding social imperatives, but to do so would require original and innovative solutions. The many pioneering and unprecedented measures taken by Ecuador in recent years to promote sustainable development, including enshrining the rights of nature in its Constitution, should serve as an inspiration to all countries as they considered the priorities for development for 2015 and beyond.

He affirmed the United Nations' commitment to its collaboration with the IPU and the shared goal of bringing about a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all and wished the Assembly fruitful and constructive debates.

Mr. ABDELWAHAD RADI, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, expressed his heartfelt thanks for the welcome extended to the IPU by the President and people of Ecuador and congratulated the President on his recent re-election as, under his leadership, Ecuador had experienced a political, institutional and developmental renaissance. He thanked the Speaker of the National Assembly for inviting the IPU to hold its 128th Assembly in Quito and congratulated him on his election as Chair of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) within the IPU.

The IPU Assembly was taking place in troubled times as the world was still experiencing economic turmoil following the 2008 financial crisis, which weighed heavily on the most vulnerable populations. Furthermore, armed conflicts, particularly those in Syria and Mali, posed threats to regional and global stability. The IPU strongly advocated dialogue, cooperation and compliance with international law as the way to maintain economic balance, peace and security, and to strengthen parliamentary institutions and democracy. Parliaments had the power to help shape a better world through their role in questioning policies, ratifying international agreements, passing laws and holding governments to account, as well as through their responsibility to represent and protect their people. They could also do much to promote political tolerance, harmony and good relations; it should not be forgotten that peace and prosperity were not possible without respect for different political persuasions and a willingness to settle disputes through dialogue. In countries that were emerging from conflict or in transition, where parliaments faced particularly difficult circumstances, the IPU provided much-needed assistance. The Organization had worked recently with parliaments in Egypt, Libya, Myanmar and Palestine to help address the myriad challenges in those States.

While in Quito, delegates would discuss in particular how development could serve the cause of social justice; the theme of the Assembly could not be any clearer: From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions. Citizens were demanding governance through which all could benefit from development. The concept of “buen vivir”, held dear by the Assembly's host country, Ecuador, was linked to democratic governance; the post-2015 development objectives were currently being worked out, but they would be of little use if they did not also have the resolute support of parliaments and citizens alike. Democratic governance should be included as a measurable goal, with criteria such as participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability. The IPU was developing a set of indicators for democratic parliaments, to be completed by 2014, which could be useful in defining the post-2015 democratic governance goal and related targets.

The First Standing Committee would be debating the topic of Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives. The concept of the responsibility to protect had been recognized by the United Nations in 2005 and consisted of a set of principles based on the premise that power was not a privilege but a responsibility. It sought to prevent and counter four types of crime, all considered as mass atrocities: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

The topic to be debated by the Second Standing Committee was Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development. It was essential that developed countries honoured their commitments to financing for development and respected the principles of aid effectiveness. Innovative financing mechanisms would facilitate the predictable and sustainable flow of aid to meet basic needs.

The Third Standing Committee would be looking at The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy. The rapid expansion of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) had brought with them new opportunities and challenges for parliamentarians who, as those technologies became increasingly popular, would be prompted to go beyond traditional practices to get closer to citizens and enable their participation in developing policies and programmes. Social media also facilitated engagement by certain groups, including women, who were often excluded from other traditional platforms.

In addition to those debates, several other panel discussions and workshops would be taking place. Mr. Radi said he was particularly looking forward to the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians and welcomed the fact that the movement was taking root at the IPU.

A matter of particular concern was that of violence against women, in particular sexual violence. Among the appalling statistics was that six out of 10 women in the world would experience some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Every day the media around the world carried stories of shocking cases of rape or other forms of sexual violence and it was high time that those crimes were punished and recognized for what they were: unacceptable attacks on the fundamental human right to physical integrity. All parliamentarians needed to speak out against that global scourge.

In the coming days, delegates also needed to discuss and decide how to make the IPU stronger, more effective and better positioned to address the challenges of the times. Decisions were also needed on the Organization's visual identity and how to give it a more dynamic and modern image, enhancing its ability to communicate.

Mr. Radi thanked the delegates for coming to Quito from so far away and in such large numbers and wished them all a successful Assembly.

Mr. RAFAEL CORREA DELGADO, President of the Republic of Ecuador, welcomed all participants to Ecuador, one of the smallest but most diverse countries in the world. There were many worlds within Ecuador: from the coast to the Andean highlands, to the jungles of the Amazon and the "Enchanted Islands": the Galápagos, a World Natural Heritage Site. Indeed, to visit Ecuador was to see the whole of Latin America. The country ranked sixth in the world in terms of terrestrial biodiversity and also boasted a high number of endemic animal and plant species. Ecuador had been the first country to recognize the rights of nature in its Constitution and its range of flora and fauna was further complemented by the diversity of cultures within its borders. Ecuador was home to 14 indigenous peoples and the Constitution therefore defined it not only as a unified but also a multi-ethnic and multicultural State.

Turning to the institution of parliament, he commented that even after parliaments had been formally organized to limit royal absolutism and form modern constitutionalism – they were often far from being democratic institutions that represented the popular will. Even today centres of power in democratic countries were still seeking to impose their will on parliaments at the expense of the people. The practice of lobbying in particular, protected by law in many countries, had become institutionalized, allowing individuals or groups with influence or power access to governments or parliamentary committees.

Other practices developed over many centuries now also weakened modern parliaments. Dual legitimacy, as conferred under presidential systems to both presidents and parliaments, could lead to confusion if parliaments attempted to engage in executive branch functions, or if conflicts or disputes arose in the daily course of governance that led to the government becoming paralysed. Parliamentary immunity, a practice established justifiably to avoid the persecution of parliamentarians by absolute monarchs, was now often abused by many around the world. Parliaments needed to give serious consideration to removing such immunity so as to avoid abuse.

The basic structure of the modern State was based on the separation of powers, and thus the theory of checks and balances between the different branches. That model was now more than 250 years old but, in today's world, the interplay between government and opposition was

dialectical, and things could go awry, immobilizing whole societies. To function, that model needed a broad social consensus and a system that was considered legitimate. Ecuador had established a “fifth estate”, based on citizen participation and public scrutiny. The question for the 21st century was how to move towards more participatory and direct forms of democracy, taking advantage of recent technological advances.

Ecuador had done much in recent years to improve both human development and economic progress. Since 2007, it had moved from the medium to the high development group of the United Nations Human Development Index. However, poverty was still high in parts of the country. Many of the happiest countries in the world were – according to the Happy Planet Index – in Latin American, but the region was still one of the most unequal in the world. Since he had taken office in 2007, much progress had been achieved in Ecuador in addressing such inequalities, including lower unemployment; increased enrolment among poorer sectors in universities; a doubling in tax revenues and considerably higher budget allocations to social issues. The Government was proud of its achievements in the areas of individual rights, equal opportunity, decent living standards and consolidating democracy. Furthermore, Ecuador had signed all of the instruments of the Inter-American human rights system.

There were, however, many powers at work in the world that hampered States’ abilities to defend and promote human rights. International and national press sometimes distorted facts in order to defend particular interests, such as the business interests of media monopolies. The influence of the media was far-reaching and any incidence of corruption, manipulation of information or scandal-mongering was a threat to freedom of expression and ran contrary to the objectivity and journalistic ethics expected of the press.

Undue influence by one or other party to human rights instruments often served to undermine those entities. He was particularly concerned that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had its headquarters in Washington, D.C., despite the fact that the United States was not a signatory to many of the organs of the Inter-American human rights system and continued to maintain an embargo against Cuba. There were many situations around the world where certain States voiced the need for others to defend and promote human rights, but did not fulfil their own obligations under international human rights treaties. Often, such instruments served their own political, economic or other interests and such double standards amounted to little more than neo-colonialism. Parliaments in all regions needed to tackle those challenges.

The President expressed his grave concern that many international organizations, which some States joined in good faith, now undertook the role of prosecutor of those States, at times disregarding the jurisdiction of national courts. Ecuador had itself seen some of those bureaucratic international organizations ignore the requests of or interfere in decisions by its national courts, including in cases of multinational corporations being allowed to take the country to arbitration, without first having to exhaust, or even resort at all, to domestic judicial remedies. All parliaments needed to call for national sovereignty to be respected in such cases so as to ensure that rulings were always impartial and valid. Multinational corporations should not be allowed to exploit a system where capital often held more sway than human beings.

The 128th Assembly would seek to place democratic governance at the heart of development, but as long as countries continued to be controlled by the capital and interests of a dominant few, effective governance, democracy and development would not be achieved. There was much talk of globalization, but more often than not it was in terms of global markets and consumption rather than global societies and citizenship. The current approach to globalization, with unrelenting growth and unbridled capitalism, needed to be replaced with collective action towards purposeful development, in accordance with the ancestral Quechua concept of “sumak kawsay” or “buen vivir”.

The goal of globalization should not be to universalize the standard of living enjoyed by those in New York to everyone on the planet but instead to ensure that all lived with dignity, in harmony with nature and all peoples and cultures and with respect for the only planet that humankind had. Parliaments could do much, through legislation and coordinated efforts, to rein in the neoliberal and exploitative globalization of the present day.

The major challenge for humanity in the 21st century was how to place human beings above capital and how to ensure that societies controlled the markets, not the opposite. He urged all parliamentarians to address that challenge and to advocate for a world in which the needs of all, and not the few, were served.

The inaugural ceremony closed at 9.40 p.m.

SITTING
OF SATURDAY, 23 MARCH 2013

MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 10.10 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in the Chair.

Item 1 of the agenda

**Election of the President and Vice-Presidents
of the 128th Assembly**

The PRESIDENT announced that the Governing Council had unanimously decided to propose the President of the National Assembly of Ecuador, Mr. Fernando Cordero Cueva, as President of the 128th Assembly.

Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador) was elected President by acclamation and took the Chair.

A short film marking the gathering of the democracies of the world in the middle of the world was screened.

The PRESIDENT expressed his gratitude for having been given the opportunity to preside over the Assembly and said that he would do his utmost to rise to the challenge.

Item 3 of the agenda

**General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful
development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions**

The PRESIDENT, introducing the theme of the General Debate proposed by Ecuador, said that the prevailing political and socio-economic system in today's world exacerbated poverty, inequality, exclusion and insecurity. For many, the crisis of capitalism was linked to market distortions, extreme concentrations of wealth, losses from overproduction and unbridled growth. The attempted solution of slashing interest rates to stimulate consumption had led to soaring property prices, never-ending debt spirals, especially for the poor, and various other negative consequences in the name of planned growth. Natural resources and climate were also adversely affected by the perverse and relentless demands of the present misguided market model, which carried grave implications for the global environment and for society, in particular the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations.

For those reasons, Ecuador had proposed an in-depth debate on the current theme in the hope of identifying and collectively addressing the root causes of the crisis so as to generate growth, eradicate poverty and create a redistribution of wealth. States must also play a new role in that process and above all in the management of natural resources. Latin American countries, including Ecuador, were already exploring alternatives to the current model with a view to creating well-being and gender balance, reducing social inequality and fostering socio-economic integration for the marginalized sectors of society in order to promote solidarity and peace. Answers must be found to the highly relevant question of whether to pursue the model of unrelenting growth or consider new solutions designed to achieve purposeful growth and social well-being.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) agreed that an agenda for transformational change towards a secure and sustainable future for all was urgently needed as an alternative to the current production and consumption models. Centred on the ideal of a united world and the desire for happiness and a good life, the new sustainable development agenda chimed with the "buen vivir" concept, championed in Ecuador and Bolivia, of living in harmony with nature, sharing resources and distributing wealth equitably. Drawing on a similar concept in the African context, namely the Ubuntu philosophy, his country had been the first to incorporate third-generation rights into its Constitution, which took into account the rights of indigenous peoples and the link between environmental degradation and the impairment of human rights.

Tackling poverty and degradation was a major priority for South Africa, where a 30-year national action plan had been formulated with a view to deepening democracy and further translating political emancipation into economic well-being and a better quality of life. The plan emphasized, inter alia, inclusive growth and productive employment, redistribution of income and wealth, environmental sustainability, and pro-poor macro-economic policies, the aim being to promote a broader economic base with greater benefits for all.

The post-2015 development agenda must build on the lessons learned from the MDGs; take shape from the profound global changes of the past decade; address the significant problem of inequality that had hampered MDG attainment; and give expression to the devastating impact of climate change in developing countries. To that end, integrated approaches must be adopted for advancing socio-economic and environmental objectives. The IPU-proposed goal relating to the vital issue of democratic governance must also find its rightful place among the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which parliamentarians should be involved in designing with an eye to new approaches to people-centred development.

Mr. F. DOS SANTOS (Angola) stated that the Angolan Government's commitment to the MDGs had entailed the major challenge of improving living standards and promoting development in an environment still affected by a long period of military instability. Efforts had focused on public policymaking and improved implementation and monitoring of social projects and actions. The past 10 years of economic reform had consequently generated a positive macro-economic framework for the deeper reforms embodied in the current five-year development plan and the future sustainable development strategy. Current aims included the consolidation of peace, the construction of a more participatory and democratic society and the achievement of competitive and equitable sustainable development, with income-distribution policies geared towards the most vulnerable population groups.

Gender equality measures introduced were bearing fruit, as borne out by the statistics on women in parliament and in ministerial posts, and children's access to education and quality teaching were treated as strategic priorities. Angola had registered satisfactory progress towards the attainment of the first six MDGs and, on the basis of its macro-economic development rates, was now considered eligible for exclusion from the list of LDCs as of 2015.

Believing that peace was a prerequisite for growth and development, the Government was actively involved in regional peace and security efforts and in supporting peace processes in other parts of Africa. It likewise supported initiatives focused on setting a global agenda for inclusive development and had therefore welcomed its Parliament's participation in the Africa-wide consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. The hope was that the outcome would promote a fairer and more equitable world where rich countries shared with poor countries their scientific and technological advances. The Angolan Parliament would continue its mission to secure a prosperous future for the Angolan people through sustainable, competitive and equitable development.

Mr. K. GHELLAB (Morocco) remarked that the theme of the General Debate was highly topical, linked as it was to the post-2015 development agenda. Given the important opportunity for parliamentary input into that agenda, he had contributed a treatise on the subject in an effort to enrich the debate but would confine his intervention to three key messages.

First, in the light of the challenges of the third millennium and the inability of the international system to implement the MDG commitments, development policies must be radically overhauled by employing a human-centred approach incorporating the social and environmental perspectives in order to meet public aspirations and overcome the main global imbalances. Second, the principles of democratic governance should be infused across development policies through a participatory approach to defining programmes, goals and implementation methods, with country-led governance assessments based on objective standards and indicators. Third, the parliamentary role should be underlined; through their popular legitimacy and autonomy from government, parliaments were best placed and qualified to add a democratic dimension to good governance in terms of the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies.

In conclusion, he cited Morocco's human development initiative as an example of best practice in fighting poverty, marginalization and exclusion through partnership between the State and civil society.

Mr. A. AL-RASHEED (Kuwait) said that lack of international action to address the multiple challenges in today's world would have critical repercussions, especially in the conflict-ridden areas of the Middle East. New solutions were therefore needed in order to produce a roadmap for sustainable development. In Arab countries, problems such as youth unemployment, poor economic infrastructure, corruption and lack of social justice had paved the way for the Arab Spring. It would come to nothing, however, without a positive shift towards strengthening democracy, improving living standards, safeguarding human rights and eliminating discrimination in a new era of justice, growth and prosperity. Any roadmap designed by the new authorities in those countries should remain in character with the history and status of their peoples.

Regional and international parliamentary organizations must do their utmost to stop armed conflict. It was also the collective responsibility of the international community to eliminate terrorism, a crime for which there was no justification of any kind and which had no link with Islam or indeed any other divine religion. More laws should be enacted to protect the freedom of religion enshrined in all international instruments and make it a criminal offence to denigrate or insult any religion or religious symbols. Kuwait was enacting laws to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as human trafficking. Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories posed a continuing threat to Middle East security and stability, creating tensions and feeding extremism. As to the humanitarian disaster in Syria, parliamentarians must confront the global silence by redoubling their efforts to end the conflict and assist the Syrian people, for whom Kuwait had already raised over US \$ 1.7 billion. Lastly, he affirmed the legitimate right of all States to own nuclear power for peaceful use on condition that they complied with nuclear safety rules.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) commented that it had long been assumed that economic growth automatically improved a country's human development index, an assumption reinforced by the withdrawal of financial support from countries as punishment for non-compliance with structural adjustment programmes imposed by multilateral agencies. Calls for inclusive growth with a human face and promising emancipation were now gaining momentum, begging answers to such questions as whether relentless growth led to poverty reduction and whether it negatively affected the poor in particular.

In many sub-Saharan countries, poverty was rising, especially in rural communities, and was further exacerbated by declining expenditures on public social services. Social indicators such as nutritional status and mortality were worsening, even in countries experiencing gross domestic product (GDP) growth. As proved by the experience of various Asian countries, economic growth could indeed be a powerful tool for poverty eradication where it expanded productivity, employment and wages of the poor. In countries such as Zambia, however, it had registered no significant impact on poverty because it had been either inadequate or insufficiently

pro-poor in its quality and structure. Growth alone was therefore insufficient to achieve poverty reduction insofar as growth in consumption had not spread to the poor and even those benefiting from poverty reduction initiatives had not generally achieved commensurate improvements in other capabilities.

In short, unrelenting economic growth had contributed to poverty reduction in many countries, but there were also losers from the adjustments required by such growth. Good policies were therefore essential to harnessing that growth for poverty reduction. Indications from Africa also showed that income poverty was reduced faster where equality was greater. The sectoral composition of growth was another factor insofar as uneven income and asset distribution disadvantaged the poor. National growth that excluded the agricultural sector, for instance, rarely improved the welfare of the disadvantaged populations dependent on it.

Mr. V. MATEU (Andorra) observed that the growing frustration with politics provided an opportunity for reviewing objectives and rethinking values in order to explore the way forward to a good quality of life. Rooted in the classical tradition of thought, the resurrected "buen vivir" concept was perhaps more vital today than ever. Although the approaches towards it had varied over the ages as a function of the conditions of the time, they had all consistently centred on the inalienable dignity of the human being. "Buen vivir" clearly demanded a certain minimum of material conditions for guaranteeing physical integrity and safety, sustenance and employment, in addition to such matters as access to health care, education, equal opportunities and a healthy environment. To reach that ambitious goal, declarations of principle must be translated into parliamentary action aimed at producing universal guidelines for harmonious living encompassed in a legal framework similar to the one established in Ecuador.

In developed countries, the myth of a better future for upcoming generations was fading and the failure of political efforts to avert the present economic crisis had laid bare the limits of sovereign power. The solution was to practise politics that were fairer, more transparent and more democratic. Politicians should rise to public expectations by acting responsibly, accepting accountability for their actions and working for the social equality needed to renew the social contract and build essential trust. Democracy must therefore be strengthened in order to promote greater public participation and oversight. Sustainability was likewise core to preserving the world's limited natural resources and the delicate balance required for development; tailoring the economic system to a finite scenario that ruled out indefinite growth; and preventing an irreversible debt trap. The road would be difficult, but parliamentarians must shoulder their responsibility to strive for "buen vivir".

Ms. A. BURKE (Australia) said that purposeful development that failed to include all sectors of society created disillusionment with the political process and a sense of marginalization, especially among women. Women's representation in all political, social and economic institutions was key to ensuring that their concerns were reflected in legislative and political agendas. In Pacific Island parliaments, however, it had fallen to the unacceptably low level of 4 per cent, which called for new approaches that parliamentarians were best placed to explore. One such approach was the new Australian-funded Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships (PWPP) initiative, aimed at tackling the problem of gender inequality in Pacific politics. At the recent inaugural PWPP Forum, participants from 19 parliaments in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region had identified the forms of support needed to take the initiative forward.

The PWPP project was an illustration of what could be achieved by women working together on issues that were also important for democracy and development generally. Additional inputs from men, civil society and the international community were nevertheless essential to break down the institutional barriers to women's political participation and the project would therefore engage not only women parliamentarians but also parliamentary institutions and staff, including men. Mentoring activities, a website and a twinning programme had already been launched, together with training and seminars on gender issues and capacity-building support delivered on the ground in response to immediate needs.

The IPU was set to become a main partner in the project, which operated on the premise that women's participation in any sphere, including politics, must take place in a non-intimidating and non-harmful environment that valued their contribution. An example of purposeful development in action, the project's exciting new approach had attracted interest from other regions, particularly as it could be applied in other fields and contexts.

Mrs. J. SIMONS (Suriname) said it was likely that the important theme of relentless growth was now on the agenda as a result of the undeniable structural problems associated with the current global economic system. It had long been clear, however, that growth could not continue unabated on a planet with finite resources. A system that measured prosperity by economic growth lay at the heart of many of the problems discussed in international forums, ranging from pollution and climate change to war. An overwhelming proportion of the financial wealth generated by economic growth in the past few decades was held by banks and corporations declared too big to fail, which meant that they wielded more influence than rich and powerful governments. By contrast, ordinary workers were seeing their incomes decline and their rights often eroded. Human well-being and sound management of the natural environment had been relegated to second place behind the relentless pursuit of economic growth at almost any cost. Any systemic changes would therefore need to address those skewed circumstances in which growth benefited the few at the expense of the many.

To that end, she suggested that the IPU might take the initiative by developing a set of general indicators for measuring economic performance. It was no easy matter to change the fundamentals of a system but cosmetic actions would not work. A sustainable system was simply common sense and the only way forward for humanity.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda) said that, with the approach of 2015, it was time to consider whether the pursuit of GDP growth had produced economic stability, social cohesion and support for the vulnerable. It was equally time to question the policies in place. Were they participatory, did they address such issues as employment, health and education, and had parliaments contributed to their development? Parliaments and the executive were both accountable for governance and the fact that parliaments were too often left with only an oversight role was unsatisfactory. Parliamentarians, who had been afforded no opportunity to provide input to the MDGs, must therefore position themselves as key stakeholders in the post-2015 SDGs. Good governance implied that people participated in shaping their destiny and reaping the happiness engendered by political participation and freedom.

Given society's high youth demographics, youth employment was a potential source of insecurity that must be confronted through policy strategies, national development plans and appropriate investment. Political stability was another area for investment insofar as conflict diverted vital resources away from efforts to improve the socio-economic environment. Parliaments must therefore assert their role in resource allocation. Measures must also be taken to combat the widespread and appalling violation of the rights of women and children, especially in times of conflict. Human trafficking was another area to tackle by ensuring the availability of employment in a conducive working environment and by concluding agreements with destination countries for migrant workers in the interest of monitoring the nature and terms of their employment. Lastly, in the name of social justice and equity, parliaments should work to improve the lives and environment of rural women.

Mrs. E. MADZONGWE (Zimbabwe), focusing on the issue of women's land ownership as a means to purposeful development, said that elements such as population growth and the agrofuel industry created fierce competition for land, which was a key economic resource and an important factor in the formation of individual and collective identities. Growth rates in countries with more equitable land distribution were up to three times higher than in others, while the Chinese land reforms of earlier decades had precipitated a vast reduction in rural poverty. Gender inequalities in land rights were prevalent throughout most developing countries; women

often had only secondary rights to land, especially in Africa, and widows and divorcees risked losing their land entitlements, with the result that fewer than 20 per cent of landowners were women. The lack of mechanisms to enforce women's land rights and the existence of contradictory laws concerning those rights only compounded the problem.

In Zimbabwe, the post-independence land reforms had not necessarily improved the situation for women, although agricultural policies now included measures for improving productivity among farmers, including women, and for assisting female-headed farming households. The aim was to achieve food security and generate income and employment in order to promote sustainable development. Banks and development partners, among others, also offered financing arrangements for farmers and substantial funds had been channelled into the agricultural sector.

Developing countries must craft new strategies for filling local development gaps. Sustainable development should be inclusive, transparent, gender-sensitive and participatory, which called for administrative and legal reforms. Women's access to land was a powerful poverty-reduction tool and agricultural input support would help to boost women's productivity capacities. Improved access for women to credit facilities, markets and services was also an essential complement to any land and agrarian reform programme. Zimbabwe's draft constitution addressed the various aspects of women's access to land.

Mr. M.J. ALLAHAM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country was being subjected to an unconventional war in which imperialist States and terrorist groups shared the same interest in undermining it and destroying its social fabric. Those States had recruited and financed thousands of foreign mercenary terrorists and helped them into Syria, on the pretext of supporting the Syrian people, in flagrant violation of international law. Armed terrorist groups had massacred Syrian citizens and laid waste to the country's infrastructure, public facilities and priceless monuments before fleeing to Turkey. Concerted efforts were needed to eradicate those groups, which were otherwise bound to proliferate and unleash their influence elsewhere.

In January 2013, President al-Assad had proposed a political solution based on ending the violence and entering, without preconditions, into a national dialogue with all opposition factions. The aim was to produce a national pact and hold multiparty elections to determine the legitimate authority in Syria. Few today, however, were working towards that much talked-of peaceful settlement by ending the violence. On the contrary, the States commonly known to support and fund that violence and supply arms brazenly admitted as much to the point of priding themselves on their violation of international law.

He looked to the IPU to rally its efforts towards finding a peaceful political solution in Syria. The Syrian people could not countenance a discussion on development while every day witnessing the fundamental destruction of Syria by terrorist groups. Nor could it credit an assembly of the world's parliaments with serving peoples' interests if it overlooked the billions of dollars spent on arms and mercenaries that would be better spent on food staples and medicines. What was needed was a political solution to problems, democracy in both international relations and local elections and a world in which no State was above or below the law.

Mr. I.S. DJALÓ (Guinea-Bissau) said that humankind had constantly pursued economic development at the cost of nature, with harmful consequences for the environmental balance. Air pollution, torrential rains and temperature rises were just some of the disastrous consequences of rampant development. Regrettably, the idea of preservation had occurred only after the event and the situation threatened to become irreversible unless a shift was made towards sustainable development balanced with nature conservation. Focus should therefore be centred on preserving the ecosystem and implementing sustainable development policies in line with current needs and in anticipation of future requirements.

Fuelled in part by the throw-away culture and involving profound consequences for household and social economies, unbridled consumption was part of the problem. In the case of natural resources and notwithstanding their abundance, overconsumption had already gone

beyond saturation point. Failure could nonetheless be averted if resource-rich countries, such as those in Africa, found adequate technological and political solutions to ensuring the sustainable consumption of their resources. Consumerism and the quest for easy profit had also affected moral and cultural values for the worse.

The austerity policies introduced to address the lack of market confidence behind the western economic crisis had increased the numbers of unemployed, poor and abandoned older persons. Concerning Africa, it was the most technologically challenged continent and the wealth from the sale of its raw materials was concentrated among a handful of powerful individuals. A significant part of its population had thus been driven by growing poverty to seek a better life in industrialized countries. The pace of development could not be frozen but adequate policymaking could ensure that it was reconciled with respect for moral and cultural values and the conservation of nature and resources. Universal assets were at stake and only collective efforts would help to resolve the global issues associated with unstoppable development.

Mr. D. MARK (Nigeria) said that the current development model had not achieved the anticipated success in Nigeria, overemphasizing as it did the economy at the expense of other local variables of human development. Local factors must be injected into the model for the sake of meaningful and realistic development. In traditional societies, development was measured by how the entire community fared and not by individual success. The economic growth model had turned developing countries into consumer nations, whereas they also needed to produce and export. That model must also be adapted to address challenges such as global warming and environmental protection. Inequality in the global economy was another challenge insofar as a small wealthy minority in the advanced democracies controlled the bulk of the world's resources while the poor majority in developing countries grew poorer.

The existing development model had furthermore been challenged by the serious economic crises of recent years in developed countries. A more sustainable, equitable and all-inclusive alternative must therefore be formulated, incorporating social factors that were important aspects of culture in developing countries. Development should additionally safeguard the rights of future generations by bringing improvements in areas such as health care, education, nutrition and environment. It should also be bottom-up in order to avoid potential disaster from ignoring indigenous knowledge and imposing outside models on developing countries. Indeed, global institutions had learnt that one size did not fit all and that national policies must also be driven by local factors. For its part, the Nigerian Parliament was vigorously encouraging sector development that fostered indigenous knowledge and systemic transparency; promoting people-centred development through good and representative governance; tackling environmental issues and challenges through legislation; and enacting legislation to protect human rights. The IPU must likewise play its part in finding radical solutions to the current problems.

Ms. M.N. ZZIWA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that among the key approaches to purposeful development was inclusive growth, which defined the pace and pattern of economic growth through inter alia improved commodity prices and job creation. In the East African Community (EAC), the development strategy was anchored on inclusive growth ensuring equal access to opportunities, particularly for the poor. The top-down approach recognized richer individuals and larger companies as the driving force behind economic growth insofar as their wealth would trickle down to all. The EAC was therefore focusing on establishing an environment conducive to foreign direct investment. The bottom-up approach aimed to lift people out of poverty through self-help and involvement at the local level in needs identification and decision-making. EAC States were cooperating ever more closely in that sphere with a view to equitable economic development and higher living standards.

Fair trade was another desirable approach in that it promoted sustainable development by improving the lot of disadvantaged producers and workers. In the EAC, however, its overall share of trade remained small. Trade institutions must aim for post-2015 improvements in terms of fair trade. Regional development was a vital approach successfully applied by the EAC. Strategic

engagement in regionalization, with a focus on community infrastructure and institutions, was likely to improve development results. As to the export zones approach, it promoted the establishment of small and medium enterprises, in turn increasing employment, but it was still in its infancy in the EAC region.

A multipronged and multipurpose approach was required for purposeful development in Africa, where the environment and human capacities could be improved if international corporations exercised their social responsibility. Initiatives such as the redistribution of productive assets and human capital would also create opportunities for market participation by the poor. Parliamentarians were responsible for seeking transformation and must act to propel purposeful development.

Mr. A. MARTINHO DE BARROS PINTO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that the global economic crisis was closely linked to the growing shortage and depletion of natural resources, with implications for the prices of food and other products. It was the result of a perverse and unjust social system that condemned half of humanity to destitution and marginalization and lost sight of the human and creative potential in development. Water supplies were diminishing as a result of heavy urbanization, tree-felling and agricultural contamination, leading to progressive desertification, while such technological initiatives as the Green Revolution had paradoxically sparked unemployment and poverty.

All countries shared common socio-economic interests in the world of today, where the consequences of globalization were increasingly visible, particularly in developing countries such as his. Human nature and the complexity of the man-made system created in the search for well-being through unbridled development were at the root of the problem. One of his country's two islands, Principe, had been declared a World Biosphere Reserve in 2012, the aim being to promote conservation of the national heritage, biological diversity and the ecosystem, as well as the delivery of environmental education and training. The recognition thus accorded to Principe was encouraging and would help to safeguard the island. Additional mechanisms to further the efforts of Sao Tome and Principe and other countries struggling to preserve their forests as biosphere reserves would nevertheless be welcome. In conclusion, he appealed for concerted efforts at every level to improve human well-being.

Mr. A.S.S. DOUGAN MALABO (Equatorial Guinea) said that the theme of the debate provoked thoughts about the goods and services to be produced in order to meet human needs, in addition to questions about means of production and end-users. More precisely, should production be targeted at all members of society or at specific groups only? Interminable growth and its accompanying economic activity overlooked the potential corollary of environmental degradation. Purposeful development, on the other hand, took into account the structural changes resulting from the shift to a modern economic system designed to improve living conditions by increasing the availability of such goods and services and creating an environment of respect for human rights.

Equatorial Guinea was translating its economic growth into development focused on human and other objectives through policies intended to build a business climate favouring foreign direct investment and domestic entrepreneurship, which would in turn promote endogenous development. Public investment in social, transport and financial infrastructure was also transforming the country into a modern society with robust legal, political, economic and administrative institutions capable of responding to people's needs and aspirations. As a result of those efforts, the legal and administrative architecture needed to ensure healthy coexistence and full respect for human rights was now in place. In the drive for greater democracy and enhanced public participation in decision-making, constitutional reforms had similarly been instituted to establish a number of new parliamentary, judicial and other organs. Presidential office was now limited to two terms under those reforms and parliamentary and municipal elections were scheduled for May 2013.

Well-being as the aim of growth was synonymous with purposeful development, which should be global in reach, environmentally viable, mindful of ecological considerations, socially just, politically responsible and alert to human needs in all spheres.

Mr. M. NAGO (Benin) said that growth in the production of goods and services undoubtedly had a positive impact on living conditions. An increasing number of questions were nevertheless being raised about its long-, medium- and short-term consequences for human well-being. The current economic model was responsible for environmental problems such as global warming and higher air pollution, for example. The main demographic growth in the next 25 years was furthermore predicted to occur in cities in developing countries. If current trends continued, urban areas would account for 60 per cent of the global population in 2030, yet urban poverty was already burgeoning, together with unemployment, hunger and malnutrition. It was recognized that developing countries had more than their fair share of such problems and that policies were needed to promote urban regeneration, social integration and more liveable environments.

In order to shift from unbridled growth to controlled urban development, the twin problems of urban explosion and environmental degradation must be tackled by addressing issues such as unemployment, the debt burden and the need for institutional reform. In the experience of industrialized countries, the key to building more human-friendly cities, overcoming social tensions and achieving sustainable human development lay in employment, social integration, good governance and the establishment of genuine democracy. In short, mechanisms must be found for balancing socio-economic, ecological, cultural and other imperatives with human activities and social infrastructures. Those and other factors vital to human well-being, including freedom of political expression and transparent resources management, were critical to all solutions, which must also take into account the specificities of local ecosystems, cultures and settings.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco) considered that the creation of well-being called for a collective endeavour to tackle the new challenges posed by the major upheavals in a world now ruled by multinationals, organized crime and a growing terrorist threat. The MDGs had been designed to achieve well-being and Morocco had devoted substantial efforts and resources to their attainment. It had also launched a human development initiative to combat exclusion and poverty in remote areas of the country, with positive results. Prosperity and communal well-being demanded robust mechanisms for good governance and the series of in-depth reforms outlined in Morocco's new Constitution covered matters such as corruption and public accountability, in addition to measures relating to family, women's rights and gender equality. A global outlook and respect for human rights were instrumental to achieving the goal of well-being for all, as was inclusive and participatory democracy in which citizens were involved in setting priorities and in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

SITTING
OF SATURDAY 23 MARCH
AFTERNOON

The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. Fernando Cordero Cueva, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

Resumption of the debate

Mr. S.D. DESRAS (Haiti) said that providing every person with the opportunity for “buen vivir” was the primary responsibility of all parliamentarians. He welcomed the opportunity to discuss development issues with a view to devising original approaches that all countries could adopt, depending on the issues each one faced.

The West had long advocated neoliberalism as the model par excellence for production and wealth accumulation given the failures of socialist economies and an intensification of trade and business relations. The globalization expounded was that of deregulation, free markets, an exponential increase in exports, and the proliferation of free trade agreements. It had, however, led to unrelenting growth and was the root cause of much underdevelopment in many regions. The globalized economy was now dominated by foreign direct investments aimed at integrating markets and increasing profits. The consequence of such a system was greater interdependence between States, with any economic event, catastrophe, or change in policy in one impacting on many others.

In Haiti, past strategies for development and economic growth had led to worrying environmental degradation, with expectations of unrestrained growth leading to the exploitation and erosion of the country’s natural resources. In Haiti, as elsewhere, any model for growth and development that destroyed the ecological equilibrium must be replaced with strategies that respected the environment. The time had come for collective, green growth. Indicators of economic development such as gross national product (GNP) were outdated and should be replaced with those that accounted for a country’s natural capital as part of its overall wealth.

Huge gaps between the “haves” and the “have-nots” were common to all contemporary economies, and the key challenge was how to move from the notion of “profit at any cost”, to that of “human development above all”. A State’s wealth should always be measured primarily by its people’s standard of living.

Mr. S.A. OUATTARA (Burkina Faso) commented that, with the world facing many political, social and economic difficulties that affected the well-being of all people, the theme chosen for the Assembly was an apt one.

With discussions underway on a new set of goals to replace the MDGs after 2015, the importance of democratic governance in development had already been underscored in many forums. If they were to be achieved, the new goals, like their predecessors, would require systematic legislative improvements and sufficient allocation of funds from national budgets, and their implementation would need to be monitored, discussed and adjusted, as appropriate, all of which fell within parliaments’ purview. All parliaments needed to work to ensure that development assistance was fully integrated into national budgets so that it could be properly monitored. Local authorities and administrations also needed to be involved with the new development goals, as much of their implementation would fall within their competencies and it was primarily through them that citizens accessed public services.

Raising awareness among the public about the new goals would be crucial, as it was only with determined action from both governments and citizens that the goals would be achieved. Every parliament would need first to discuss the goals and which implementation measures would be needed in their respective countries and then ensure that progress was measured through suitable indicators.

He welcomed the IPU's continued commitment to promoting and strengthening democratic governance, before stating that he could not conclude without recalling the current crisis in West Africa, which threatened stability and security in the region. Burkina Faso was committed to mediating in those situations in the hope of restoring peace in the region.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia), taking the floor on behalf of Mr. T.-B. GURIRAB, said that his country had long pondered how citizens could live in harmony with each other and nature and believed it required all people to act in concert for the purposes of nation-building and bringing security, social justice and prosperity to all. The concept of "buen vivir" was missing in modern society; humankind did not live in harmony with nature and often exploited, without remorse, land, water, other natural resources and even other human beings in the quest for profit and convenience that would only be enjoyed by a few. With the continued existence – and indeed increase – of exploitation, poverty, prejudice, competition and alienation, it was clear that society was not practising "buen vivir".

Economic growth led to an enhanced quality of life; such growth, however, did not always entail purely financial wealth but the provision of material goods and services to satisfy the needs of all. Namibia had done much since its independence to consolidate and invigorate its economy and, as part of its strategy "Vision 2030", had placed great emphasis on the welfare of all citizens, human development and equitable growth. As part of that strategy, several other policies and strategies had been introduced to improve overall quality of life, capacity-building and the development of skills, enabling people to become active economic partners, not merely job-seekers, and to turn Namibia into a more prosperous, industrialized nation. To address developmental imbalances, all government institutions had also been encouraged to accelerate the decentralization of public services.

When formulating a set of post-2015 sustainable development goals, it would be important to learn from the experience of the MDGs and to ensure that parliaments, as centres of democracy and strategic points of influence, were involved at the beginning of that process and in monitoring progress towards achieving the goals.

Mr. P. BURKE (Ireland) said that Irish parliamentarians were committed to ensuring that good governance was at the heart of Ireland's official development policies. Through its official development assistance (ODA) programme, Ireland invested in projects to strengthen democracy and enhance accountability in partner countries, as good governance and protection of human rights were central to poverty reduction and development. There was clear evidence in those countries that aid was working and the Irish Government aimed to reach a target of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA by 2015.

A 2006 white paper on the Government's policy on development assistance was currently under review and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade had identified that the threat to civil society in some developing countries greatly hindered the promotion of good governance. Following another review by the Joint Committee on European Affairs, it was affirmed that exchanges between parliamentarians on approaches to improving human rights and governance were a fruitful means of promoting them. That review had also welcomed the strong human rights ethos that underpinned all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with which Ireland worked.

The MDGs had provided a valuable international framework for reducing global poverty and inequalities and had made the international community more accountable for its efforts in that regard. In its official aid policy, Ireland had identified poverty reduction as a central objective and had also identified ways the country could contribute to achieving the MDGs. Looking ahead

to the post-2015 development agenda, Ireland advocated for an approach that brought together poverty eradication as well as a route to sustainable development and echoed the IPU's calls for democratic governance to be included within that new development framework. The limitations of the MDGs would, however, need to be addressed, particularly in the areas of human rights, economic growth, and peace and security.

Mr. J.-O. LEE (Republic of Korea) said that a number of global trends had captured worldwide attention in recent times and were apt to mention in a discussion on growth and development.

Demographic shifts, including decreasing fertility rates, ageing populations, and increasing life expectancies, raised fears of a possible deterioration of future growth and quality of life as the economically active population further declined. Technological development had accelerated, but with competition for technological progress came a widening knowledge or information gap, which aggravated economic polarization between countries. Environmental and resource-related problems continued to worsen and, of particular concern, it was expected that emerging economies would maintain high growth rates, leading to a considerable increase in global energy demand by 2030. The world economic landscape had changed; no country had been immune to the impact of the global financial crisis, but with growth rates highest in emerging economies and regional integration being strengthened, predicting risk in the world economy had become much more difficult. A multi-polarization of the political environment had occurred as, with the development of technology and communications, political participation by individuals and civil society had changed dramatically and, as a result, social conflict had become more complex. Lastly, leisure time was now more highly valued as was a qualitative approach to cultural activities, with people demanding more recreational activities as incomes rose. Against that backdrop, focusing on unrelenting growth rather than improved quality of life was no longer an option.

The trends showed that all people were heavily interdependent; all must share the challenges facing the world but also devise common solutions. His country understood well the contrasting views of developing and developed countries and it had itself moved from the former to the latter category. It was now able to provide assistance for socio-economic development in other countries, and could present solutions based on its own unique experiences.

Inclusive growth was needed, with the recognition that growth must always come hand-in-hand with, not before, distribution and that green growth – with investments in welfare and the environment – was the engine to drive future growth. To achieve inclusive growth, developed countries needed to share experiences of economic development and welfare systems with developing countries with a view to enhancing the quality of life. The Republic of Korea proposed that a green growth council be established within the IPU to facilitate that exchange at the parliamentary level and was willing to contribute in the light of its own experiences of rapid growth.

Ms. S. HASSAN SIEDHAMED EDREAS (Arab Parliament) said that with so many tumultuous events in the world, discussion and cooperation between parliamentarians to ease difficult political and economic situations was paramount. A strong commitment to peace, security and sustainable development was needed at all levels. Purposeful development would require both social and economic development that improved living conditions for all people, especially those living in rural areas, and would need to promote social justice and secure the basic necessities for people, including water, food, and access to health services and education. Such development would also require the appropriate allocation of funds to relevant activities in all countries; as such, any sanctions imposed on particular countries and which hindered development should be removed.

Good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights were vital. In particular, women and children needed protection from violence in conflict areas and women needed to be empowered to enter parliaments and other democratic institutions to participate in decision-making processes.

Parliaments needed to scale up their efforts to ensure that international laws and standards were upheld. Despite the differences in size, populations and cultures between countries, all needed the same access to justice and to be treated equally on the world stage. While the United Nations should command the respect of all Member States, reform was needed to ensure that the organization accurately represented the current world situation, especially within the Security Council.

The Arab Parliament called for an end to the occupation of Palestine by Israel and urged all countries to provide aid to the Palestinian Legislative Council to bolster its ability to provide development and decent living conditions to the Palestinian people.

Ms. D. PADIERNA (Mexico) said that the philosophy of “buen vivir” provided a new perspective on the world’s current social, economic and political crises. It entailed changing the world order, with emerging major economies bringing an end to the current neoliberal model. A number of Latin American countries and others such as Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) had made the greatest advances in human development according to the United Nations, and through a variety of social policies they had lifted millions out of poverty and improved the living standards of their populations. Meanwhile, many western powers were suffering from the after-effects of recession and the financial crisis. The economic models they had followed had been shown to no longer function; with the bail-out of many institutions, restricted welfare budgets, austerity and an overall reduction in quality of life for many, it was time for countries to turn from market-driven capitalism to the philosophy of “buen vivir”.

Development should not be solely centred on economic growth but should be based on participatory democracy and should promote well-being for all, the preservation of nature and decentralization. Humankind should control globalization, rather than the other way around; there was a growing appreciation for the concepts of the globalization of solidarity, well-being and humanity’s resources, all of which, within the United Nations, now formed the basis for sustainable development.

Constitutional and legislative work needed to be guided by the values of regional unity, equality, dignity, reciprocity, fair distribution, and a right to and culture of peace. Parliamentarians had a particular responsibility to ensure that national laws promoted well-being and respect for the environment.

It was also essential that laws, public policies and budgets promoted equality between men and women, as it was time to put an end to violence towards and oppression of women for good.

Mr. P. DOUSTE-BLAZY, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development, said that all citizens of the world had a responsibility to live in accordance with the principle of equality. Levels of poverty and the gap between the rich and the poor, however, had never been as great as at present. Aid had in the past always come from western countries but, with so many of them experiencing ever growing debts and deficits, the flow of aid had been constrained.

There had long been a globalized economy, but what was needed now was a globalization of solidarity. He highlighted the example of UNITAID and its innovative financing mechanisms; several countries had agreed to establish a levy on air travel – as little as US\$ 1 per ticket – which had now raised over US\$ 2.2 billion in five years towards the treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Several European Union (EU) Member States had now also agreed to implement a tax of 0.1 per cent or below on financial transactions. Such small-scale contributions were barely noticeable to travellers or those in the financial sector, but they made the difference between life and death for millions of others around the world.

He urged all parliamentarians to consider implementing such schemes in their own countries.

Mr. I.B.R. AL-KUWARI (Qatar) said that the topic under discussion was an important one that required serious debate if recommendations were to be developed that lived up to the expectations of the people. It was essential to promote cooperation between countries and to ensure peace, security and sustainable development for all. Qatar was proud to participate both at the IPU and the United Nations to promote international cooperation in a number of areas.

Qatar also worked with civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote transparency and accountability and to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights. The country had established a national commission on human rights and placed particular importance on the rights of women and children.

His country followed with interest what was happening in Syria and Palestine, and hoped that the IPU would bring pressure to bear on the relevant authorities to end those troubling situations and stop the suffering of the people.

Ms. J. MACALESHER, Penal Reform International, said that while the MDGs had acknowledged the many dimensions of poverty, they had paid little attention to social injustice and had not reflected the need for universal human rights. Sustained development could only be achieved in a just society that was based on universal access to justice and the rule of law, where all people – including the marginalized – could benefit.

In many countries, however, criminal justice systems were unfair and discriminatory. They also both caused and deepened poverty. People who came into contact with those systems were disproportionately from poor and marginalized backgrounds and often came into conflict with the law as a symptom of their poverty. They were more likely to be handed prison sentences and the social stigma of criminalization then created a cycle of poverty, as those with criminal records were less likely to find meaningful employment, which had a disproportionate effect on them and their families. The cycle of poverty was then inherited by the next generation as those with incarcerated parents had poor or no access to primary education and were more likely than their peers to commit offences, causing poverty to endure over a lifetime or even generations.

The cost of detention had a serious socio-economic impact, not least because precious resources were diverted from other needs such as health care and education. Development strategies prioritized economic growth, but in order to protect the freedom and equality of all people, fair, non-discriminatory criminal justice systems and universally accepted legal guarantees also needed to be promoted. As the post-2015 development agenda was being worked out, parliamentarians could play a crucial role by highlighting unfair criminal justice systems as a driver of poverty and stressing the need to promote the rule of law and access to justice for all.

Mr. J. ERTSBORN (Sweden) said that with globalization and high economic growth, the world had changed dramatically in the past half a century. Technological advances and innovation had provided the means to tackle global challenges and lift many out of poverty, but the objective of eradicating poverty and oppression had yet to be achieved. The post-2015 development agenda needed to start from the perspectives of those living in poverty. Parliamentarians had a moral responsibility to support the vulnerable and oppressed; as the voice of the people, they should take a leading role in ensuring that the final proposals for that development agenda were based on broad consultation processes in which all social groups, and in particular the poor, participated.

Parliamentary knowledge and expertise must inform consultations on the development agenda, especially with regard to how democratic governance and accountability should underpin a new development framework. Democratic governance was essential to sustainable development and ensuring that, together, people could manage global challenges. Ensuring human rights and equal rights and opportunities for all, particularly women and young people, would be crucial to growth, increased prosperity and sustainability. A focus on compassion and

solidarity was needed; poverty was often a factor in conflict, disease and environmental degradation, and when poverty and injustice were reduced, the world became a safer and more peaceful place.

In order for future generations to have the same opportunities as the present one, vital ecosystems needed to be safeguarded. The most vulnerable were always those most affected by environmental degradation and parliamentarians therefore had a responsibility to drive forward demand for responsibly produced global commodities. There could be no sustainable development without social, economic and ecological sustainability. Parliamentarians needed to underscore the importance of democratic societies in achieving “buen vivir” and a sustainable future for all.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland) said that the international community, while concerned with preserving the planet’s biodiversity, also wanted to guarantee conditions for a good life for all. Sustainable development encompassed the two, allowing development but also preserving the environment. At present, however, not enough was being done to ensure that the next generation would inherit a planet as healthy as the one handed down to the previous generation.

It would feel burdensome to many to give up certain commodities but, by not doing so, the environment would not long be able to sustain current levels of consumption. The burden needed to be shared by all but, while most agreed that phenomena such as global warming or overexploitation of natural resources were harmful to the environment, there was still a lack of urgency in combatting them as such concepts were often difficult to grasp.

The idea of common burden-sharing compelled the well-off to help those in need; taxpayers in donor countries would be more willing to contribute to aid projects if they could see positive tangible results for people and the environment. The media had an important role to play by reporting accurate information about those results. The cost-effectiveness of action also needed to be assessed, as it was economically sensible to seek ways of reducing the greatest amount of environmental damage using the least possible amount of money.

No country should be denied the right to pursue development and it was clear that the idea of social sustainability also needed to be incorporated into sustainable development. In the post-2015 development agenda, however, the notion of growth needed to be revised and greater value needed to be attributed to a clean environment and social equality.

All countries needed to reconcile guaranteeing good living conditions with preserving the environment by allocating resources to cleaner, more efficient and economical solutions.

Ms. P. FOUTY-SOUNGOU (Congo) said that humankind faced many crises in the world, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic and political instability and it would not be possible to achieve development or maintain stable economies without finding appropriate solutions to those crises. Political instability was in particular a threat to security and democracy; the fragility of young democracies had been highlighted by recent events in Mali and the Central African Republic. Those and other countries needed support if their democratic institutions were to be strengthened and last. The Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts in the Middle East also had repercussions for the rest of the world in terms of peace and security. Those involved in resolving those conflicts needed to redouble their efforts to find a satisfactory outcome for all parties.

Given their relationship with their constituents, parliamentarians could play a key role in conflict prevention, especially through educating the public and countering the influence of negative forces that caused and prolonged conflicts. By engaging in conflict resolution, parliamentarians could also safeguard democracy and promote development and a stable economy.

The Republic of Congo had implemented policies to strengthen governance, peace and security and had also adopted a number of social, health and education measures to improve the quality of life and development of its population.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) welcomed the opportunity provided by the Assembly for parliamentarians to make real headway towards sustainable development that would benefit all people. The Palestinian people, who had suffered occupation for many years, aspired to a world free of oppression and injustice.

The Palestinian Legislative Council wanted to bring an end to the conflict with Israel and had throughout the years complied with international law and accepted the conditions of all relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other bodies. The Israeli occupying authorities, however, had not adhered to many of the resolutions that they had themselves agreed to, including provisions on restricting the building of settlements.

Several thousand Palestinians were being held in Israeli prisons, including women, children and political prisoners and the Israelis frequently prevented access by Palestinians to basic necessities, including water, which was vital for health and agriculture. He called on the international community to denounce such behaviour and to urge Israel to comply with the provisions of all relevant resolutions and international law.

Mr. D. FILMUS (Argentina) said that “buen vivir” should be a key priority for all parliaments; it was no coincidence that indicators had shown that Latin American countries – which had already adopted the philosophy of “buen vivir” – had in recent years been among those with highest levels of growth and improved well-being among their populations.

He welcomed the calls by the President of Ecuador to bring neo-colonialism to an end, and thanked Latin American countries for unanimously endorsing Argentina’s calls at the United Nations for direct bilateral dialogue between Argentina and the United Kingdom regarding the dispute over the Falkland Islands/Malvinas.

Nearly all Latin American countries had been subject to dictatorships in the 1970s and to the neoliberal policies of their governments in the 1990s; although the latter had led to economic growth, it had been at the cost of improving social equality. By the end of that decade, many countries in Latin America had in fact been worse off, with poorer populations and low levels of education, health care and housing. The situation had proven that economic growth alone was insufficient to achieve real development; proving all people with a good quality of life or “buen vivir”, social progress and access to the benefits offered by democracy were also crucial.

Regarding the post-2015 development agenda, clear lessons needed to be learned from the limitations of the MDGs. Priorities needed to change and appropriate strategies and funding were needed to fulfil them. The new goals needed to incorporate the concept of “buen vivir”, through the targets of improved social equality, better income distribution and equitable access to health care, food and housing. Parliaments should play a key role in monitoring progress towards the new goals and ensuring that the targets for equality were met.

The sitting rose at 4.35 p.m.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

The PRESIDENT invited the Secretary General to introduce the proposals for the subject of the emergency item.

The SECRETARY GENERAL announced that six proposals for the subject of an emergency item had been submitted (A/128/2-Inf.1.rev.1), as follows:

- Should the deliberate destruction of world cultural heritage not be considered as a crime against humanity? The role of parliaments in: 1) passing appropriate legislation to guarantee protection of world cultural heritage; and 2) developing international criminal law provisions that criminalize serious attacks on the cultural heritage of humanity (Morocco);
- That homosexuals are entitled to full rights of citizenship. It is the role of parliaments to pass legislation that decriminalizes homosexuality and homosexual acts between consenting adults (New Zealand);
- The role of parliaments in achieving international peace and security through a peaceful settlement of the Syrian crisis (Syrian Arab Republic);
- The status of Syrian refugees: The role of parliaments in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards those refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them (Jordan);
- Unaccompanied migrant children around the world (Mexico);
- The security and humanitarian impacts of the crisis in Syria, including in neighbouring countries (United Kingdom).

He outlined the procedure to be followed, pursuant to Assembly Rule 11.2, for voting on an emergency item for inclusion in the Assembly agenda.

The PRESIDENT invited the six delegations to make a presentation on each of their proposals.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco) underscored his delegation's deep concern over the global impact of the desecration or destruction of world cultural heritage. The international community remembered the tragic fate of the Bamiyan Buddha statues in Afghanistan and the damage to other cultural assets and archaeological sites during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and more recently in Libya, Syria and Mali. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict stated that damage to cultural property belonging to any people meant damage to the cultural heritage of all humanity and, against that backdrop, Morocco wished to propose the matter for inclusion as an emergency item and to urge the IPU to join the efforts of the United Nations to develop a framework convention on the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of humanity, especially in countries in situations of armed conflict or under occupation.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) said that her delegation had made its proposal in response to its concern over the growing number of debates in some countries on criminalizing or recriminalizing homosexual acts and in the hope that the IPU would debate the issue and become a champion of human rights for all. It also seemed an appropriate follow-up to the Québec City Declaration, adopted at the 127th Assembly, which noted that discrimination should not occur based on culture, race, colour, language, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation or political affiliation.

Since submitting its proposal, New Zealand had been advised that the matter could be addressed through other channels within the IPU. Her delegation therefore wished to withdraw its proposal for the emergency item but requested that the subject be included in the report of the IPU's Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights under the title "Sexual orientation and gender identity rights: The role of parliamentarians in affirming these rights in legislation".

Mr. M. HAJJAR (Syrian Arab Republic) stated that the war his country was experiencing was unparalleled in history, but now set a dangerous precedent in terms of its repercussions on world peace and stability. For the first time, terrorist groups were involved in the attempt to change the rulers of a country; moreover, other States were intervening in the internal affairs of the country by financing and providing weapons to those groups and facilitating their movements in the region.

Murder, suicide attacks and other barbaric acts were occurring every day in Syria and people around the world would now be looking to the IPU and assessing its credibility based on its response to the situation in Syria. How could the Organization maintain its credibility if it neglected to act and decided instead to take up another subject as its emergency item?

The other proposed emergency items relating to the situation in Syria remained silent on the issues of terrorism. His delegation had put forward its proposal owing to the urgent need to put an end to the violence in Syria and to preserve the security of its people.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) said that, while all proposals for the emergency item were equally important, the situation of Syrian refugees should be considered as particularly urgent. The disastrous plight of Syrians in refugee camps was a humanitarian catastrophe that needed to be resolved as soon as possible. If the mass movement of refugees from Syria to Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq continued at the current rate, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees predicted that there would be 4 million Syrian refugees by the end of the year. The huge social and economic burden on Syria's neighbouring countries was exacerbated by a lack of basic necessities, utilities and services and the consequences for the region in terms of security would soon reach a tipping point.

The situation in Syria would require a global, political solution and, to that end, all parliaments needed to act urgently to provide the necessary assistance to the countries taking in refugees and to the refugees in the camps before the threat to regional and international peace and stability worsened.

Further to consultations with other delegations, her delegation wished to amend the title of its proposal to:

“The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them”.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) said that, according to UNICEF, there were about 33 million migrants around the world who were under 20 years of age, many of whom were unaccompanied and/or under 11 years old. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to act in the interests of child migrants and, in particular, to ensure that legislation protected their human rights, which were often violated. Child migrants could be subject to trafficking, exploitation, violence, including sexual violence, and could even risk death, without any guarantee of reaching their intended destination. Parliamentarians needed to promote those children's rights to health, education, development and family life.

Recognizing that there were many important topics under consideration for the emergency item, she said that Mexico, with the support of GRULAC, wished to withdraw its proposal, but called for the issue of child migrants to be discussed at the 130th Assembly.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom) said that, with over 4 million persons now displaced within Syria and 1 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, the escalating humanitarian crisis posed an increasing threat to regional stability and international peace and security. A comprehensive and coordinated response was needed from all nations, including practical assistance to relieve the heavy burden placed on neighbouring countries as they dealt with those seeking refuge.

He informed the Assembly that, following a discussion with the Jordanian delegation about their respective proposals, the United Kingdom wished to withdraw its proposal in favour of Jordan's. He welcomed Jordan's amendment to the title of its item, which now incorporated the essence of the United Kingdom's proposal.

Following a roll-call vote (Annex VII, pages 196-198), the proposal submitted by the delegation of Jordan, and as amended during the meeting, was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 9.

Ms. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) welcomed the outcome of the vote and thanked all parliamentarians for deciding to place such an important humanitarian issue on the agenda of the present Assembly.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

Final Assembly agenda

- Item 1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 128th Assembly
 - Item 2 Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 - Item 3 General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development "buen vivir": New approaches, new solutions
 - Item 4 Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives
 - Item 5 Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development
 - Item 6 The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy
 - Item 7 Approval of the subject items for the 130th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 - Item 8 Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU
 - Item 9 The role of the parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them
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SITTING
OF SUNDAY 24 MARCH
MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

**Interactive dialogue session on the place of democratic governance
in the next generation of development goals**

The PRESIDENT explained that the interactive dialogue session would be moderated by the Secretary General of the IPU, Mr. Anders B. Johnsson.

Introducing the item, the MODERATOR informed the Assembly that there were three processes being undertaken at the international level regarding the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. The UN Secretary-General had set up a high-level panel on the post-2015 development framework, co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The IPU had been invited to participate in the discussions of that panel at its meeting in Monrovia earlier in the year to provide a parliamentary perspective. Two of the panellists at the current meeting, namely Ms. Kadaga and Mr. Chowdhury, had participated in that discussion. In addition, UNDP had started consultations with government, parliaments, civil society and academia at the national, regional and global levels. At the global level, those consultations had focused on specific themes, including governance, and UNDP had requested input from the IPU on that discussion, which had taken place in South Africa in February 2013 and had been attended by a number of parliamentarians, including the third panellist, Mr. Penadés. Lastly, a working group of 30 Member States had been created by the UN General Assembly to discuss the post-2015 development framework. Any comments made during the present discussion would be submitted to that working group by the IPU.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), Panellist, said that at a meeting in Liberia earlier in the year, there had been a discussion on the need to take stock of parliamentary perspectives when shaping the post-2015 development agenda. In the past, there had been significant frustration among parliamentarians about the lack of consultation on important issues both at the national and international levels. For example, her country's Constitution contained a provision preventing the Government from borrowing money from institutions such as the World Bank without parliamentary permission; however, the Government sometimes brought laws to parliament and requested that they be passed in a short period of time to ensure that they could get the loan. Such bills required closer scrutiny than the timeframe allowed. In addition, when country delegations appeared before the UN Committees, the United Nations should request the input of parliaments too. Parliaments were key stakeholders and their inputs were vital for running countries and programmes.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, observed that aspects such as representation, inclusion, accountability and transparency were key elements in democratic governance. It was important to differentiate between the concepts of governance and democratic governance and to decide whether democratic governance should be a goal in itself, rather than just an enabling action for other goals. If it did become a goal, it was vital that there were methods to measure, monitor and report on it. The IPU had developed standards to measure democratic governance as a whole. At the meeting in Monrovia, the issue of representative democracy had also been raised; it had been suggested that such democracy

meant including local government as well as parliaments as they were the ones that delivered actions at the local level. It was possible to build a strong case for including democratic governance as a goal; it was crucial to devise new ideas and bring new dimensions to the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, democratic governance could be seen as a driver for all other goals.

Mr. G. PENADÉS (Uruguay), Panellist, said that the main issue raised at the meeting in South Africa was the need for parliaments to play a key role in deciding on the new development agenda and in ensuring that their countries had healthy democracies. The United Nations took into account the opinions of NGOs and other stakeholders and should therefore listen to parliaments too. The issue should be given top priority by parliaments and the IPU. Therefore, he urged delegates to send that message to their governments so as to ensure that the new development agenda was truly participatory. Civil society representatives at the meeting in Monrovia had called for greater participation by the public sector in programmes and activities; it had also been suggested that the private sector too had an important role to play in public life. If so, the requirements for accountability would apply equally to the public and private sectors. A new definition of governance was also needed. It was important to focus on the issue of democratic governance and its role in the post-2015 development agenda as the discussions on the agenda were already taking place. He welcomed the high level of participation from women parliamentarians at the South Africa meeting.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, said that Mr. Penadés had raised an important point regarding how parliaments should position themselves. Governments tended to give more recognition to the opinions of civil society; parliaments were the mandated representatives of the people and it was vital for them to reclaim their leading role. Recent international programmes and resolutions had started to refer to a specific role for parliaments; therefore parliaments should position themselves as key institutions in the post-2105 development agenda.

Ms. S. AHMED MOHAMED (Sudan) said that the post-2015 development policies should take climate change and globalization into account; democratic governance was an important topic and a lofty goal. As representatives of the people it would be important for parliaments to investigate whether UN bodies were truly democratic. In order to highlight the importance of democratic governance, parliaments should work together to develop a global system based on a minimum level of democracy.

Mr. T. HAMEL-SMITH (Trinidad and Tobago) said that it was important to find the right vehicle and mechanisms to achieve any of the goals chosen as part of the post-2015 development agenda. Democratic governance was important but more was also needed; it was necessary to move beyond a democratic governance model to one of participatory democracy so that the ideas of constituents could be heard and taken into account. Technology was available to collect the opinions of the general public, but the challenge was to synthesize the information collected and channel them into meaningful and productive action. As such, an Internet portal should be created for each post-2015 development goal to enable the public to submit ideas on how to achieve them. Structures and mechanisms should be introduced to enable such participatory democracy.

Mr. K. DOUMBIA (Mali) recalled that gender equality was a significant part of the debate on governance and asked whether any consideration was given to intergenerational conflict, which also had a significant impact on sustainable development.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), Panellist, suggested that all strategies should begin with parliamentarians and the IPU creating a channel to enable parliaments to be part of the post-2015 process. A possible option would be for governments to state that they had consulted with parliaments, local governments and civil society when presenting their position to UN bodies.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, recalled that the point of the discussion was not to be prescriptive on the development goals; that was the prerogative of UN Member States. The idea was to discuss one possible strategic goal. Democratic governance would likely be the driver for all other goals. He welcomed the comment made by the delegate from Sudan regarding the need for a standard of governance and said that goals needed to be aspirational in nature. Any such standard needed to be applied at the national, regional and international levels and would also involve the UN system.

Mr. G. PENADÉS (Uruguay), Panellist, said that it was first vital to ensure that the issue of post-2015 development goals was included on the agendas of national parliaments. He agreed that it was important to set goals and that such goals needed to be ambitious. Parliaments also need to re-establish themselves as the overall representatives of the people and participate at the international level.

Mr. A. FATEH EL-BAB (Egypt) observed that it was essential to follow up on the MDGs; clarification was needed on the role of parliaments in that follow up and on the development of new goals. Some countries had been unable to fully achieve the MDGs due to insufficient resources. Fair trade was an issue that needed addressing as industrialized countries had a monopoly on such trade, often re-selling products for a much higher price, thus preventing developing countries from benefitting from their own produce. He welcomed the training courses for parliamentarians provided by the IPU and added that there should be an analysis of the progress made on the MDGs before new goals were developed.

Mr. T. AL-SEHRY (Egypt) asked about the role of parliaments in stopping nuclear proliferation and weapons of mass destruction.

Ms. I. AL-WAZIR (Palestine) agreed that before the discussion moved to the post-2015 development agenda, there first needed to be an assessment of fulfilment of the MDGs. Some countries still lived under occupation, and clarification was needed on the role of the parliaments of those countries with regard to the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. She strongly supported the concept of democratic governance and the idea that local government and national parliaments should participate in UN meetings.

The MODERATOR said that the IPU had been active in helping countries to achieve many MDGs, particularly those concerning gender equality and maternal, newborn and child health. The IPU's wealth of experience was being recognized at the international level, where UN resolutions had started to include language regarding the participation of parliaments and the IPU. The United Nations was carrying out a series of national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and had agreed to consult with parliaments. The IPU could assist by ensuring that they were able to participate in UN meetings. An online portal had been established to enable all to provide their views and suggestions; if parliamentarians identified themselves as such, it would be possible for the United Nations to disaggregate the data and identify the views expressed by parliaments. Although it was clear that significant progress had been made on the MDGs, it was also clear that some goals would not be achieved in a large number of countries; an analysis would be conducted by the United Nations in 2013. Although lack of financial resources had been a barrier to the achievement of the MDGs, it was not the sole issue; lack of democratic governance had also been a factor. The IPU had worked with 80 parliaments to define what was meant by democratic parliaments and had developed a tool to enable

parliaments to assess how democratic they were and the areas that needed improvement. Some countries had requested that the IPU revisit those tools and develop more precise indicators; such tools and mechanisms would be necessary if democratic governance was to become a goal as part of the post-2015 development agenda. Now was the time for parliaments to insist on the importance of democratic governance as a stand-alone goal.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), Panellist, said that it was necessary to draw lessons from the MDGs exercise.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, stated that parliaments could not solve all of the problems affecting the world, but they could work to make it better through debate, discussion and rectification. He hoped that parliaments would urge their governments to make democratic governance one of the post-2015 goals.

Mr. G. PENADÉS (Uruguay), Panellist, urged the Assembly to seize the opportunity to raise the profile of democratic governance. It was important to build on the progress made on the MDGs and display greater commitment.

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

Resumption of the debate

Mr. A. SHAHID (Maldives), expressing concern that despite the achievements of the modern world, many people still lived in poverty, said that the key to addressing that issue was access; everyone should have equal access to development. Achieving such a goal was difficult, however, and it was vital to improve government accountability and access to decision-making as part of any efforts to do so. Decisions must be taken for the benefit of all rather than for the few and governments should endeavour to engage citizens in their development programmes. In recent years, his country had moved from an authoritarian regime to a democratically-elected government; however it had proved difficult to translate the aspirations of the people into reality, particularly in a country that had limited experience of democratic governance and where the relatively long democratic processes were seen by many as a hindrance to development. There had also been increasing attacks by the executive and the judiciary on parliamentary power through harassment and threatening of parliamentarians and an increasing number of executive vetoes of bills. Democracy and good government were essential tools for sustainable development and in order for development to be balanced, all sectors of society, including women, had to be included and have the opportunity to participate.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) observed that there were no right answers in the search for an optimal approach to development, particularly as the challenges were becoming increasingly complex. Despite extraordinary economic progress in some countries, efforts were needed to address the situation of the many persons who continued to live in poverty in other countries. In addition, industrialized countries were increasingly affected by budgetary pressures, high unemployment and income disparities. Well-being should not be seen as a solely economic concept; efforts to catalyse economic growth should be accompanied by progress in governance. Governance was indissociable from the rule of law and human rights, respect for which was vital for an inclusive and sustainable development process. Far too many countries did not respect human rights on a day-to-day basis. Embedding human rights obligations in national and international approaches to development would guard against marginalization, exclusion and

arbitrary decision-making. In addition, economic growth could not give a complete picture of development and well-being; other social indicators such as the existence of economic opportunities for young people and access to health care and education should also be taken into account. In addition, parliamentarians should focus on ensuring that development was people-centred. To do so, legislation and budgets should be studied to analyse their impact on different groups and regions. Lastly, parliamentarians should strive for greater direct engagement with their constituents in order to listen to their concerns, respond to their questions and help them to find information and understand governmental policies and programmes.

Mr. M. UESUGI (Japan) said that after World War II, his country had strived for and experienced rapid economic growth which had had both positive and negative impacts similar to those currently being experienced by developing countries. It was important to learn from previous experiences in order to achieve technological development. Economic growth could only be achieved through urban development; urban and rural areas thus played a complementary role. Proper management of agricultural lands and forest helped to regulate the air, nurture water resources and prevent mud and landslides. In Japan, the focus on economic growth had led to a decline in agriculture and forestry, thereby reducing the multifunctional role played by those sectors. Partly as a result of that reduced role there had been an increase in natural disasters and the Government had been forced to increase its spending on recovery from those disasters. Sustainable development policies should include disaster prevention and acknowledge the important role played by the forestry and agricultural sectors in protecting and preserving the national environment and preventing natural disasters. It was essential to prevent the extreme decline of those sectors and parliaments had an important role to play therein. The Rio+20 Conference had discussed the idea of a new happiness indicator; in order to achieve sustainable development and the concept of “buen vivir” it was vital to share experiences and develop a new set of values.

Mr. T. AL SEHRY (Egypt) stated that politicians in his country had played an important role in ending the dictatorship and ensuring that basic rights were respected. The transitional period presented many social, political and economic challenges to aspirations of the people in terms of peace, freedom and human rights. The pillars of democracy were being put in place in Egypt but the IPU should urge parliaments to support its economy; financial support was required, together with the promotion of tourism. Egypt was a safe country to visit and increased levels of tourism would be beneficial for the country and its economy. In addition, the country was committed to playing a significant role in the region to help ensure peace. Achieving equality across all levels of society, including gender equality, was a key priority. Women played a vital role in society and legislation would be adopted to ensure that their rights were respected. The world was facing a number of interrelated and complex challenges that made development difficult in many countries. Parliaments could play a significant role in facing those challenges. He expressed support for the people of Syria and Palestine; the people of Palestine in particular were being denied their basic rights and many, including parliamentarians, were being held in Israeli prisons. He urged the international community to denounce that practice. Lastly, he stressed his country's strong commitment to combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region, including nuclear weapons. However, it should be noted that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was acceptable.

Mr. D. VAN DER MAELEN (Belgium) drew attention to the most recent Human Development Report published by UNDP entitled *The Rise of the South*, which showed that the shift from traditional dogmatic thinking to fact-based approach on development had been successful in a number of countries, particularly in Latin America, where the concept of “buen vivir” had been adopted in many cases. Traditional thinking imposed minimal State intervention, the immediate and total opening to free trade and structural adjustment programmes with far-reaching cuts to health and education funding. The report showed that

States that performed well had a proactive Government that actively supported and collaborated with the private sector to improve human development and opened gradually to world markets; in addition there was a positive correlation between public sector spending on health and education and human development. Industrialized countries were experiencing numerous challenges as a result of the economic crisis, including persistent joblessness, growing inequality and unsustainable public finances. Organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had started to look at different approaches in a bid to move away from traditional thinking. In fact, an OECD report had noted the need *inter alia* to revisit the objectives of macro-economic policies, upgrade governmental regulatory capacity and develop policies oriented towards well-being through reducing inequality and improving the environment and jobs. International cooperation would be vital to finding resources to finance policies promoting well-being. In addition, greater cooperation was needed to tackle tax havens and tax evasion.

Ms. A. Burke (Australia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. A. MAJALI (Jordan) noted that the world had reached an advanced stage of development but despite the improvements made to many peoples' lives, questions remained regarding the sustainability of such growth and its impacts on living standards and dignity. It was necessary to address the global wealth gap and ensure that development and growth were purposeful and reduced the suffering of the poor. New solutions were needed. Parliamentarians were the representatives of the people and had an important role to play in ensuring that democracy worked and in realizing the dreams and aspirations of the people. Political reform was often the first step to purposeful development and that was the responsibility of parliaments. Jordan had made significant strides through the adoption of new laws and a programme of reform. Turning to international conflicts, he said that Jordan had welcomed refugees from conflicts in the region, particularly from Syria and Palestine. He expressed concern that the international community had been unable to find a fair and just solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. He called on Israel to respect its international responsibilities and stop its interventions on Islamic sacred sites. Expressing appreciation for the support received from the United Nations and neighbouring countries in setting up refugee camps, he said that Jordanians were willingly sharing their resources with the refugees but if the situation was not addressed soon, there could be significant impacts on infrastructure. It was the duty of the international community to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict before it dragged the whole region into war.

Mr. S. KIRICHUK (Russian Federation) observed that the world was experiencing profound political, social and economic changes. Sustainable development was vital as it would satisfy the needs of the current society without threatening the potential of future generations. It was important to recognize that the global ecosystem was exhaustible and policies should take into account natural resources. Russia was integrating sustainable development into its policies and economy but it should be noted that each State should have the right to choose optimum models of organization to ensure that they reflected and reacted to national circumstances. It was imperative that the implementation of a green economy should not result in new barriers to international trade and fair trade should be supported and increased. He welcomed the intergovernmental process that had begun to discuss the post-2015 development agenda and the decision taken by the EU on the need for sustainable financial systems among its Member States. Although the situation was more positive, it was necessary to continue activities in that area and Russia was prepared to participate in the development of actions to strengthen economic and financial sustainability in the EU. The global financial system should also be reformed in order to foster sustainable economic growth. The main aim of the Russian Government was to ensure the well-being of its citizens and as such, Russia had adopted measures to improve the export climate and increased budget allocations for social policies. A national strategy on children's development had also been approved.

Mr. J. KUBATA (Czech Republic) observed that economic growth and development should not lead to the degradation and exhaustion of natural resources as prosperity was dependent upon such resources. GDP should not be considered as the sole measure of economic progress as it ignored the value that natural resources contributed to wealth, health and prosperity. Sustainable development goals should be linked to the MDGs and should form the sole framework for the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account economic and social interests and environmental impacts. His country had implemented the Green Savings programme, which focused on heating using renewable energy sources, investment in energy-saving initiatives in new buildings and the provision of quality insulation for family homes. The programme had been funded through the sale of emission credits under the Kyoto Protocol and was widely supported by the public. However, it was important to note that compared with other countries, the Czech Republic produced a relatively low level of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. C.A. NUÑEZ (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS - UNAIDS) said that the AIDS response faced a number of challenges, in particular gender-based violence and a lack of progress in maternal and newborn health. Gender-based violence, including violence against transgender populations, often went un-investigated and unpunished and there was currently an alarming correlation between HIV infections and the number of women experiencing violence. Human rights and social justice were the cornerstones of an equitable and effective development response and parliamentarians had a key role to play in ensuring such development was achieved. In AIDS response programmes it had been noted that stigma and discrimination were counterproductive for development and deterred people from accessing treatment; ensuring access for all would enable people to live healthy lives and would also be a long-term investment that would further economic development. He welcomed both the suggestion by the delegate from New Zealand for a more open discussion on the criminalization of homosexuality and the increased participation of young parliamentarians in the current meeting. UNAIDS had been one of the first organizations in the world to use crowdsourcing to communicate with and collect the opinions of young people.

Ms. S. AHMED MOHAMED (Sudan) said that new approaches and solutions were needed, including a new definition of development. Her country placed great emphasis on the importance of family as the main nucleus of society and the driving force behind development. Development was an important topic for developing countries, which had often suffered from a lack of economic progress and overexploitation of their natural resources. Efforts were needed from the international community to address issues such as education, health care and poverty and to ensure a balanced distribution of wealth. Policies were needed to make economic development a global reality based on high moral values and parliaments could play a vital role through legislation and oversight activities. In addition, development assistance should not be subject to abusive conditions and developed countries should relinquish their monopoly on scientific and research data. Good governance and justice were also vital elements for sustainable development; countries were all different and it was necessary to rethink priorities and the causes of political and economic conflict. Globalization served to make the strong stronger and the weak weaker and new legislation was required to make globalization a mechanism to achieve development and fight injustice. Her country placed great importance on the role of women in society. Lastly, parliaments should play a key role in bringing an end to the occupation of Palestine and in respecting all cultures to ensure the well-being of all peoples in the world.

Mr. V. GAPSYS (Lithuania) stated that the sustainable use of resources and the efficient use of energy and ecosystems might have a positive impact on economic growth and job creation. A shift in focus towards green growth was vital to prevent further destruction of natural capital; innovation underpinned by a stable system of intellectual property was thus essential. Economic growth had been seen as a top priority, thus neglecting two other pillars of sustainable development, namely social equality and environmental protection. Lessons needed to be

learned from the financial crisis to ensure that there was no return to debt-based economic growth. He urged all countries to commit to establishing a more ambitious goal on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The post-2015 agenda should have sustainable development at its core, together with human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance. Support provided to developing countries should be adapted to their development needs and situation, as well as their progress in the areas of human rights, democracy and good governance. Parliaments should play a more significant role in the development of a political, economic and social agenda and ensure that the post-2015 development agenda was part of their everyday work. Lithuania would soon take over the Presidency of the EU Council; its key priorities were to obtain financial stability to restore the credibility of the EU economy, increase growth and encourage greater integration and the continuation of the enlargement process.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom) noted that in the past few decades many countries had seen social and economic progress, advances in technology and science and increasing health and prosperity; those changes were a reflection of peoples' hard work, aspirations and innovation. In developing countries, aid had been an important part of international development efforts, however, in the post-2015 development agenda, greater efforts were needed to tackle the causes of poverty rather than just deal with its effects. Programmes to prevent and control malaria, provide vaccinations, ensure access to safe drinking water and to support women must continue, but if developing countries were to grow and prosper in the long term, it was vital to cultivate open economies and societies that respected the human rights of all, including women and minorities and that ensured a free media, governmental integrity and the freedom to participate in society. He reminded the Assembly that when they had first been conceived, the MDGs had been seen as too ambitious; however, significant progress had been made thanks to them. It was crucial to build on that success and work to make all countries self-sufficient. Businesses had an important role to play in economic development; the private sector was often the main source of job creation in many developing countries. Poor governance affected the pace of progress in many countries and, as such, his country had increased the resources allocated to parliamentary-strengthening initiatives. He therefore supported the efforts of the IPU to place democratic governance on the post-2015 agenda.

Mr. B. SANGAJAV (Mongolia) said that experience had shown that cooperative and mutually beneficial development was more effective than individual attempts. His country had taken steps to introduce democracy and an open economy, strengthen peace and security in the region and the world and further cooperation with other countries. The rich natural mineral resources in Mongolia meant that foreign investment would play a significant role in the country's progress and economic development and the Government was taking steps to attract foreign investment by creating a favourable tax and business environment. Mongolia had made some progress in improving its legislative and regulatory framework and the economic growth had created new jobs. However, more needed to be done to ensure sustained economic growth; Mongolians expected to see more qualitative changes to their lives and increased cooperation was required to promote the well-being of citizens. However, economic growth did not always have positive impacts; Mongolia had seen high rates of inflation and environmental degradation. In addition, the dependence of the Mongolian economy on minerals made it vulnerable to fluctuations on the global market. There was now a focus on developing environmentally-friendly processing industries based on a green development model. The main challenge was ensuring that all citizens benefited equally from economic growth.

Ms. T. BACKMAN (Iceland) observed that a change in thinking was needed regarding economic development so that well-being and the effect on the ecosystem were also taken into account. For example, multinationals had been guilty of trying to exploit the natural resources of different countries without taking into account the effect on nature and local communities. In order to achieve sustainable development, greater focus should be placed on achieving gender

equality; women should be part of the decision-making processes in all areas, both in companies and in governments as they had different approaches to problem-solving and prioritization and the value of their input should not be underestimated. Climate change represented a significant and possibly irreversible threat to humanity and required an urgent, global response. It was also responsible for deepening the food crisis as crop failures were increasing, causing food shortages and increasing the risk of violent conflict. Women were most likely to suffer from the effects of climate change but were also the most capable of bringing about change in local communities, although to do so they needed the power and tools to turn their knowledge into solutions. Lessons needed to be learned from the MDGs and greater focus should be placed on concepts such as the green economy and fair trade. Discussions had already begun at the United Nations regarding the post-2015 development agenda and steps were being taken within that institution to change mind-sets and focus on the importance of happiness and well-being as universal goals.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) opined that many international and national structures created systems of exploitation and promoted the power of one person or group over others, including the power of human beings over nature. That had led to climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, violence against women, homophobia, inequality and war. She welcomed the concept of “buen vivir” and the fact that Ecuador protected sexual orientation and gender identity in its Constitution, thereby recognizing the importance of diversity and honesty. New Zealand believed in a new development model that included everyone and eliminated discrimination and hate-based crimes. Culture should not be seen as a separate element from religion or sexuality. She had profound respect for all cultures and religions but did not see that any culture or religion had the right to make homosexuals choose between being true to themselves and being afforded basic human rights. Denying the rights of so many people would make it impossible to achieve the required global balance.

Mr. X. PHOMVIHANE (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) observed that in the past there had been a focus on steady macro-economic growth, leading to increased industrialization, modernization and infrastructure development; however, that focus had not adequately addressed the quality of life, well-being and happiness of the people, particularly as the benefits of economic growth were often not shared equally among the population. Countries needed to revisit their development strategies to include social development and environmental protection as major elements, thus making all development meaningful to the lives of ordinary people. Sustainable development would only flourish in a just and moral society with good governance. Sustainable development and poverty reduction had become a priority in his country and significant progress had been made through the National Socio-Development Plan in areas such as school enrolment, maternal mortality rates and access to basic services. Peace was also a vital component of the concept of “buen vivir”.

Mr. P. BIERI (Switzerland) said that development and economic growth often disregarded the environment and the well-being of people. The principle of “buen vivir” enabled reconciliation between those aspects and proved that a development model that took into account the environment and social well-being was possible. Switzerland had advocated the concept of a green economy for many years and adoption of such an economy was becoming increasingly urgent; at present, humanity consumed one and a half times the natural resources available each year. The adoption of a green economy would only be possible through dialogue between the public and private sectors and between the political and economic spheres. In addition, the concept should not be limited to the use of renewable energy; rather it should be looked at in a holistic manner across all sectors. That could be done through both public and private initiatives. For example analyses by environmental impact assessment agencies could be used by investors to create an ethical portfolio that took into consideration production conditions as a basis for investment. State support for such initiatives would be vital. It was also important that each country should define its own sustainable development strategies, although the

importance of increased international cooperation in that area should not be underestimated. The United Nations Global Compact was one example of such cooperation which, although important, was not sufficient as it was not legally-binding and therefore did not enforce real engagement by signatory companies on their social and environmental responsibilities. The Assembly should take action to increase the responsibilities of signatories to the Compact. Regarding the concept of “buen vivir”, it was important that all cultures heightened their awareness of their historical roots in order to live in harmony with nature. In addition, greater inter-parliamentary cooperation on environmental issues was needed to achieve positive results.

Mr. D. XIMENES (Timor-Leste) noted that the world was now more interdependent than ever and that it was important that countries were aware of the shared responsibility they had to forge consensus in the face of differing politics and views, interconnected economies and competition between national and international interests. Globalization had served to make the strong stronger and had created a world where economic interests subjugated freedom and the neediest. Courage was needed to change the path being followed and fight injustice and hypocrisy. The fight for independence in his country had been based on dreams and hopes for a better and fairer world; but globalization had created rules and initiatives that only benefited the few. Reconciliation had been an important element in the building of Timor-Leste, as human rights violations had been committed in the fight for independence. Such reconciliation had reaffirmed the paradigm of mutual respect among different cultures and religions and supported the aspiration to live in peace based on respect for human dignity. Building inclusive societies and boosting peace and sustainable development were significant challenges and policies were needed to prevent polarization, confrontation, conflict and intolerance. Politicians had a crucial role to play and must ensure that future policies were not affected by other interests and lobbies, whether economic or regional.

Mr. F. Cordero Cueva, President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. S. ALI (Bangladesh) said that new approaches to development were necessary to complement existing mechanisms. Bangladesh had a democratic government that was responsive to the aspirations of the people; it was expected that by 2021 the country would have crossed the middle-income threshold and would be able to provide basic services and rights to all Bangladeshis. It was important to analyse how to redirect economic growth to well-being, existing good practices to promote well-being and what developed and developing countries could learn from each other. Regarding development, his country was currently focusing on the following areas: eradication of poverty and hunger; acceleration of balanced and environmentally-sound economic growth; gender equality; promotion of sustainable agriculture and land management; sustainable protection of biodiversity; promotion of climate change adaptation and mitigation; and promotion of human rights. Globalization had opened new avenues for development opportunities but had also created new challenges. Global cooperation was vital to achieve progress, peace and prosperity.

Mr. G. TERENCE (San Marino) observed that the sharing of experiences in forums such as the Assembly was necessary to accelerate the fight against poverty and the pursuit of greater food security. Many countries were dependent on food imports and prices were continuously increasing as a result of relentless population growth. Modernization of the agricultural sectors of developing countries would greatly assist their economic and social progress by creating better domestic food security and enabling them to become exporting countries. Some developing countries had sought foreign investments in that area, which could also carry potential indirect advantages for donors. Close synergies between farmers and rural communities should also be encouraged to elevate levels of food production. However, the benefits would not be reaped if investment was limited to creating an enclave of advanced agriculture in a dualistic system which small farmers would be unable to emulate. Internal policy measures that were favourable to

foreign investment and agricultural and rural development were needed to ensure that local agriculture could benefit from new technologies and the local economy was able to respond to new demands for inputs and services. Experience and knowledge-sharing, the creation of effective partnerships and a suitable national political context would also be vital.

Mr. P. PHALUSUK (Thailand) opined that the MDGs were a useful tool to achieve specific development gains as part of a broader development vision. One of the next challenges would be to develop a shared vision for the post-2015 development agenda for the benefit of all. At the Rio+20 Conference it had been stated that sustainable development should be central to development policy, inclusive and of benefit to all stakeholders. Sustainable economic growth was vital for poverty eradication and would help create opportunities for employment. The concept of a green economy should be incorporated into policies on sustainable development and there should be initiatives to enable private sector and civil society participation in such development. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were also crucial aspects needed for sustainable development. The post-2015 agenda should complement the MDGs and must have an overarching framework with specific goals to address social, economic and environmental issues. Parliaments must play a significant role in laying the groundwork for sustainable development and enabling democratic governance and guidance from the IPU was needed. Thailand had been active in enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries in areas such as investment, trade and the promotion of tourism.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

SITTING
OF SUNDAY 24 MARCH
AFTERNOON

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

Resumption of the debate

Mrs. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) paid tribute to the former President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, and said that the achievements that had been reached in terms of the MDGs had been unequal, and a lot remained to be done in the fight against hunger, poverty and social exclusion. The current economic crisis had had a significant impact on the poorest sectors of society and on development programmes. As such, new ideas and methods were needed to further economic growth for development and ensure that the benefits were more equitably distributed. In order to do so, sustainable development was needed and methods to achieve such development should take into account the different histories and cultures of the countries concerned. Unity that respected diversity was also vital. Parliamentarians and governments had significant responsibilities in the fight for survival of the human race. In addition, it was crucial that the Latin American and Caribbean region became a nuclear weapon free zone and did not cease its efforts for global disarmament and peace. Now was the time for concrete actions rather than rhetoric. Peace was vital for development, not least because the funds allocated to war could be used for ODA and to help developed countries honour their commitments. Moreover, she urged her fellow parliamentarians to condemn the blockade enforced against her country by the United States. Her country was in the process of updating its economic model through a series of popular consultations; more than 8 million citizens had participated in those to date. As a result, 68 per cent of the original proposals made by the government had been amended. Development could only be achieved by ending conflict, honouring commitments and promoting and developing inclusive public policies that guaranteed basic rights for all.

Mr. G. SILVA (Portugal) stated that economic growth was often the result of innovation and that society changed and developed on a day-to-day basis. The global economy had reached a threshold which should, in theory, guarantee a good quality of life for all. Unfortunately, that had not yet been achieved; it was necessary to continue along that path and readdress the balance between North and South. Each economy reacted differently to the various challenges encountered depending on its history and culture. On joining the EU, Portugal had adopted an economic growth model that placed social responsibility and the fundamental rights of the people at its heart. However, following the economic crisis, Portugal had seen a lack of intergenerational consciousness and had experienced high levels of public debt. Growth should not be sought solely because it was part of the adopted economic model; rather it should be a goal because it helped society to develop, by improving living conditions, well-being and access to basic services for all. In such a globalized world, countries should not neglect exports and the global market; trade between developed and developing countries could be beneficial to

both and would bring economic and social growth. Many countries had been obliged to stop nefarious practices such as child labour and excessive protectionism in order to join the European market. Economic growth in many developed countries had gone through a number of stages and lessons could be learned from those experiences in order to avoid making the same mistakes. Growth should focus on citizens and communities and should never exceed the limits of what was reasonable in terms of its effect on society and the environment.

Mr. U.H. CHUNG (World Scout Parliamentary Union) said that volunteering, philanthropy and sacrifice were enshrined in the Scout Promise; promotion of such ideas would contribute to the creation of a more enriching and humanitarian world. Promotion of the Scout spirit would help bridge the gap between developed and developing countries and reduce social divisions and corruption, thereby creating a well-balanced global community. The aim of the Korea Scout Parliamentary Association was to help young people, through education, develop into well-balanced persons with spirit as well as leadership and teamwork skills. If future generations became healthy leaders with profound love and respect for humanity, nature and peace, then it would be possible to go beyond religious and ethnic barriers and enjoy shared prosperity. He encouraged parliamentarians to support legislation that called for active public participation in Scout activities.

Mr. T. KÕIV (Estonia), acknowledging the leading role played by Ecuador in including protection of biodiversity in its Constitution and developing the concept of “buen vivir”, said that the ideas of sustainable development and “buen vivir” both aimed to address the issue of living well and in harmony with, and without damaging, the natural environment. He drew attention to a campaign developed in Estonia called “Let’s Do It!”, which had been established to encourage the general public to clear up rubbish dumped in the countryside and bring an end to illegal fly-tipping. The campaign had been extremely successful and had led to a worldwide campaign to which 96 countries had signed. Such an approach contributed to the concept of “buen vivir” as it promoted a clean living environment and helped to protect biodiversity. It also encouraged public participation and showed that by working together it was possible to improve well-being; everyone needed to play their part to protect nature and improve their living environment.

Mr. R.M. GARCÍA (Chile) opined that although the discussions and resolutions of the IPU were positive steps, it was vital that they did not remain only statements of intent; parliamentarians should make greater efforts to implement them. The Speaker of the National Assembly was responsible for a programme aimed at providing assistance to the people in Ecuador which could be used as an example for other parliaments. The IPU provided information on the legislation of different countries, which should be used as examples to help other countries develop similar legislation suited to their national circumstances. Efforts should be made to take advantage of the potential of the IPU to play a greater role within the UN community. In addition, the issue of transparency was also important. As public institutions, it was important to state clearly that the focus was on tackling inequality and poverty. In addition, if programmes were aimed at helping the poor, then 90 per cent of the programme’s funding should be dedicated to that goal, rather than being siphoned off to other areas.

Mr. K. PUTTERS (Netherlands) agreed that it was time to change the way of thinking with regard to economic growth, sustainable development and human rights. Although treaties had been signed on such issues, there had been a global lack of action since. It could not be denied that economic growth had brought benefits in terms of welfare, life expectancy, job creation, innovation and chances for a better life; however, new principles were needed to guide the growth of economies that supported democracy and the participation of all people and led to sustainable development. Those principles could include citizens’ and governments’ shared responsibilities with regard to well-being; international shared responsibilities on issues such as

equal partnerships in trade and respectful cooperation; developing innovation, clean technologies and sustainable food production; combining trade and development in order to share social responsibility in the context of regulated markets; and respect for all human rights and democracy in all countries. It was important to note that while extreme capitalism had brought negative consequences, the same could also be said for extreme socialism; accusing fellow countries of hostility in a forum such as the Assembly would take away from the common interest of open dialogue and cooperation. Open dialogue should enable all parties to stand for what they believed in while respecting other peoples' values and cultures. Lastly, it was time to make greater use of public-private partnerships to achieve trade and development goals and take more steps to ensure human rights, particularly with regard to the rights of minorities and the right to freedom of expression and a free press. Such efforts would transform current unrelenting growth into responsible citizenship and well-being for all. Parliamentarians had a vital role to play through urging their governments to implement such changes.

Mr. J.M. KATUPHA (Mozambique) said that dependency rather than interdependency was often the result of cooperation between developing and developed countries; that was evidenced by the impact of crises in developed countries on developing countries. In addition, advances in ICT had created a new vehicle for globalization and consolidated the role of capitalism. However, the increasing frequency of natural disasters, the volatility of oil prices, the collapse of the financial system and conflicts over resources showed that there was something wrong with the current development system. Unrelenting economic growth had not led to the well-being of all; the current development model could not continue as it placed the needs of the few ahead of the needs of the many. A model that combined quantitative and qualitative growth was vital. He drew attention to the participatory and decentralized development model adopted by his country, which focused on districts, and included an action plan aimed at increasing agricultural production, promoting employment through the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises, boosting self-employment and associations, empowering women and supporting the most vulnerable social groups. All stakeholders were involved in the development process, including local and traditional leaders. In addition, his country operated a co-management system in its parliament, enabling all parties with seats in parliament to participate in decision-making bodies. Any new development solution should focus more on human development than on economic growth. Such a process should be integrated, participatory and sustainable.

Mr. M.N. AKBARY (Afghanistan) observed that global cooperation was vital if economic and development challenges were to be addressed. The conflict experienced by his country had caused severe damage to its economy but the changes that had taken place since 2001 had led to significant progress. However, investment and assistance from the international community was still needed to help the people of Afghanistan stand on their own two feet and address remaining threats and challenges. In 2014, major changes would occur, including the withdrawal of coalition forces and the subsequent transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan armed forces, the transfer of political power through fair and transparent election process and the start of the reconciliation process with armed groups in the country. He urged the international community to continue to support those efforts, in particular with regard to investment, and training and equipping the armed forces. The economic crisis had had a negative impact on the global markets and on Afghanistan, but had led to a new focus on regional markets and economic integration. By working together, the world would be able to overcome terrorism and the economic crisis.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said that the importance of sustainable development and the need to meet the current needs of the people without harming future generations meant that the MDGs needed to be reassessed and developed based on the current needs of the people. Sustainable development must take into account social, economic and environmental dimensions

at the national, regional and international levels. Comprehensive development could not be achieved without democracy as it enabled citizens to participate in the development process. However, to reap the benefits of development and democracy, economic and social reforms were required. Developed countries should understand the needs of developing countries and provide them with assistance to develop their capabilities in those areas. Such assistance would enable developing countries to turn democracy from solely a decision-making tool to a mode of life that respected human rights and provided the necessary services to the population. Improving the prosperity and living standards of its citizens was of particular importance to Bahrain and it was working to improve health care, education and social services and to provide safety and security for its citizens. Democracy was important for creating an enabling environment for development and allowing civil society to participate in that area. Bahrain had developed a strategic plan for development that called for a comprehensive economic approach based on the principles of sustainability, competitiveness and equity. All parliaments should play a role in the elaboration and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and ensure that issues such as gender equality and human rights formed a significant part of that agenda.

Mr. P.A WIBOWO (Indonesia) stated that the rapid economic growth experienced in recent years had been the result of uncontrolled industrialization, excessive consumerism and the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources, which had had significant negative impacts on people's well-being. Therefore, an alternative or new development approach, such as the concept of "buen vivir", was needed. Indonesia had always striven to find a balance between people's rights to a good life and the rights of nature. The national economy was organized based on the concepts of solidarity and economic democracy and environmental considerations were always taken into account when it came to development. Now was the time for the IPU to contribute to discussions on new approaches and solutions to current global issues and he welcomed the efforts made by the IPU to participate in consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. That agenda should be discussed comprehensively through consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. Using "buen vivir" as an alternative development concept should take into account the achievements made with regard to the MDGs and the proposals for the post-2015 development agenda.

Ms. T.K. NGAN (Viet Nam) said that although significant progress had been made towards achieving the MDGs, challenges such as political uncertainty, the global financial crisis and climate change still remained. National development goals in all countries included the enhancement of living conditions as people were a central component of development. To ensure sustainable development, it was vital to link economic development and social well-being, while at the same time protecting natural resources and the environment. In that regard, Viet Nam had promulgated its Sustainable Development Strategy, with those concepts at its core. In addition, the Constitution was being amended in order to strengthen its protection of human rights. However, it was important to note that maintaining economic growth while ensuring social well-being presented many challenges, particularly for a developing country like Viet Nam, which had developed inclusive solutions to address those challenges. Parliamentarians from Viet Nam had also participated in inter-parliamentary dialogues on regional and international peace, security and sustainable development. Regional and global assistance, in particular human resources-related and technical assistance, was needed to tackle climate change, prevent and manage natural disasters and coordinate humanitarian relief and emergency response.

Mr. T. TESEMA (Ethiopia) acknowledged that the growth-centric development model followed by most countries needed rethinking and alternative models should be devised. There was a need to balance production and consumption with the availability and finite nature of natural resources. The world faced many challenges, some of which had already been acknowledged, while others, such as concern over competition for resources, increased levels of

inequality and social fragmentation, were slowly being recognized. Ethiopia had developed its Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy and would welcome support from the international community to assist through knowledge-sharing, skills-building and the promotion of low-carbon growth. The current economic model had resulted in a widening gap between the rich and the poor and was responsible for environmental degradation and resource exhaustion. In order to reverse that worrying trend, new models should incorporate and take into account the economic, political, social, cultural and environmental aspects of development. The Government of Ethiopia had placed health care, housing, education and poverty reduction at the top of its agenda and aimed to achieve carbon-neutral status by 2025; as such, it was endeavouring to improve the well-being of its population through its active participation in development and the fair distribution of the benefits arising from it. He welcomed the human-oriented approach of the concept of “buen vivir”, as well as its respect for the interconnected nature of the political, social, cultural and ecological aspects of well-being. Innovative policies were needed to balance growth with societal needs to achieve overall development. The idea of “buen vivir” provided a fresh perspective on development and enabled better understanding of the limitations of the current model. Lastly, parliamentarians should play a greater role in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. A. GOBBI (Algeria) observed that in recent times, economic development had been a key concern; the importance of such development should not be denied but it was also important to not neglect other aspects such as the environment and people’s right to a better life. Countries should aspire to development that improved the lives of the people in keeping with national traditions. Economic development had become a curse that destroyed natural resources and prevented some people from having a decent life. Parliamentarians should contribute to the development of an international culture that was able to manage the current unrelenting growth and transform it into sustainable growth that did not harm the environment or people’s well-being. A sustainable development approach had been adopted at the Rio+ 20 Conference that aimed to manage environmental, social and economic aspects, taking into account the situation of individual States. Algeria was endeavouring to implement Agenda 21 and its action plan and had always supported a balanced approach that was inclusive, transparent, responsible and effective. Parliamentarians need to play an active role and place pressure on their governments to strengthen partnerships, increase financial assistance to developing countries and enable women to play a greater role in public life. Areas and countries experiencing conflict also required greater attention and humanitarian relief should be provided, along with other steps, to promote dialogue.

Ms. M. ANDRÉ (France) recalled that the approach of Ecuador to growth meant that it did not only relate to the accumulation of wealth; it was also related to addressing inequalities, particularly gender equality, the preservation of the environment and universal access to education, health care and social security. The financial crisis had raised awareness in Europe of the need to change the traditional approach to economic growth to take into account social and environmental concerns. Overcoming inequalities was in the interest of all; despite impressive rates of development in some developing countries, inequalities between and within countries continued to deepen. Those inequalities were, in some part, the result of the economic crisis in the developed world and threatened international security and aggravated tensions between communities, particularly those related to ethnic or religious issues. The current growth model overused the planet’s natural resources and weakened the benefits gained by poorer countries. It was vital that all countries committed to addressing climate change; if not, the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic. A new development agenda that combined addressing inequalities and reducing poverty with preserving the environment and biodiversity was needed. Such an agenda must be ambitious, particularly with regard to gender equality, and must also be focused on improving food security, access to drinking water and sanitation, and access to

education, health care and employment. Parliaments should play a key role in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The participation of parliaments from developing countries in particular could be a powerful tool to raise awareness of the development priorities of those countries. Developing countries should be able to define their own development priorities and programmes and parliaments had an important role to play in that area. The IPU should play a pivotal role as it was a forum that enabled the sharing of experiences and best practices; it also enabled parliaments to closely follow the UN negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

The sitting was suspended at 4.25 p.m.

SITTING OF
TUESDAY 26 MARCH
MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 9.05 a.m. with Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

Resumption of the debate

Mr. V. MARINKOVIĆ (Serbia) suggested that despite the current crises, the world was moving towards economic, political, social and cultural integration. However, it was important that the integration process was based on the principles of social market economy, equal opportunities, social justice and solidarity. The IPU had an important role to play in ensuring the right to a dignified life for all citizens. Parliaments also had a pivotal role to play by passing legislation to create and foster an enabling environment for stable economic and technological development and overseeing executive and public administration action. However, those efforts were not having the same effect in all countries. In order to address that issue, cooperation and communication between parliaments should be strengthened in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences. In addition, efforts should be deployed to make the IPU more effective globally and enhance its role in achieving sustainable development and combating poverty.

Mr. J. SOARES (Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE), welcoming the discussion at the IPU on making Portuguese an official language of the Organization, said that the OSCE had been formed as a result of the Helsinki Final Act. The Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE also had difficulty ensuring that the ideas stemming from democratic debates had a real influence on the power of its Member Parliaments. The theme of the current General Debate was extremely important and politically relevant as the world was facing a number of different crises. Ecuador should serve as an example to other countries as it had faced its challenges with political audacity and had reaffirmed its democratic values.

Mr. T. WICKHOLM (Norway) observed that for many years, industrialized countries had placed too much emphasis on economic growth and consumption, which had also been adopted by many developing countries. Economic growth and the production of goods and services was vital to improve people's standard of living, but unbridled growth through mass production and consumption also had negative effects on the natural environment. Although the use of fossil fuels was threatening the environment, their use had become fundamental for the high standard of living enjoyed in many developed countries. Unfortunately, that meant that some factors driving good living standards in some countries had adverse effects on others. The definition of economic growth needed to be changed; the concept of “buen vivir” offered insights into other approaches and was a reaction to the negative environmental, social and economic effects of current development strategies. Gender equality was a crucial element of both economic growth and well-being; in Norway, 75 per cent of women participated in the labour market, which contributed greatly to the country's wealth and well-being. Studies in Norway had shown that

there was no direct correlation between wealth and happiness; happiness was dependent on a person's life choices. Politicians were responsible for providing citizens with a solid basis to enable them to make informed life choices. He suggested that societies that provided equal opportunities had the happiest inhabitants and said that despite the challenges faced; if the concept of "buen vivir" was applied to problem-solving approaches, only then humanity would be on the right track.

Presentation by, and interaction with, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, United Nations
Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator

Ms. R. GRYNSPAN (United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator) said that UNDP had long recognized parliaments as essential pillars of effective, inclusive and democratic governance. UNDP provided support to one in three parliaments worldwide to help them realize their full potential as drivers of development. The ground-breaking joint IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report contained strategies and lessons for parliamentarians on meeting public expectations and improving their relations with citizens. Economic growth was not sufficient to create the kind of world that people wanted; human development was about advancing well-being and expanding people's ability to live a meaningful life. Healthy, prosperous and educated people were the real drivers of development in their countries and communities. Despite the huge challenges that remained, significant progress had been made in the past decade on achievement of the MDGs. However, new approaches and solutions were needed in order to sustain that progress, particularly on gender equality, governance, environmental issues and demographic change. The IPU, UNDP and parliamentarians had a significant role to play in shaping an ambitious and achievable post-2015 development agenda. Consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including the public, on the post-2015 development agenda were taking place around the world. Honest and responsive government was one of the key priorities arising from those consultations.

The 2013 Human Development Report, *The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*, had highlighted that countries in the South were now driving global economic growth, lifting millions out of poverty and propelling billions into a global middle class. There had also been an increase in South-South cooperation in activities such as trade, investment and exchange of knowledge. The main drivers of such progress were strong, proactive States focused on development, countries successfully accessing global markets but also pursuing inclusive growth, and innovative social policies. Environmental degradation and social inequalities had been recognized as barriers to development, and many developing countries, including Ecuador, had adopted policies that took those issues into account. The Rio+20 Conference had acknowledged that environmental sustainability and development were closely linked and that the current levels of environmental degradation threatened the well-being of all. Expanding renewable access to energy and improving sanitation systems were clear ways to generate environmental benefits while at the same time raising productivity and improving people's lives. Effective and democratic governance was vital for sustainable development and parliamentarians had a central role to play as they were responsible for implementing ambitious policies and budgets and translating international commitments into national legislation. Cooperation and exchange of information between countries and parliaments would be vital for the implementation of the new development agenda. UNDP was in favour of changing the way progress was measured as it would help to move the focus away from GDP and income towards the well-being of citizens.

The delegate of MOROCCO stated his country's commitment to achieving the MDGs within the framework of South-South cooperation. In addition, a national initiative for human development based on democratic participation had been launched, leading to improved urban and rural living conditions and the implementation of a health and medical insurance scheme for

the poorer sectors of society. In order to ensure the sustainability of actions taken as part of any post-2015 development agenda, mechanisms were needed to control, monitor and evaluate activities. He wished to know if UNDP planned to update the indicators currently used to measure human development. For example, his country had developed indicators on living conditions, which included access to health care, water, electricity, communication, transportation and living standards, which were not included in the UNDP indicators.

Ms. R. GRYNSPAN (United Nations Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator) said that consultations had taken place in Morocco with significant participation on issues such as human development, human rights and good governance. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms would be crucial for the post-2015 agenda; the MDGs had developed a mutual accountability system between the international community and countries, which was a good basis. UNDP had been working for many years to develop indicators to measure progress and development; the result of which was the Human Development Index. However, the majority of countries continued to measure progress based on GDP; now was the time to develop a different measure that incorporated environmental and societal aspects. Some countries, such as Morocco were developing their own indicators, which could be used as an example by other countries. She hoped that the post-2015 development agenda would make it possible to find a better way to measure those aspects that were truly important, such as well-being. In addition, the IPU should contribute to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

Resumption of the debate

Mr. I. GIL LÁZARO (Spain) stated that a new definition of development was urgently needed in order to respond to current global challenges. Unlimited growth could not continue unchecked; growth should not be an end in itself but should be part of ethical development policies aimed at protecting the dignity of people, reducing poverty, ensuring peoples' rights to food, health care and water, and responding to the needs of those at the greatest risk of social exclusion. In order to foster equal opportunities for all, the gap between the rich and the poor must be reduced and discrimination eliminated. In addition, the equal sharing of resources was vital. Developed countries should not seek to impose their values and views on other countries. However, the principles of democracy should be strengthened at the national and international levels and citizens should enjoy greater participation in the decision-making processes in order to build a more transparent and efficient democracy that focused on fighting corruption and inequalities and defending plurality, diversity and basic rights. In order to achieve a better world, economic growth must be combined with environmental protection. Moreover, countries should focus on: developing sustainable energy models; increasing fair trade; guaranteeing the rights of children; supporting the fight for gender equality; combating trafficking in people, weapons and drugs; stopping tax evasion; renouncing war; and eliminating xenophobia and discrimination. Harmony between peoples and between people and the natural environment was also indispensable.

Mr. S. MIRSKIS (Latvia) remarked that the creation of global markets had accelerated entrepreneurship and technological progress and the Internet had enabled faster development of all processes. However, the global financial crisis had shown that the current economic model, which had replaced planned development with the principles of a self-regulating free market, needed to undergo significant changes. Crises tended to trigger a decrease in production volume, which increased unemployment and reduced income levels, ultimately increasing the social

burden on national budgets. Budget cuts then led to stagnation and recession. The financial crisis had the effect of widening the gap between the rich and poor, causing much of the middle classes to be among the poor. Unemployment and a decrease in income increased dissatisfaction and fostered social unrest, strikes and, sometimes, destabilization of the State. Socialism was an alternative approach to neoliberal economic policies, although the socialist system followed in the 20th century had had its share of drawbacks, including failure to produce essential goods. China had successfully managed to combine elements of capitalism with the socialist mode of production; however, that system also depended on global markets. In order to change the current global economic model and facilitate global economic recovery, certain prerequisites must be met. People should abandon excessive levels of consumption, for which a change in advertising policies was needed to educate the public. In addition, groups of experts should be established within the framework of the United Nations, the European Union, the BRICs countries and other large blocks of countries to objectively evaluate the disadvantages of neoliberal economics and devise proposals for sensible regulation of the global economic system. Taxation and social benefit systems should be adjusted to conform to a global standard and stricter control of banking activities should be introduced.

Mr. R. KALISZ (Poland) reflected that the focus on well-being represented a significant shift in thinking about development. The different dimensions of development should be considered in a hierarchical manner; the social dimension should be the most important, while environmental aspects should be seen as an accepted constraint and the role of the economic dimension must be reduced. Economic efficiency should not be measured solely based on the profitability of companies; rather it should take into account satisfaction of social needs. There were currently some products and services, such as derivatives that were of no benefit to society and had no added value, but were incorporated into GDP calculations. However, the well-being and happiness of citizens who lived close to their work place and therefore did not need to use a private vehicle or public transport to commute was not taken into account when measuring development. In recent years, the focus had been placed on the environmental aspects of development; the key to which was intergenerational justice. All future generations had the same right as the current generation to make use of and enjoy the benefits of the environment. However, the development of a green economy could be seen as both a constraint and an instrument to satisfy the needs and well-being of people. The cornerstone of social development was equality and ensuring that all citizens benefited from economic growth. Currently, inequalities were growing, as a result of inter alia increasing exploitation in the labour market and unemployment. Welfare systems were of vital importance to address inequalities and could be introduced in countries in the South and in the North.

Mr. A. DE ICAZA (Panama) observed that the subject of the debate could have profound practical impacts as parliamentarians played a crucial role in the development and adoption of policies that helped shape the present and future of their countries. As such, in modern democracies, parliamentarians had a leading role to play in ensuring the well-being of citizens. Traditional thinking stated that economic growth would guarantee better living conditions for all; in recent years, Panama had seen sustained economic growth and higher standards of living for its citizens. However, it was important to note that its high Human Development Index rating would not have been possible without the additional efforts of the government to implement programmes to improve the lives of the poorest citizens. The benefits reaped from economic growth depended on how different countries distributed those resources. In addition, countries did not always assess the environmental impact of such growth and a focus solely on economic growth could serve to widen the gap between the rich and the poor, which could feed religious and ethnic conflict. In recent years, it had become evident that economic approaches needed rethinking in order to place greater emphasis on the well-being and happiness of citizens.

Mr. CHANGZHI CHEN (China) stated that countries were becoming more interlinked and interdependent than ever and emerging market economies and developing countries were gaining in power. The pursuit of peace, development and cooperation had become the common goal of the international community. However, the world was far from being at peace; regional conflicts persisted and issues such as food security, energy, resource and cyber security were becoming more acute. The current development model of single-minded pursuit of economic growth could not be sustained. In the face of the current situation, it was important that the outcomes of all United Nations summits on sustainable development were implemented, including the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. In addition, all countries should commit to fairness, justice, openness and inclusiveness; cooperation was vital for sustainable development, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be respected. Developing countries should elaborate sustainable development strategies in line with their national circumstances and maintain poverty eradication as a top priority. The development of a green economy should also be actively explored and each country should be able to choose its own path and process for its transition to such an economy. The international community should create enabling conditions to help developing countries introduce green economies. Lastly, global governance of sustainable development should be strengthened; developing countries should have a greater say and decision-making power and countries should work together to build a new type of partnership for sustainable development which encompassed relevant international organizations, governments and citizens around the world. China was committed to sustainable development, was enforcing a strict management system of arable land and water resources and developing clean and low-carbon energy. The National People's Congress would support the government in the implementation of a development policy that balanced economic growth, social justice and environmental protection.

Ms. P. ERNSTBERGER (Germany) said that developments in the global economy, demographic change, growing levels of public debt, climate change, the lack of intergenerational equity and social inequalities were causing growing uncertainty worldwide and had resulted in a debate about social prosperity, individual well-being and sustainable development and whether growth in GDP alone was sufficient to measure development. In Germany, a commission had been established to study those issues and to define economic, ecological and social criteria that could be used to examine how factors that influenced the quality of life and social progress could be taken into account. There were also discussions taking place on a sustainable economic system that facilitated well-being and avoided plundering natural resources. Such a system would require close interaction between policy-makers, industry, companies and consumers. The aspects that should be examined in that context were material standard of living, access to and quality of work, social distribution of prosperity, ensuring people had the opportunity to participate in all aspects of society, availability of limited natural resources, education opportunities, health and life expectancy, quality of essential public services, political participation and a subjective analysis of well-being and happiness.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that there were no longer political borders; all countries were partners in international affairs. She urged the international community to help bring an end to the conflict in Syria and the Israeli occupation of Palestine and stop nuclear proliferation. Any approach should take into account the balance of international relations and all countries should provide support to refugees fleeing the conflicts. In addition, international relations had undergone significant changes and unbalanced trade relationships had had severe impacts on some countries. Although international trade had intensified, more than 75 per cent of the world's inhabitants did not benefit from it. In addition, all countries had been affected by the financial crisis, which had led to a number of protest movements. The concept of "buen vivir" provided countries with an opportunity to reassess their policies and ensure that they took into account environmental concerns. All nations needed to

work together to reconsider global priorities so as to make balanced development their ultimate goal. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in cooperation. Development should go beyond social and economic concepts; it should also include mechanisms taking into account human rights and the environment. Her country was implementing policies that were conducive to well-being and sustainable development. Lastly, she called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs; that occupation breached a number of United Nations resolutions and undermined her country's efforts to bring an end to the conflict.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that the rapid pace of economic development, the increase in wealth and advances in science and technology had had some negative impacts on social relations and the environment. As such, a new approach to development was needed, which placed ethical and human values at the heart of development activities. "Buen vivir" was an example of such an approach. When striving for sustainable development, it should be noted that while new achievements in technology, science and culture were being seen, billions of dollars continued to be spent on arms and there were still people living in poverty, without access to housing, health care and education. The stockpiles of nuclear weapons in some States posed the greatest threat to global peace and security and nuclear disarmament should therefore be the top priority of the international community. However, the exchange of information, material and equipment for peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be permitted as such activities were one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). He expressed concern that double standards and selective approaches were being employed by some countries, using the NPT to provide support to some countries and exerting significant pressures on others, including his own. In addition, Iran had enshrined the principles of equal rights, rejection of discrimination and protection of human dignity in its Constitution. However, the unilateral sanctions imposed on the country had harmed its economy and that of the region. Such sanctions were a clear violation of international law and he proposed that the issue be included in the IPU agenda. The current global system was discriminatory and inefficient, as shown by the selective approach taken towards terrorism. His country was committed to eliminating all forms of terrorism. In addition, the only solution to the crisis in Syria was a political dialogue between the government and the opposition.

Mr. A. Riché (Haiti), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. K. MUNDA (India) said that economic growth leading to a better standard of living and prosperity was both a goal and a means to achieving social and environmental objectives. Therefore, a holistic approach to development was needed at all levels, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects. The ultimate aim of social and economic growth should be an improvement in the overall well-being and enhancement of the freedoms and rights of all citizens. There was no single answer to the question of how to achieve growth that was consistent with sustainable development, but global leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to such development at the Rio+20 Conference. In recent decades, new models of governance investing local government with greater decision-making authority on the delivery of public goods had succeeded in achieving a more inclusive form of development. However, it was important to note that higher growth was also necessary to generate resources for development and the eradication of poverty. The concept of "buen vivir" called for a new understanding of the relationship between an individual and/or community and nature and highlighted the need for sustainable consumption and production patterns. India was the largest democracy in the world and had enshrined in its Constitution the rights to social, economic and political justice; freedom of expression, belief, faith and worship; and equal status and opportunities for all. It was committed to achieving development that benefited all citizens and, as such, had followed a policy of gradual economic reform. That policy had been of great benefit in the face of the

economic crisis of 2008 and had sheltered India from the most adverse effects of that crisis. The challenge faced by countries now was to do more with fewer resources; frugality and innovation were the way to growth and every effort should be made to ensure that the benefits of development and growth were passed on to all citizens.

Mrs. H. SILHAVY (Austria) observed that growing inequalities were limiting efforts to achieve purposeful development; income inequality was at its highest level in half a century, thus dispelling the notion that the benefits of economic growth automatically trickled down the disadvantaged. However, such inequality was avoidable. In her country, there was a welfare system in place which operated based on the principle of rights rather than charity. The system promoted prosperity and productivity and created chances for participation for all, including disadvantaged groups or persons with disabilities. The financial crisis had dealt a severe blow to low-income earners, families with children and young and old workers around the world. However, the social services network in place in her country had enabled Austria to protect the most vulnerable groups against the negative effects of the crisis. Purposeful development could only be achieved if all people had access to basic opportunities and rights in society. Gender equality, an end to discrimination against women and greater participation of minorities in society were vital. The marginalization of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities had an adverse impact on poverty reduction, democratic governance and environmental sustainability and thus on the attainment of sustainable development. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in all of the above-mentioned areas and should bear in mind the interdependent nature of economic, social and environmental goals as components of purposeful development.

Mr. V. ALARSGAROV (Azerbaijan) remarked that globalization had had a unique economic and social impact on the world, uniting a global economy that had been divided by politics, ideologies, regulations, inconvertible currencies and distances. However, as economic development had increased, the complementary roles of business and governments as part of a mixed economy had been forgotten. The recent economic crisis had confirmed that a fair, efficient and sustainable economy could not be achieved without the active involvement of governments, parliaments and other State institutions. It had also highlighted the need for long-term planning of public investments for modern infrastructure, quality education, universal access to health care, secure energy sources, a higher quality labour force and scientific research. The current crisis should mark the end of a gradually deregulated free market economy, an out of control financial system, a deregulated banking system and a focus on a shadow banking system, derivatives and off-balance sheet financing. Purposeful development could not be achieved until the real nature of the economic crisis was understood and until it was recognized that illusory solutions, such as stimulus spending and budget cuts would not resolve the main issues. In addition, it was important to acknowledge that governments should play a pivotal role and that strong financial regulations and monetary and fiscal policies were also necessary.

Mr. A. THIAM (Côte d'Ivoire), welcoming the workshop organized by the IPU in Abidjan on the role of parliaments in the promotion and protection of human rights, said that his country was committed to strengthening democracy and parliaments in Côte d'Ivoire and in the wider West Africa region. The IPU should play a supporting role in initiatives that aimed to strengthen parliaments. His country was experiencing a period of change and had implemented actions to facilitate national reconciliation. In addition, through a programme known as "Living together", the main concepts behind "buen vivir", such as harmonious and balanced development for all people combined with respect for and protection of the environment, were an integral part of life in Côte d'Ivoire and formed the basis of the National Development Plan.

Mr. A. DERMENTZOPOULOS (Greece) explained that sustainability was enshrined in his country's Constitution and that Greece had elaborated an environment and sustainable development programme, which included projects on the protection, upgrading and rational management of the environment with a view to achieving qualitative development. Those projects were related to inter alia renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; waste water management and irrigation projects, the protection of biodiversity and habitats; flood prevention and mitigation; and awareness-raising activities on environmental issues. The programme included the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and accessibility for persons with disabilities in all of its projects and activities. In response to the financial crisis, the EU had developed the Europe 2020 Strategy to deliver growth that was smart, sustainable and inclusive. Its main goals were related to employment, innovation, education, poverty reduction and climate. It was important to note that growth should not be measured solely in economic terms; it should be sustainable, ensure the needs of society and respect for the environment. Fair trade should be the basis of international trade mechanisms as it could guarantee better conditions and fewer injustices for the poorest producers. It was therefore important to offer assistance in order to increase returns and reduce costs for producers, either through a reduction of market power abuse or by encouraging economies of scale.

Mr. H.B. HAMOUDI (Iraq) said that his country had experienced a number of challenges as it moved from a dictatorship to a multi-party democracy. However, that shift had enabled Iraq to embark on a better path towards democracy and economic development. Iraq was endeavouring to use its oil revenues and revenue from external investment in the economy for reforms, but challenges still remained. It was shifting to a market economy and was working to eliminate anti-business legislation, to reduce costs for investors and to integrate into the global economy. Achieving sustainable development was a key priority of the Iraqi Government through policies that benefited from globalization and reduced poverty and unemployment. He encouraged the IPU to hold meetings to enable countries with economies in transition to share best practices and experiences in order to help each other improve the living conditions of their citizens.

Mr. A.H. ZAMANI NIA (Asian Parliamentary Assembly) stated that it was important for the IPU to facilitate the effective and meaningful engagement of parliaments in the global consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. Parliamentary participation in such consultations would ensure greater success in the achievement of the goals. He welcomed the relevant IPU documents and the General Debate on the relationship between economic growth and purposeful development. It was heartening to hear that it was widely recognized that an exclusive focus on economic growth did not lead to developments in terms of well-being and happiness. The new SDGs goals should also address issues such as inequality, poverty, hunger, justice, conflict, environmental sustainability and water, energy and food security. There would be a greater chance of success if the values of democracy and fairness underpinned all goals and approaches. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in the definition of a new development framework and in monitoring its implementation.

Mr. K. DOUMBA (Mali) observed that the inequalities between developed and developing countries meant that while developed and emerging countries consumed material goods and limited natural resources at an increasing rate, a large majority of people continued to live in extreme poverty, without access to drinking water, electricity, education, health care, sufficient food and decent jobs. As a result, the concept of sustainable development with better distribution of the fruits of growth; gender equality; protection of the environment and biodiversity; and social and cultural reconciliation was difficult to achieve. On achieving its independence, Mali had introduced its first green economy programme based on solar energy, and had passed a law on forestry and environmental protection. In addition, environmental protection and a higher quality of life were enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution. Regarding the post-2015 development

agenda, it would be important to take into account all components of development in order to ensure that they were incorporated into the decision-making processes at all levels. Parliaments were best placed to understand the actual needs of their people and identify appropriate ways of achieving them. Therefore, he urged donor countries to provide support based on the individual needs of developing countries rather than on their wishes and priorities. The security crisis in his country the previous year had delayed its development programmes and affected its achievement of the MDGs and he expressed appreciation for the selection of the situation in Mali as an emergency item by the IPU at its previous Assembly and for the assistance of the French armed forces on the ground.

Mr. P. SZILAGYI (Hungary) said that the main challenge of sustainable development was how to maintain the social and economic gains made in recent decades while at the same time reducing poverty and the exploitation of natural resources. His country supported the green economy approach as it contributed to the sustainable use of resources, created new approaches to consumption and was advantageous for small and medium-sized businesses. His country was committed to developing sustainable development goals and was a co-President of the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Water management was an important aspect of sustainable development as the world faced reduced water supplies of decaying quality. His country had extensive experience in that area, which could reap significant benefits with relatively little effort. Hungary was eager to share its experiences and knowledge with the international community; a water summit would be held in Budapest in 2013 with a view to elaborating water-related sustainable development goals and providing specific guidance on water issues such as drinking water, sanitation, waste water treatment, integrated water management, international water cooperation and innovative water technologies. Forums would be organized concurrently to enable Hungarian companies, universities and researchers to share their knowledge and experiences.

Mr. R. INDARSINGH (Trinidad and Tobago) explained that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was focusing on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the Ministry of the People and Social Development had been established to address the issue and was responsible for issuing pensions and disability, education and food grants. The Ministry of Education had implemented a school nutrition programme and through that Ministry, the Government was working to achieve universal primary education. New primary schools were being constructed, early childhood education centres were being set up throughout the country and more teachers were being trained. Other priority issues included gender equality and the empowerment of women, protection against female genital mutilation (FGM), the improvement of maternal and child health and diseases such as HIV, AIDS and malaria. The road to purposeful and sustainable development would be long and winding but parliaments had a critical and fundamental role to play in ensuring that adequate programmes were introduced that also took into account environmental concerns.

Mr. F. KABURA (Burundi) said that the world was facing a number of interrelated challenges and that a collective effort was needed to enable the definition of inclusive strategies that would take into account all aspects and needs of the people. The natural environment was being degraded by human activity that would only benefit the current generation; protection of the environment should be a key priority for all countries. Thankfully, that had been recognized by the international community and discussions had already been held on the issue. Countries should develop economic growth policies that were respectful of the environment and the well-being of all people. However, defining and implementing such policies was no easy task: for developed countries, it was difficult to change current ways of working and for developing countries, the lack of resources and the need for immediate results made it difficult to adopt new policies. In his country, sustainable development was understood to mean the creation of goods

and services that improved the living conditions of the population through controlled use of natural resources that ensured their sustainability for future generations. The concept of a green economy was already gaining ground in Burundi through the management of natural resources, the development and use of renewable energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. In order to achieve sustainable development, it would be necessary to bring demographic growth under control, raise public awareness of responsible attitudes and mobilize the necessary resources. In order to improve the well-being of its citizens, Burundi was also introducing a number of reforms related to health care, education, human rights, food security, sporting infrastructure and good governance.

Ms. I. STØJBERG (Denmark) opined that sustainable growth and individual well-being could not be achieved without actual freedom, including individual freedoms, a free society and a free market. Well-being entailed the ability to choose one's own path; governments should provide a safe environment and help those in need. However, well-being could not be achieved by others making decisions on one's behalf; governments could support and pave the way to well-being, but it could also be the biggest obstacle. Governments that denied their people real human rights, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of assembly were standing in the way of their citizens' well-being. Denmark had been ranked the happiest country on the planet; such happiness was caused by trust rather than wealth. Trust could not be established quickly, but a culture of trust could be established through the rule of law and by allowing a free society to flourish. Democracy was also a fundamental element; but one that did not exist in all countries around the world. She was committed to the fight for all people to have the right to state their opinions, participate in political activities and to live in a free society.

Mr. C. BOUSSINOT (Guatemala) observed that much had been said about the environment, terrorism, the economy, health care, education and food security, but very little about the fight against drug trafficking and consumption, which was an issue with which his country struggled on a daily basis. The Ministry of Social Development had been created in Guatemala and managed programmes that provided food to people living in extreme poverty and helped needy young people. Health care and food security were important issues that had received a lot of focus, but drug trafficking and consumption were also significant global problems and should be addressed by the international community as a whole. More focus was needed on prevention at all levels. He urged the Assembly to agree on minimum requirements for "buen vivir", taking into account the views and needs of all countries. It was time to make decisions and take action.

Mr. L. TAÑADA III (Philippines) said that the concept of "buen vivir" provided a new perspective for discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Its emphasis on plurality enabled the concept to be introduced in the context of individual country situations; it also shifted the focus from economic growth to the principles of liberty, equality, democracy, peaceful coexistence and social inclusion. Environmental protection and management were also important elements of "buen vivir"; his country had actively pursued measures related to environmental protection and management through the adoption of laws on renewable energy, marine protected areas and climate change mitigation and adaptation. He expressed concern at the low rate of progress on decreasing maternal mortality and added that the Philippines had passed a reproductive health law to try to address that issue. Purposeful development should be the aim of all, but it could not be achieved alone. A global development strategy was needed to enable frameworks for coordination and support to be established at the local, regional and international levels. Only by working together could sustainable development be achieved.

Ms. J. TEVES QUISPE (Peru) remarked that although many countries had achieved democracy and freedom, there was still much to be done if global equality was to be achieved. It was important to understand that growth was not the same as development; new approaches were needed, based on solidarity and social justice, together with tangible policies on education, health care, infrastructure and a life in harmony with nature. Economies should not be stretched to their limits as that could harm people and society by widening the gap between rich and poor. “Buen vivir” did not mean economic prosperity; rather it was the result of having access to health care, housing, food, and social and family peace. “Buen vivir” enabled citizens to enjoy optimal living conditions, where children could play and study and not have to work, where women had the opportunity to work, where the elderly were respected and protected, where persons with disabilities received adequate care and support and where women were treated equally to men and did not suffer violence. In addition, in order to achieve sustainable development, education was needed for all. Lastly, she drew attention to her country’s status as a megadiverse country and the lessons that could be learned from Peru’s history, particularly from the Incas, a people that had fully embraced the concept of “buen vivir”.

Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.

Mr. D. MONREAL (Mexico) said that for many years the idea of development had been linked to economic growth. It had been suggested that globalization urgently needed a new development model; although it would be more accurate to state that the vulnerable and marginalized sectors of society, which had been left behind by globalization, needed a new development model. Such a model should provide all countries with equal opportunities to grow and consolidate their democratic governance in order to develop participatory societies and increase economic development based on quality of life rather than consumption of products.

Mr. M. ODACHI (Japan) observed that human security and growth were vital for the achievement of the MDGs. Japan had been a strong advocate of human security and had donated US\$ 380 million to the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. That Fund had been used in many countries, including Ecuador where it had been used to help vulnerable people in the northern border area. Human security should be included in the post-2015 development agenda; issues such as climate change had a significant impact on the security of vulnerable members of society and targets should be set in that area. Inclusive growth was another element that required greater focus; infrastructure should be developed to ensure that all citizens benefited from the wealth created by growth. It was important to attract investment, as it was a key source of growth. Japan had contributed greatly to cash transfer programmes that provided cash payments to vulnerable families; such programmes were well-regarded and should continue.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) noted that the indigenous perspective of the concept of “buen vivir” was that it represented harmony between men and women, between different communities, and between human beings and the natural environment. The indigenous people of New Zealand had a similar concept that referred to the responsibility of all people to protect and support each other and the natural environment. She drew attention to the “Ecuador without Barriers” initiative, which provided resources to disabled persons and their families. That initiative mirrored the focus on equal rights for all, which was enshrined in the Ecuadorian Constitution. Ecuador had also been the third country in the world to enshrine the right to sexual orientation in its Constitution. Constitutional change and political leadership played an important role in ensuring that the rights of all persons were respected.

Mr. T. SILBERHORN (Germany) stated that although developments in the financial markets could have an impact on many countries, globalization also offered opportunities for growth, innovation and investment; new economic powers were beginning to emerge as a result. In order to create a viable economic and social framework, a balance was needed between ensuring free competition and safeguarding social, environmental and fiscal aspects. Germany followed a social market economy model to combine economic growth and social stability, which had led to a high degree of social inclusion and social balance. In addition, a regulatory framework for environmental protection and conservation was needed, together with tighter regulation of financial markets and consolidation of public finances. The stability of any economic system was dependent on the way its social, environmental and economic parameters were defined.

Mrs. H. ALII (Islamic Republic of Iran), exercising the right of reply, said that her government wished to reiterate its sovereignty over the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and rejected any claim to the contrary. All actions taken with regard to those islands had been based on the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and were in accordance with international law. As such, the remarks made by the delegate of the United Arab Emirates constituted interference in Iran's internal affairs. Iran had always maintained a policy of friendship with its neighbouring countries and was therefore happy to hold discussions with the United Arab Emirates on the issue in order to strengthen ties and clear up any misunderstandings.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Item 9 of the agenda

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:
The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact
of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments
to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian
refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them**

The sitting was held in the afternoon of Sunday 24 March starting at 4.40 p.m., with Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan), introducing the emergency item, said that the humanitarian crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic ran the risk of becoming a full-fledged disaster; as such, the attention of the international community needed to be drawn to the crisis in order for more assistance to be provided. The number of refugees leaving Syria for neighbouring countries was increasing and many of those refugees wished to move to countries further afield. It was believed that by the end of 2013 there would be more than 4 million Syrian refugees around the world. The response of parliamentarians to the crisis should be to draw the attention of their parliaments, governments and citizens to the plight of Syrian refugees. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had reported that it had not received all of the aid that had been pledged. The humanitarian situation for refugees was extremely difficult and there was a risk of disease, epidemics and other impacts that could have a lasting effect on both regional and global security. It was vital to find a peaceful solution to the conflict as soon as possible that would safeguard Syrian territory and the safety of its people. Parliamentarians were representatives of the people and, as such, the IPU should show solidarity with the people of Syria and all IPU Members should do their utmost to encourage their respective governments to provide as much aid and assistance as possible.

The PRESIDENT asked why the word “security” had been inserted into the title of the emergency item.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) explained that the security situation of the refugees was also considered to be an emergency and therefore, in order to enable a more in-depth discussion, the security impact had also been incorporated.

The PRESIDENT expressed concern that the title of the emergency item had not included the term “security” at the time of voting.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) pointed out that the interventions mentioned in the draft resolution were only humanitarian in nature.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom) commented that the amended title was the one that had been voted on by the Assembly on the previous day.

Mrs. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that it seemed that certain countries had decided that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic should be removed and, as such, were providing arms, training and funding to opposition groups, including mercenaries. Her country would never support a resolution that did not recognize the right of the Syrian people to self-determination without foreign interference. The debate on the title of the emergency item had not heeded the views or proposal of the Syrian delegation; rather the Assembly had decided to adopt a proposal by another country. Her country was strongly opposed to the draft resolution as

it pandered to the interests of foreign powers, not those of the Syrian people. She urged all parliamentarians to safeguard peace and ensure that their territories were not used to serve external powers that sought to overcome a legitimate government.

Ms. A. PALACIOS BENAVIDES (Nicaragua) said that in the past her country had been subject to foreign interference under the guise of humanitarian aid. As such, her country had not supported the adoption of the emergency item title. However, it was important to note that she supported the content of the draft resolution; the Syrian people were suffering because of the actions of others and something needed to be done. The language of paragraph 7 of the draft resolution echoed the relevant UN resolution; the subtext of the language referred to direct intervention in a sovereign country and the entire paragraph should be deleted. It was vital that the right to self-determination and sovereignty was maintained. There should be no interference from external sources. A war should not be waged under the guise of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), recalling that the 126th IPU Assembly had adopted a resolution calling for the end of the bloodshed and human rights violations in the Syrian Arab Republic, said that one aspect of that resolution, namely a parliamentary mission to that country, had yet to take place and the situation in the country continued to worsen. The escalating violence was leading to more fatalities and greater humanitarian needs and displacement of civilians, and was a threat to regional stability. Canada was one of many countries providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons from Syria. The IPU resolution should call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and for the assistance of all countries, including Syria itself, in addressing the humanitarian situation. Moreover, any such resolution should enable IPU to influence the situation and, as such, the parliamentary mission should take place as soon as possible.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), welcoming the adoption of the proposal by the delegate of Jordan, said that in December 2012, he had been part of a mission to Lebanon to assess the situation of Syrian refugees in that country. The situation in both Syria and its neighbouring countries was extremely difficult and there were particular concerns about the porous nature of border areas, which, although it enabled persons to cross the border, also enabled the uncontrolled and unmonitored movement of weapons. The situation of the refugees was untenable and it was vital that pledges made by donors were fulfilled. The international community should take action rather than leaving neighbouring countries to deal with the influx of refugees alone.

Mr. J.C. MURILLO, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said that there were now more than 1 million Syrian refugees registered across the region and in North Africa and that number was continuing to grow at an alarming rate. UNHCR, together with its partners, had drawn up a regional response plan, which assumed that the total number of refugees would reach 1.1 million by June 2013; unfortunately, that number had been already reached by 20 March 2013. In Lebanon, there were more than 373,000 refugees, many of whom had been absorbed into local communities and the Lebanese Government was leading efforts to expand accommodation options. The number of refugees was likely to be underestimated as some had not yet registered themselves in the country. In Jordan, more than 365,000 refugees had registered with the authorities; one third of those had arrived in the past few weeks. UNHCR was working with the Government and partners to identify additional sites for camps to accommodate the increasing numbers. Approximately 70 per cent of refugees were living in urban areas thanks to the support and solidarity of local communities. There were also almost 200,000 refugees living in government-built camps in Turkey, and an estimated 400,000 living elsewhere in that country. Lastly, more than 117,000 Syrian refugees were currently living in Iraq, and more than 52,000 had been registered in countries across North Africa. Moreover, more than 30,000 Syrian citizens had sought asylum in Europe and some

refugees had been registered as living in Latin America. It was also important to note the effect of the crisis on the Palestinian refugees that had been living in Syria before the conflict began; more than 30,000 had already left for other countries. The sheer number of refugees was staggering but did not reflect the complete situation. Three quarters of refugees were women and children, many of whom had been subjected to physical and sexual violence and had lost everything they owned. They were then forced to live in extremely harsh conditions, particularly as the last winter had been the most severe experienced in many years. In closing, he echoed the High Commissioner's call for international solidarity to address a humanitarian crisis that could also have an impact on international peace and security.

Mr. A.S.S. DOUGAN MALABO (Equatorial Guinea) said that his country had always expressed solidarity with people who were suffering, whether as a result of natural disasters or human actions. He expressed concern that the draft resolution only addressed the effect of the crisis and not the cause. In that regard, reference should be made to the need to promote dialogue between the different parties to the conflict in order to reach a lasting peace.

Mr. K. KHALED (Syrian Arab Republic), acknowledging the efforts of neighbouring countries in taking in Syrian refugees, said that his country had also hosted refugees from neighbouring countries, such as Iraq and Lebanon, in recent times and had done so without requesting international assistance. He welcomed the efforts of the Syrian Red Crescent Society, which was working in cooperation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide aid to those affected by the fighting within his country. Unfortunately, the arrival of aid was prevented by armed terrorist groups, whose members came from many different countries. His Government would be happy to work with the Government of Jordan to find solutions to the issues faced by Syrian refugees in that country. However, he expressed reservations regarding the accuracy of the facts and figures on refugees in neighbouring countries. Turning to the draft resolution, he said that the addition of the term "security" undermined the original purpose of the Jordanian proposal and his country therefore did not support its insertion. He called on those countries supporting opposition groups to assist them in participating in a dialogue that would bring an end to the conflict and the resulting funding of terrorist groups.

Mr. M. ERSOY (Turkey) said that although it was unlikely that consensus would be reached on the causes, consequences or solutions to the crisis, the humanitarian impact should not be underestimated. There were currently nearly 200,000 Syrian refugees in his country and that number was expected to reach 300,000 if the violence was not halted. In addition, millions of people were unable to escape the areas of heavy fighting. The international community should relinquish its role as a spectator and take urgent action to respond to the crisis. Although current efforts were very welcome, they were not sufficient.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) said that the resolution should only address humanitarian aspects and therefore the term 'security' should be deleted. It was vital that there was no ambiguity as to the focus of the draft resolution. Human rights violations should be condemned, regardless of the perpetrators and, as such, the draft resolution should contain language urging the Syrian Government and rebel factions to cease hostilities and advising foreign governments to stop providing arms to either party. Providing arms that were then used to kill innocent people was a crime and should be stopped. He urged the international community to show solidarity with the neighbouring countries that were hosting Syrian refugees; those countries deserved the full support of other countries for their actions. Financing should not be used to fund refugee camps; rather it should be used to help refugees integrate into their host societies. He proposed that paragraph 7 be amended to clarify that no external intervention should be permitted; the paragraph should read as follows: "Calls on all relevant regional and international parties to find ways of helping Syria to reach a peaceful solution to its domestic conflict, while safeguarding its

territorial integrity, sovereignty and the safety, security and human rights of its citizens.” Moreover, the draft resolution should highlight the situation of vulnerable migrants, such as children, the elderly and disabled persons.

Mr. A. RICHE (Haiti) said that his country had always supported peace. The length of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic suggested that public participation was not increasing continuously as suggested by the information disseminated around the world. There was an urgent need for the international community and the IPU to encourage dialogue between the parties involved in order to achieve peace; foreign interventions would not solve the situation.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) said that since the start of the crisis, his country had condemned the violent loss of life and called for restraint. The international community had to send a strong message to both parties that no cause was sufficient justification for the death and destruction occurring in Syria. Any solution must be Syrian-led and free of international interference; it should also incorporate democratic principles, justice, the rule of law and human rights. He urged all parties to declare a ceasefire, move towards political transition and work with United Nations and the Arab League in that regard. Humanitarian assistance in all areas should also be scaled up, particularly in areas affected by fighting. His country would continue to support national dialogue to achieve the peace, justice and respect of human rights that the Syrian people deserved.

Mr. K. DOUMBIA (Mali) expressed support for the emergency items as his country had also faced similar issues with regard to refugees and internally displaced persons; the IPU should commit itself to take action to bring an end to the crisis.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom), expressing hope that the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic was aware of the numbers of refugees leaving their country, said that the title of the emergency item did not contain any reference to foreign interference; only to refugees and internally displaced persons. Despite claims to the contrary, the crisis had been created in Syria itself and there were clear divisions among delegations as regards the legitimacy of the current regime. He called on all delegations to support the draft resolution and thus support the welfare of the Syrian population and the security of neighbouring countries.

Ms. S. AHMED MOHAMED (Sudan) said that her country had voted for the agreed title as it was humanitarian in nature; there had been no consultations regarding the addition of the word “security” and there was therefore a lack of transparency surrounding the issue. In response to the crisis, humanitarian assistance should be sent to neighbouring countries to help them meet the needs of refugees; those countries did not have sufficient financial resources to meet such needs without additional support. Further assistance was needed urgently and humanitarian institutions should be requested to provide direct funding to those countries.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) echoed the concerns of other delegates regarding the addition of the term “security” to the title after the vote. Her country agreed that there was a need to act in solidarity with the Syrian people and that financial support should be provided to those countries hosting refugees. However, the insertion of “security” into the title was inadmissible as it was not possible to discuss a title that had not been voted upon by the Assembly.

Ms. M. NAJAF NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran), expressing support for the statements calling attention to the unbalanced approach to the issue, said, however, that the draft resolution made no mention of the concept of intervention regarding human security. It was essential that Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries were protected from exploitation, especially to further the cause of either party to the conflict. The violence should be halted immediately and dialogue between the two parties should be initiated. In that regard, any dialogue and solution should respect the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and national unity; open channels

were vital for effective dialogue. His country strongly condemned any foreign intervention in the conflict, including the provision of weapons to any party. Lastly, he proposed that paragraph 7 of the draft resolution should be deleted.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) stressed that the title, including the word “security”, had been submitted to a vote by the Assembly. The purpose of the addition was to focus on the need to bring assistance to all Syrians suffering from the impact of the conflict, whether within or outside the country. The main goal of the draft resolution was humanitarian and no political considerations were included. Humanitarian aid should not be seen as an enabler to introduce other elements.

Mr. K. KHALED (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the refugees in neighbouring countries were Syrian citizens and, as such, his country would do its utmost to support them and provide them with humanitarian assistance. As such, the head of his delegation had met with the Jordanian delegation that morning and had agreed to cooperate with that country to provide support and address the issues faced by Syrian refugees.

The PRESIDENT announced that the drafting committee would meet to discuss the draft resolution and would comprise representatives of all six geopolitical groups, namely: China, Côte d’Ivoire, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The Secretariat was awaiting confirmation of the second representative of GRULAC.

The sitting rose at 6.05 p.m.

**Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament
in safeguarding civilians' lives**

First Standing Committee – Peace and International Security

Sitting of Sunday 24 March

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the First Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/128/C)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-I/128/C) and, in the absence of any proposals, took it that the draft agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

**Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held
on the occasion of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala (April 2012)**

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Kampala, Uganda, in April 2012 had been circulated to all IPU Members. In the absence of any comments or questions on the distributed text, he took that the Committee wished to approve the summary records.

It was so decided.

**Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution
prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-I/128/R, C-I/128/DR-rev, C-I/128/DR-am and C-I/128/DR-am.1)

The PRESIDENT said that at the 126th Assembly in Kampala, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. S. Janquin (France) and Mr. L. Ramatlakane (South Africa), for the subject item to be considered at the present session. He commended the work of the co-Rapporteurs and the two reports that they had prepared, which would provide a solid basis for the Committee's debate.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa), co-Rapporteur, said that in preparing the draft resolution the co-Rapporteurs had taken on board much of what had been said in the lively discussions held on the topic during the 127th Assembly in Quebec. Recalling the collective concern over the lack of enforcement of the responsibility to protect, he said that the draft resolution did not seek to re-open the debate on the concept but to use as its point of reference the resolution adopted by all States at the United Nations 2005 World Summit (in particular paragraphs 138 and 139), which had endorsed the concept and referred to the responsibility of every State to safeguard its population.

The draft resolution had been informed by the co-Rapporteurs' reports on the topic and its preamble broadly covered a range of principles pertaining to the responsibility to protect and the role of parliaments. The reports, and thus the draft resolution, acknowledged the need to work with other institutions including the UN Security Council and General Assembly and the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the implementation of the resolution, but their primary focus was on what each State should do to enforce the responsibility to protect.

The co-Rapporteurs had also been guided by the need for the separation of powers and had underscored in the draft the power and responsibility of the legislative branch in implementing the responsibility to protect. It was hoped that by clearly defining the role of parliaments, the resolution would be a valuable tool for parliamentarians when they faced challenging situations or responded to reports of human rights violations in their countries.

The First Standing Committee should enhance its capacity to assist in the implementation of the resolution and should be a focal point for parliaments. States with robust democratic institutions should be the first to implement what was a ground-breaking resolution in the area of enforcing the responsibility to protect and defining parliaments' role in safeguarding civilians' lives, while other States should endeavour to establish the necessary institutions and parliamentary mechanisms so that they too could ensure implementation of the resolution.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), co-Rapporteur, said that for a long time humanitarian actors had acted alone in different crisis situations and were the first to seek stronger international intervention. They were frustrated by the passive political reaction to crises in the past, such as in the Balkans, and rightly asked of politicians what action they intended to take. Following various attempts to respond and intervene, some of which had no legal basis as they ran counter to the principle of sovereignty, the then Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan, believed it was crucial to establish a more robust legal foundation for intervention for the benefit of all people. The concept of the responsibility to protect was thus born and today parliamentarians had a duty to determine the role that they should play in enforcing that responsibility.

The co-Rapporteurs had in their reports proposed certain actions that parliamentarians should take, from identifying risks and seeking to prevent conflicts through to the post-conflict stage where reconstruction and reparations should be considered. An emphasis on prevention was paramount in mitigating the need to intervene. Intervention itself should only ever be a last resort, once all peaceful means of ending conflicts and mass atrocities had been exhausted, and should be deemed to have a reasonable chance of bringing an end to the conflict. It was also essential that interventions be authorized by the whole international community through the United Nations Security Council. Parliaments should thus be more closely involved in the operational enforcement of the responsibility to protect, including through greater dialogue and cooperation with governments to address the economic, political and social issues underpinning the conflict.

A number of factors were key in ensuring that in countries threatened by genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, parliaments could still fulfil their role: they must not be prevented from sitting; other parliaments must be prepared to provide assistance or to support any necessary intervention in the framework of the United Nations; parliaments must better monitor the activities of governments to protect human rights at the national and international levels; they should also ensure that all domestic criminal and military legislation complied with international norms on the protection of civilian populations and that perpetrators of crimes were prosecuted under national jurisdiction or by the ICC; parliaments must carefully monitor government action and the provision of aid for reconstruction and peace-building; they must urge governments to ensure that UN Security Council resolutions were implemented transparently, especially when intervention was delegated to regional bodies; and the IPU must facilitate the exchange of best practices in parliamentary oversight and application of the responsibility to protect.

The co-Rapporteurs understood that some States were rightly concerned about the principle of the responsibility to protect being manipulated to suit the economic or strategic interests of other powers and they had tried in the reports and draft resolution to appropriately address those concerns. They also welcomed the in-depth discussion of the responsibility to protect by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and their proposed amendments to the draft resolution emphasizing the particular need to protect women and children in conflict situations.

The PRESIDENT observed that the depth and coverage of the co-Rapporteurs' reports showed the complexity of the topic. Much of the discussion would no doubt rest on the three pillars of the responsibility to protect identified by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and outlined in the co-Rapporteurs' reports: the primary responsibility of the State; international assistance and capacity building; and, if necessary, a timely and decisive reaction. Most of the discussions would focus on the third pillar - whether, how and when to intervene. As elected officials representing the people, it was especially important for parliamentarians to define their role in enforcing the responsibility to protect and in preventing conflict through the promotion of democratic governance and the rule of law.

He recalled the decision taken at the 126th Assembly to conduct a pilot exercise whereby the First Standing Committee would discuss proposed amendments to and finalize the draft resolution in plenary, rather than delegating the task to a drafting committee. Some might feel that it would be harder to reach a consensus among a much larger group, but all Members would have the opportunity to provide feedback on the experience, which would be taken into consideration in the wider discussions on reforming elements of the IPU to make it a more effective and stronger organization.

Debate

Ms. F. ABU ABTAH (Jordan) stressed the importance of the responsibility of governments and parliaments to protect citizens in the event of armed conflict but said that their ability to prevent such conflicts also needed to be strengthened, including through appropriate legislation.

If a government failed to protect its citizens, it was the role of the international community to call on that government to abide by international law and to fulfil its responsibility to protect. Armed intervention should, however, be a last resort.

Jordan welcomed both the reports of the co-Rapporteurs and the amendments proposed to the draft resolution, particularly those submitted by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians; there was a particular need to protect women and children as they were often victims of human rights violations in times of conflict.

Mr. H.M. EL DALY (Egypt) considered that the international community could not remain silent in the face of conflicts and crises where civilians were victims of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Such atrocities contravened international law, but it was often hard for the international community to respond as the responsibility to protect could often lead to interference in the internal affairs of another State, thereby violating the principle of national sovereignty. Egypt had ratified all international instruments aimed at safeguarding civilians and protecting their human rights, but could not consent to ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC as it feared the politicization of the Court and its misuse to prosecute only some cases according to the interests of certain States.

Egypt was convinced of the importance of the responsibility to protect but feared that military intervention could contravene international law and be used to promote hidden agendas. Similarly, the international community was at times unable to respond to other cases of human rights violations, such as the ongoing Syrian crisis, because the interests of certain States prevented action from being taken.

Mr. B. GAULE (Zimbabwe) stated that a long history of mass atrocities perpetrated by governments against their own people had created the imperative of international response to protect civilians' lives. The concept of the responsibility to protect obligated governments to act in the interests of civilians in crisis situations, although where a government was not able to do so or was itself the perpetrator, the ultimate responsibility lay with the international community.

Parliaments, with their responsibilities as the first line of defence for civilians against human rights abuses, needed to urge States to establish the necessary measures to protect their populations and to hold governments to account for any State-sponsored violence. When governments failed to take responsibility for their civilians' lives, parliaments also had a duty to call for a response from the international community.

Mr. N. SUJAREE (Thailand) said that although Thailand had not yet incorporated it into national law, the country supported the principle whereby States had a responsibility to protect their citizens from the four mass atrocities of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

When a State failed to fulfil its responsibility, the international community needed to help build and strengthen State capacity through technical assistance and cooperation. Thailand adhered, however, to the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and believed that only collective action through United Nations mechanisms and in accordance with the UN Charter could be considered as a legitimate course of action.

Parliamentarians should urge governments to take all the necessary legislative measures to ensure the protection of all civilians, particularly women and children.

Mr. D.H. OLIVER (Canada) observed that the draft resolution made it clear that parliamentarians and the wider international community had a duty to act to protect populations from mass atrocity crimes. The relevance of the work of the Committee was reflected in current world events, not least the continuing crisis in Syria.

The draft resolution urged parliaments to take action to address such crises; Canada, however, wished to propose a number of amendments to further strengthen the text. The objective of those amendments was to remove any confusion between the role of the UN Security Council and the UN system as a whole; to make clear reference to the crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which were defined under international law; to bring the language of the resolution in line with the wording of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and thus strengthen references to the prevention of the four mass atrocity crimes, including their incitement; and to recognize the need for early warning systems, not only for internal conflicts and civil wars but also for inter-State conflicts.

Mr. U. NILSSON (Sweden) considered that the issue of enforcing the responsibility to protect was of utmost importance. It was essential that parliamentarians were apprised of how their governments acted within the United Nations and informed of any violations of human rights. The international community should ensure that all States were capable of protecting their citizens but, if they failed to do so, the international community should be prepared to act to ensure such protection.

The situation of refugees was particularly important and parliamentarians should give full support to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and call on governments to fulfil their obligations to protect all people in their country, including refugees and asylum-seekers.

Mr. A. DJELLOUT (Algeria) noted that the concept of the responsibility to protect was a controversial one, given the implications for interference in the internal affairs of another State. In discussions on the principle within the United Nations, including at the 2005 World Summit, Member States had acknowledged that it was incumbent on all States to protect their populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity and that the international community, under the authority of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter, should employ all appropriate diplomatic, peaceful and humanitarian means to assist and protect populations in situations of conflict.

Concerns remained, however, that the concept undermined the principles of non-interference and national sovereignty. It was essential that implementation of the concept in no way undermined those principles. Algeria called for a cautious approach that underscored the importance of prevention, including addressing the root causes of poverty, underdevelopment and inequality; the use of peaceful solutions; cooperation between regional institutions; and greater democratization of the United Nations.

Mr. N. LAZREK (Morocco) opined that the more human rights violations occurred in the world, the greater the responsibility of parliamentarians to seek to prevent them. Parliamentarians needed to fulfil their role in protecting populations by strengthening international humanitarian and civil rights law.

Globalization did not make sense without legislation establishing clear boundaries between what was legal and what was not and strengthening respect for human rights. Parliaments also needed to monitor situations and ensure that the necessary resources were available to implement legislation. There were several mechanisms that parliaments could use, such as commissions of enquiry to investigate human rights violations.

After adopting the draft resolution, IPU Members must ensure that all countries had the capacity to implement it. Implementation could be challenging in new democracies and parliaments should seek to overcome any gap in the necessary legislative structures by ratifying all relevant international treaties.

With continuing crises in Africa and the Middle East, he urged parliaments to fulfil their responsibility to protect by adopting policies to end the massacre of civilians.

Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa), Vice-President of the Committee, replaced Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) in the Chair.

Mr. K.-J. YOO (Republic of Korea) observed that even though the international community had reached consensus on the scope of the responsibility to protect, namely the four mass atrocities of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, it was still a controversial topic as States had different views on whether the responsibility to protect was applicable in certain cases. It was therefore essential that a general set of principles be defined to determine the precise situations in which the concept was applicable.

The responsibility to protect did not always entail military intervention; indeed, that should be regarded as the last resort when all other peaceful measures had proved unsuccessful. To minimize the need for military intervention, pre-emptive measures should be taken through monitoring and responding to potential human rights violations.

In that context, the Republic of Korea had submitted proposed amendments to the draft resolution with a view to expanding the discussions on the scope of the responsibility to protect.

Ms. M. VAN EETVELDE (Belgium) said that if individual States could not, or failed to, protect civilians from mass atrocities, it was the responsibility of the international community, under the authority of the United Nations, to ensure such protection. That did not, however, give it carte blanche to intervene in a State and ignore the principle of national sovereignty; Belgium welcomed the references made in the draft resolution to respecting sovereignty.

All States had a duty to provide its population with a minimum level of security that allowed for stability and development. When a State was responsible for perpetrating mass atrocities against its population, the international community was justified in intervening, but should always prioritize resolving the situation through diplomatic means. For their part, parliamentarians should strongly urge their governments to implement the principle of the responsibility to protect across the board, in particular through appropriate legislation.

Mr. H. ISMAN (Indonesia) commented that the Committee's task was neither to renegotiate the Outcome of the 2005 World Summit, at which the concept of the responsibility to protect had first been defined, nor to reinterpret that concept. Rather, its task was to determine how best to implement the concept practicably through appropriate policies and how to ensure that mass atrocities were prevented.

Indonesia agreed with the three pillars defined by Mr. Ban Ki-moon and believed that through them and the framework, international humanitarian law could be upheld. The consensus on the responsibility to protect civilians' lives needed to be sustained and parliamentarians must play a key role by coordinating with and assisting States in building their capacity to protect, ensuring good governance and building democratic societies. In cases where a State manifestly failed in its responsibility to protect, the international community should respond but should prioritize non-violent and non-coercive measures; military intervention should always be the last resort when trying to restore international peace and security.

Mr. H.T. KANKOSHI (Namibia) said that the Namibian Constitution safeguarded civilians' lives by enshrining a number of fundamental rights, including the rights to a decent life and equal treatment, to freedom from discrimination, torture or cruelty and slavery or forced labour. Other legislation relating to police and criminal procedures had also been enacted to protect civilians.

Namibia and many other African countries needed human capital, skills and resources to safeguard lives and investigate crimes and situations that could threaten that process. Namibia believed that the international community should not interfere in the domestic affairs of States and should only intervene when States had failed to protect their citizens and all other mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of the situation had been tried and exhausted.

He welcomed the IPU's willingness to assist parliaments in facing the challenges of enforcing the responsibility to protect and expressed support for the draft resolution.

Mr. SIXI CHEN (China) said that the concept of the responsibility to protect had been controversial since its inception and, as such, the international community needed to strictly regulate how it was put into practice to ensure that it was not abused. As legislators, parliamentarians needed to seek greater understanding and consensus on the concept and ensure that governments fulfilled their primary responsibility to protect their citizens.

The concept should not, however, run counter to the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention; the principles of the UN Charter were of paramount importance and the responsibility to protect should not undermine those or any other norms that governed international relations. The Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit provided a sensible description of that responsibility and limited its application to the four atrocities of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. No country should seek to redefine its scope and the international community should not invoke the concept as a reason to intervene in any State's internal affairs.

Any action to mitigate or end crises should be carried out with the authorization of and under the auspices of the United Nations and should always adhere to the Charter. Crucially all peaceful means should first be exhausted before any other action was taken.

Mr. M. NAJAF NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the responsibility to protect was important in preventing the loss of civilian life in mass atrocity crimes, but several aspects of the concept needed careful scrutiny, given the possible implications for State sovereignty. It was the duty of a State to defend its own people against the four mass atrocity crimes under discussion and other States should only provide assistance upon request and through the United Nations. The UN Charter was sufficient for addressing such crimes and made no reference to a right to intervene in individual States. It also generally prohibited the use of force, except in self-defence

and under the authorization of the Security Council when there was a threat to international peace and stability. The concept of the responsibility to protect needed to be discussed in depth at the UN General Assembly in order to address concerns about the implications of its implementation.

Frequent references in resolutions to democracy, human rights and the responsibility to protect that were not supported by the necessary resolve to implement or realize them were counterproductive as they encouraged oppressors to further flout international law and gave false hope to oppressed populations.

Ms. L. ALANSARI (Saudi Arabia) said that her country strongly believed in the important role of parliaments in enforcing the responsibility to protect and safeguarding civilians' lives and the Saudi Arabian Parliament had established a number of mechanisms and institutions that were focused on human rights and sought to put the concept into practice.

She welcomed the draft resolution but said that a number of its provisions would not be operational unless more focused, measurable objectives for their implementation were set, in particular for protecting women and children, reintegrating child soldiers and bringing national criminal and military laws in line with international norms. For some other provisions, however, much more detail was needed on implementation mechanisms; examples of real-life experience and the tools used should be outlined to make it easier for countries to implement the provisions of the resolution in times of crisis.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa) considered that the references to the protection of women and children needed to be strengthened in the draft resolution, as it was they who often suffered most from violence and abuse during conflicts. The resolution should insist on the need for all States to respect international conventions and treaties regarding women and children. Using children as soldiers in armed conflicts should also be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

South Africa agreed with the proposed amendments calling for decisive action by UN bodies and the ICC, but was concerned by those amendments that sought to reduce the role of parliaments, which was crucial in ensuring that governments complied with international treaties. Parliamentarians were elected to serve the people and to hold the executive to account for its actions and their role should never be allowed to be diminished.

National sovereignty should always be respected, but where action needed to be taken by the international community, it should always be in line with United Nations resolutions and international conventions. Parliaments and the Standing Committee needed to play a greater role in monitoring potential conflict situations, so that, where necessary, interventions could be made sooner rather than later.

Mr. M. AHMED (Bangladesh) recalled the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 and said that parliamentarians in his country understood well the importance of their role in safeguarding civilians' lives, particularly in conflict situations. Since that time Bangladesh had also experienced periods under military rule, but the country had worked hard to ensure that the Parliament was now at the centre of all political activity and strived for national consensus when taking important decisions.

He urged all parliamentarians to respect their important role in safeguarding the lives and protecting the rights of civilians in their respective countries.

Mr. A. SANZ (Spain) said that an important issue to address was the use of children in armed conflict. In 2000 the United Nations had adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and a report by Amnesty International had stated that there was increasing consensus on ending children's participation as soldiers in armed conflict, but in reality the issue was still far from being resolved. After conflict, those children were often fearful of revealing their identities and much more

needed to be done – especially in terms of funding and more effective planning – to ensure that they were registered, received an education and professional training, and were reintegrated into their original communities.

Another important issue was that of the extradition of war criminals. Extradition was a demonstration of solidarity between countries and the desire to work together to uphold principles enshrined in international treaties and to ensure that no crime went unpunished, regardless of the country in which it was perpetrated. The need for cooperation between parliaments was indispensable. Parliaments also needed to work to prevent weapons from being sent to conflict zones that might be used to commit atrocities and serious human rights violations. The draft resolution needed to set firm and clear standards that could be implemented and monitored, thus ensuring compliance with international law.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that his country had established a parliamentary committee responsible for looking at international humanitarian law and had undertaken several activities, including awareness-raising campaigns, participation in humanitarian action around the world, and increasing efforts to ensure aid that reached those who needed it most. The country had also helped to establish camps in Jordan for Syrian refugees and called on all parliaments to approve the resolution on the responsibility to protect in order to prevent genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Each State was responsible for protecting its citizens, including through action to prevent mass atrocities. In order to protect citizens and prevent armed conflict, peaceful solutions should always be prioritized when trying to put an end to those crimes. Military intervention should only ever be a last resort and carried out solely under the authority of the United Nations.

To assist with conflict resolution, the IPU should propose mechanisms to be adopted and implemented by the UN Security Council. It was important to avoid double standards, however, as on some occasions Member States had used their right of veto and in doing so prevented peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) said that Chad was aware of the advantages of peace and stability as it had also experienced the consequences of armed conflict. It was a post-conflict country, had welcomed refugees from other countries, and was now intervening in Mali on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution.

The recent conflict in Libya had seen a proliferation of weapons in the region, which posed a threat to all countries as terrorism and fundamentalism knew no borders. As a result, the Parliament of Chad had passed a resolution on the deployment of the army to Mali, on the understanding that by embarking on such action and seeking an end to the conflict in Mali, Chad was also preserving its own security and protecting its people.

The responsibility to protect behoved all States, but it was also essential to address the root causes of tension and unrest that led to States becoming unable or unwilling to protect its people. At present, the conditions for intervention by the international community were ambiguous, as sometimes arguments were put forward either for or against such intervention in order to protect States' strategic interests. It was therefore better to prioritize prevention and provide assistance to countries that were encountering difficulties rather than have to justify intervention at a later stage.

Mr. H. FRANKEN (Netherlands) said that the concept of the responsibility to protect was a difficult one, as it could mean the breach of a State's sovereignty. A clear definition of the concept was therefore necessary, with agreement on the conditions of when, where and how to apply it.

The particular conditions for assuming the government's role of guaranteeing the safety of citizens, as outlined in the draft resolution, were generally accepted, but the Netherlands' intention was to give a limited scope to the responsibility to protect, so as to make the concept

more practicable. Its definition should focus on intervention to freeze a conflict in a country solely to end the killing of civilians through genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity, and not to end the conflict as a whole or to replace the governing power.

Beyond ensuring that appropriate legislation was enacted, parliaments also needed to approve all government decisions for action based on the responsibility to protect and to monitor that action closely; to ensure that perpetrators were prosecuted by the ICC and to ratify the Rome Statute; to protect refugees, ensuring they were treated as victims, not criminals; and to promote reconstruction as part of the process to restore or establish stability and democratic governance.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that the responsibility to protect was not an established international norm but a concept that still needed to be discussed and further defined. National sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States were inalienable rights; the responsibility to protect, however, violated the sovereignty of States and could be exploited by the hidden interests of some who sought to justify interference and the use of force. The recent conflict in Libya and the ongoing situations in Syria and Palestine showed how the international community could choose to apply or not the concept of the responsibility to protect according to particular interests.

Parliamentarians had a duty through the draft resolution to oppose any use of force that was contrary to international law and the UN Charter and to promote dialogue, negotiation and other peaceful means for ensuring the protection of the civilian population.

Cuba had submitted a number of proposed amendments to the draft resolution with a view to asserting the IPU's objection to any intervention for political or strategic reasons and advocating the settlement of conflicts through means that did not contravene the UN Charter or international law.

Mr. S. ITO (Japan) said that human rights did not only imply the physical protection of human lives but also giving people a metaphysical value, i.e. protecting and enriching the ability of every individual to help reform society and to build better nations, bringing about prosperity and sustainability. Many delegations had agreed on the need to reform the UN Security Council, but by adopting such an approach to people and human rights it would go a long way to overcoming the objections that some States had to various Security Council resolutions.

Firm action was needed to ensure that every person had the right to freedom from terror, poverty and hunger and to realize their potential and, to that end, Japan supported programmes in over 80 countries through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

A different approach was needed to define and protect human rights with a focus on the individual. Living in a globalized society should not necessarily entail a globalized sense of values. The concept of human rights was very much linked to that sense of values, but there was much diversity among the world's populations and the homogenization of the global community would not be a good thing.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) said that of the three pillars of the responsibility to protect, parliaments played a particularly important role vis-à-vis the first pillar: the primary responsibility of States to protect their populations. Parliaments should ensure that legislative and constitutional frameworks guaranteed the rights of all citizens, which was the best means of ensuring civil peace, and should establish early warning mechanisms that could aid governments in adopting the necessary policies to prevent crises. If the question of international intervention arose, parliaments should monitor any action undertaken and ensure that it was carried out in a transparent manner. She sought clarification on what precisely the co-Rapporteurs envisaged the role of parliaments to be in implementing and monitoring the responsibility to protect and ensuring transparency and compliance with all democratic principles.

Mr. S. HUSAIN (Bahrain) considered that the protection of civilians should primarily be provided at the national level before it was considered at the international level; all States should adopt appropriate mechanisms to protect their populations and strengthen the national institutions responsible for ensuring human rights. To that end, Bahrain had established a human rights committee to strengthen those rights, raise awareness and draft legislation, ensuring that it conformed to relevant international instruments. The Parliament had at its disposal mechanisms enabling it to intervene quickly and effectively to resolve potential conflict situations.

When defining and implementing the concept of the responsibility to protect it was important to take account of differences in countries' circumstances and cultures, including whether or not they had stable systems of government. Regardless of those circumstances, national sovereignty and independence should always be respected.

The IPU should study other relevant resolutions and texts on providing assistance to populations suffering in situations of conflict.

Ms. S. KARHU (Finland) said that the role of the media was extremely important as it was through the media that the world found out about conflicts when they occurred. It was important for people to know that the news they received was accurate and objective and for that reason the media needed to be independent, not subject to State censorship and able to scrutinize and comment freely on the ruling authorities.

The work of reporters was increasingly impeded in many places and greater numbers had been imprisoned or killed in recent times than ever before. According to Reporters Without Borders, that rise was partly due to attacks by security troops in some countries on "citizen-reporters" or amateur reporters, who filmed events in areas of conflict on their mobile phones. Without such actions, the world would often remain ignorant of and be unable to respond to what was happening in those conflicts. It was therefore essential to protect the human rights of reporters and to guarantee them peace and immunity as they conducted their work. Parliamentarians must always support reporters and freedom and independence in the media's work, even if they did not always like the news that was reported.

Mr. F. JESUS (Portugal) said that the role of parliamentarians in strengthening global peace and stability lay in promoting mutual cooperation with other nations, guaranteeing fundamental human rights and placing people at the heart of all policies and decisions. Cooperation among States was especially important in safeguarding a world order that respected national sovereignty and defended and promoted peace and security.

Parliaments, as representatives of the people, needed to guarantee legislation that addressed the concerns of the population and promoted individual freedoms. The separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches was crucial to ensuring effective parliaments that could enforce the responsibility to protect all people. Legislative frameworks needed to value and protect human rights, including through penalties for those who violated those rights. Penal codes also needed to conform to international law, especially regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

Parliaments had a responsibility to monitor government action, ensuring that they respected international law, including through ratifying, transposing into domestic laws and implementing international treaties. One of the most important instruments regarding human rights was the Rome Statute of the ICC and all countries should seek to ratify it.

Mr. R.R. OKUMU (Uganda) said that, with regard to the draft resolution, all human rights - civil, economic, social and cultural - needed to be looked at holistically and it was important to ensure that the language used was applicable to all. As it stood, the references to minorities and indigenous people were not well defined, especially as the latter was not pertinent to all States.

The draft resolution also needed to have stronger recommendations on parliamentary oversight of government action and on the allocation of funds to assist with post-conflict reconstruction. The draft resolution should also define a process for reintegration, as most conflicts involved the displacement of populations; it should also make a clear reference to war reparations. The text also needed to cover both internal and inter-State conflicts as parliaments had an important role to play in preventing or seeking to bring an end to both types.

An essential duty of parliaments was to ensure good governance, which was key to reducing conflict and protecting human rights, through measures to reduce corruption and promote freedom, such as that of the media to report and comment on the actions of governments and parliaments.

Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) resumed the Chair.

Mr. M. HAJJAR (Syrian Arab Republic) expressed his delegation's objections to the draft resolution. First, it had been drawn up based on Articles 138 and 139 of the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, which stated that the responsibility to protect was a matter for each individual country and that the international community should provide support to countries to assume that responsibility rather than impose it on any sovereign nation.

Second, the title was based on the duty to enforce the responsibility to protect, yet a number of States were often inconsistent in their calls for humanitarian intervention, opting to condone the actions of certain States and urging the end to some conflicts while supporting other States and the continuation of other conflict situations. The text needed to provide an appropriate legal base for intervention, ensuring that was equally applied in all situations and did not violate the principle of national sovereignty.

Lastly, the draft made no reference to terrorism, which his delegation viewed as a war crime and which had been recognized as such in UN resolutions. The draft resolution should be thus revised accordingly.

Mr. S. SEYIDOV (Azerbaijan) said that the co-Rapporteurs' reports had shown the important role of parliaments in the responsibility to protect. Azerbaijan had significant numbers of refugees and the parliament continued to work hard to safeguard those populations and ensure peace and security.

The three pillars of human rights, democracy and the rule of law were all intertwined; a violation or absence of the rule of law often led to violations of human rights or the absence of democracy. To counter such issues and to ensure that civilians and their human rights were protected, it was essential for parliamentarians to implement all of the recommendations of the reports and draft resolution.

Ms. L. MEIER-SCHATZ (Switzerland) observed a certain degree of reticence among delegates on the issue of the responsibility to protect. Her delegation believed that, the concept of the responsibility to protect should be founded on the principle of subsidiarity. By respecting that principle, the three pillars relating to the concept would also be respected.

She was pleased that the co-Rapporteurs had called invited input from the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians so as to reinforce the draft resolution's references to the protection of women and children, who were often at greatest risk in times of conflict. She also welcomed the emphasis placed on the importance of parliamentarians' work in safeguarding civilians' lives. Her delegation would be proposing amendments to the draft resolution with a view to strengthening decision-making mechanisms, which were crucial to ensuring parliamentarians that could fulfil their duty to defend the interests of the population.

The draft resolution needed to better address post-conflict situations and the restoration of peace and stability, including in particular, addressing potential human rights violations committed by security forces during conflicts. She welcomed and endorsed the comments made by the delegate of Japan and looked forward to discussing further the ideas that he had advanced when the proposed amendments to the draft resolution were reviewed.

Mr. J.-P. NGOUYA (Congo) said that it was clear that parliamentarians did not wish to challenge the validity of the concept of the responsibility to protect, but his delegation believed there needed to be a greater emphasis on preventive measures, as situations could often arise purely because it was difficult to initiate or maintain dialogue in certain national settings. Parliamentarians needed greater assistance from the international community in consolidating democracy, particularly in Africa, where democratic governance was often very fragile. With such fragility at the executive or parliamentary levels, it was difficult to adopt certain principles within certain parliaments. Prevention was therefore key to ensuring the responsibility to protect and everything should be done to ensure that parliamentarians had the necessary international support for their work and for the processes that they needed to implement at the national level.

His delegation had submitted a number of proposed amendments to the draft resolution with a view to further refining the principle of the responsibility to protect and ensuring that the necessary systems were in place to prevent the principle from being misused based on the interests of any one party.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that the role of parliaments in the implementation of the responsibility to protect was crucial and that the separation of powers was key to enabling parliaments to fulfil their duties to hold governments to account for their actions. He had concerns over the notion of intervening in States, however, as it violated the principle enshrined in the UN Charter of non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. Such interference was unacceptable unless there was no longer a functioning government in the country in question. Anything else would require the Charter to be amended to allow interventions under very particular conditions; such an intervention should not be for the purpose of overthrowing a regime or supporting any one party to the conflict, but solely to ensure the protection of civilians. Sudan did not support military intervention and believed that peaceful solutions to conflicts should always be sought.

He considered the Rome Statute establishing the ICC to be a weak convention that ran counter to the immunity of States as recognized in the UN Charter. The mass atrocity crimes needed to be clearly defined in the draft resolution as the definitions in the Rome Statute applied only to its signatories.

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) said that she had proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution. Any reference in the preamble to intervention in Syria should be removed, as concerns had been raised over UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973; the former included the precedent of creating an exception to the jurisdiction of the ICC, while the latter had been adopted with the abstention of a number of Member States, thus voiding it of its legitimacy.

The preamble should state that the UN Security Council must assess, before deciding on any military intervention, the potential consequences of such intervention on the civilian population. Furthermore, any intervention should be restricted to cases of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity and the decision by the Security Council should be proportionate, legitimate, and supported by the whole international community. At present, the Security Council was not a representative organ of the United Nations and, owing to the veto rights of the five permanent members, the decision-making process was undemocratic and should be reformed. The draft resolution should also urge all States to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and by so doing affirm their confidence in democracy and parliamentary diplomacy. She hoped that the Committee would take into consideration the amendments proposed by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

Mr. R. MONTEIRO (Angola) endorsed the remarks made by previous speakers who had underscored prevention; all parliaments had a duty to first seek to prevent conflicts and it was important to set out what actions they could take to achieve that. A crucial factor in preventing crises was to combat poverty and ensure the right to health, education and nutrition as conflicts in many countries were exacerbated by a low level of development. The international community should first and foremost focus on addressing those internal development issues rather than allowing conflicts to develop to the point where intervention was needed. The movement of weapons to conflict zones should be subject to much tighter control. Parliaments should urgently seek to restrain that movement in order to avoid exacerbating or prolonging conflicts.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom) said that while it was easy for parliamentarians to discuss issues and pass resolutions, if their involvement stopped there and was not backed by action they would themselves become part of the problem. It was essential that they upheld the principles of the resolution by ensuring effective implementation.

He expressed support for many of the ideas outlined by the delegate of Japan and stressed that if parliaments endorsed the universality of human rights, they also had a universal responsibility to promote solidarity. Every time an atrocity was committed and a child died or a person was tortured or killed, the parliamentary community, and indeed the wider international community would be weakened if they did not recognize the implications of such actions on their own quality of life. It was clear that solidarity was an integral part of the responsibility to protect.

He welcomed the emphasis placed on prevention in the reports and draft resolution. Intervention should always be the last resort and never a convenient means of promoting particular political objectives in the name of the responsibility to protect. There must be a serious commitment to peace-building in post-conflict situations and any intervention must take full account of the potential consequences. Too often, the international community was guilty of not preparing for those consequences with the same focus and enthusiasm as for the intervention itself.

Mr. W. VARGAS (Ecuador) said that the issue of the responsibility to protect was complex, particularly in its relationship with the UN Charter and the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of a State. The draft resolution needed to clearly outline the three pillars, the role of the State as the chief entity responsible for the protection of civilians and that of the international community in providing support or intervening, where necessary. The international community must tread carefully, however, in determining precisely when a State was no longer ensuring the protection of its population; if intervention did occur, it must comply with all relevant provisions of the UN Charter.

In its references to combating impunity, the draft resolution needed to exhort parliamentarians to incorporate in domestic laws a number of key elements: sanctions against the four specified crimes were incontrovertible; no amnesty or pardon should be granted in relation to those crimes; if those crimes were committed by subordinates, neither they nor their superiors who ordered the crime was exempt from responsibility or prosecution; and there must be support for extradition treaties between States. Ecuador fully supported the calls to protect women and children but suggested that the references be extended to all vulnerable groups, including the elderly and the disabled.

Mr. L. SHEOKITUNDU (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the principle of the responsibility to protect was not in itself controversial, as it was inherent to the role and functioning of the State, but difficulties arose when that responsibility was violated and decisions needed to be made on what action to take. States themselves could either actively or passively perpetrate such violations, but they could also occur when a State was simply unable to assume its responsibility. In considering how to respond to either scenario, the international community needed to bear in mind that international relations were based on respect for the sovereignty of

States and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Intervention was not just about protecting civilians physically, but also protecting their fundamental human rights, the need for which transcended State sovereignty.

The international community, through the UN Security Council, should seek to strengthen a State's capacity to assume its responsibility to protect, and to prevent that State from violating that responsibility and its civilians' human rights. When violations did occur, whether by State or non-State actors, the framework governing intervention needed to be strict and limited to the four mass atrocity crimes under discussion. Intervention must also be based on legitimate decisions by the whole international community. He endorsed the calls for reform of the UN Security Council to make it a more democratic body, in which decisions to take action were not needlessly delayed.

Ms. J. PERIÉ (Argentina) said that her country and many others in Latin America had suffered from interventions and coups d'état that had interrupted their democratic processes and violated people's human rights, sometimes supported by other States because of their own particular interests. Argentinians were that very day commemorating the Day of Remembrance for Truth and Justice and remembering those who were imprisoned, exiled or who were subject to forced disappearances. In the light of such suffering and violation of rights, many in the region had grave concerns over external interventions, which were deemed to violate national sovereignty and international law. Examples of interventions around the world in recent years had certainly not always been effective in resolving conflicts. Interventions by the international community - military or other - should not be based on the political or economic interests of a few. Echoing the words of the President of Ecuador during his inaugural address to the Assembly, she said that it was essential not to condone neo-colonialism of any kind and to promote respect for the sovereign rights of all people.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 26 March (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa), Vice-President of the First Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation of a draft resolution (C-I/128/DR-cr)

The First Standing Committee had also sat in plenary on Monday, 25 March, from 2.35 p.m. to 6.40 p.m., and on Tuesday, 26 March, from 9.10 a.m. to 12.05 p.m. During those sittings and the first part of the present sitting, the Committee considered the draft resolution prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs. A total of 146 amendments had been received from the delegations of Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Senator Sonia Escudero of Argentina and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. In the course of the deliberations, a number of sub-amendments were also proposed by some delegations. All amendments and sub-amendments had been carefully considered and were either accepted for incorporation into the text or rejected in line with IPU practices and principles. When a decision needed to be made by means of a vote, the agreement of a simple majority of those present was required.

Preparations for the 130th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had received a number of proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee at the 130th Assembly. The Bureau had discussed the items and decided by consensus to merge the two proposals put forward by Bangladesh and Cuba under the title Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments, which it submitted to the Committee for approval.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) stated that, to his knowledge, about eight proposals had been submitted to the Bureau, including one from his own delegation. He requested clarification on how the Bureau had reached its decision and questioned whether the Committee should not decide on an item. He asked that all members of the Committee be informed of each of the proposed subject items.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) observed that in the document that had been circulated detailing the different proposals, there had been no mention of the item that the Bureau now recommended to the Committee. While he understood that nuclear disarmament was an important issue he expressed surprise that, given the lengthy discussions on the concept of the responsibility to protect, the subject item proposed by Switzerland had not been selected, as it sought to further strengthen the role of parliaments in post-conflict situations, particularly with regard to security.

The PRESIDENT explained that the decision on the topic had been made after due discussion by the Bureau and after having heard presentations from the various countries on the proposals they had submitted. The item put forward by the Bureau had been reached by consensus. The delegate from Chad was right in that the exact title of that item had not appeared in the document circulated to delegates, as the Bureau had merged the Bangladeshi and Cuban proposals during its meeting.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that, further to his previous question, he also wished to know the criteria for selecting the item to recommend to the Committee. He also asked what influence the President might have had given that he was from Bangladesh, whose proposal had been selected in conjunction with Cuba's.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that, as one of the proposals had been made by the delegation of his own country, Bangladesh, the President of the Committee had recused himself from expressing a view or voting on the proposed items. The Bureau had taken a decision on the proposed items after careful review and after hearing presentations from their proponents. He emphasized that, while the Bureau had recommended one item to the Standing Committee for its approval, the Committee was entitled to either accept or reject that recommendation as it saw fit.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France) welcomed the explanation of the process for selecting an item and said it was important to remember that the Bureau comprised representatives of all the geopolitical groups. The process followed by the Bureau for reaching a decision on the item, including the recusal of the President, had been conducted in accordance with the IPU Statutes.

Mr. M. HAJJAR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had also submitted a proposal, but perfectly understood the decision that had been made by the Bureau. The decision by the Bureau to include Cuba's proposal as one of the two that had been merged deserved, in his delegation's view, enthusiastic support.

The delegate of MEXICO said that the Committee should accept the Bureau's recommendation, as it was important to respect the decision-making process in which all geopolitical groups had been represented.

Mr. A. ROSINDELL (United Kingdom) said that if the Rules of the Standing Committees specified that the decision was the Bureau's to make, there was no point in pursuing the present discussion. Either the Standing Committee should be allowed to vote on which topic it wished to discuss at the 130th Assembly or it should accept the Bureau's decision and move on to the next item of the Agenda.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that it would be useful in future to give all Committee members more time to review proposed subject items in order for the decision-making process to run more smoothly. She confirmed that the item originally proposed by Cuba, with the support of GRULAC, had been presented before the Bureau before the decision was made to merge it with Bangladesh's proposal.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) asked whether there was a particular rule stipulating that the Bureau had the responsibility for deciding on an item on behalf of the Standing Committee or whether the Committee had the right to hear the presentations on each of the proposals and to take the decision.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document C-I/128/C on the Convocation of the First Standing Committee, which had been distributed to all Members prior to the Assembly and which stated that the Bureau would meet at the Assembly and fulfil a number of statutory functions, including the consideration of proposals submitted by IPU Members for the subject items.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that in a meeting of the Third Standing Committee, all delegations that had submitted proposals for an item to be considered at the 130th Assembly had been given the opportunity to present their proposals to that Committee, after which a vote was held. Unless there was a clause stating that the Bureau was required to take the decision, the First Standing Committee should follow the same procedure as the Third Standing Committee.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba), agreeing with the previous speaker, said that in the Third Standing Committee the proposal agreed to by the geopolitical groups within the Bureau had been bought before the Committee because one party had not been able to agree to the proposal. The Committee was therefore asked to vote on all of the items that had been proposed.

Ms. L. MEIER-SCHATZ (Switzerland) proposed that the Standing Committee should vote on whether it agreed to the Bureau's recommended item. If the item was rejected, then the Standing Committee should vote on the other proposals that had been submitted.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) supported Switzerland's proposal for a vote, as a problem would only arise if the Committee rejected the Bureau's recommendation. He noted, however, that as all geopolitical groups were represented in the Bureau, all delegations had already indirectly participated in the Bureau's decision.

Ms. A. FILIP, IPU Secretariat, clarified that according to the Rules of the Committee, the Bureau had a consultative role; it met regularly during the Assembly, considered the proposals and heard presentations from the proponents and submitted its recommendation to the Standing Committee, which had the ultimate responsibility for deciding on the topic. The Committee was entitled to put the proposals to a vote if it so wished.

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden) asked whether it would be possible to vote on another item if both proposals of the Bureau's recommendation were rejected.

The PRESIDENT said that it was important to first vote on the Bureau's recommendation to merge the proposals of Bangladesh and Cuba. If the proposal was rejected, the Committee could decide how to proceed.

Following a vote, the Standing Committee agreed to accept the Bureau's recommendation for the item to be considered at the 130th Assembly.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) asked first whether the vote had been passed by a simple majority or a two-thirds majority and then whether it was acceptable for the three Standing Committees to use different procedures when taking decisions on such a matter.

Mr. A. ROSINDELL (United Kingdom) commented that the process for choosing a subject item had not been managed very well. The Bureau should certainly make its recommendation but in order to be truly democratic, the Standing Committee should hear each proposal and take the final decision through a vote. To that end he requested that each proposal be presented to the Committee and another vote be held.

Mr. M. HAJJAR (Syrian Arab Republic) considered that the proper democratic process had been respected with the first vote. If there were any objections to the vote they should have been raised before it was held. The result of the vote, which had seen the majority agree to the Bureau's recommended proposal, could not now be challenged.

Ms. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) said that the Committee had followed the appropriate rules of procedure, a fact confirmed by the representative of the IPU Secretariat. The First Standing Committee should not concern itself with how the other Committees had reached their decisions.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) agreed that the vote had followed all democratic principles. Furthermore, the Bureau, which represented all geopolitical groups, had duly acted in accordance with its mandate to review all proposals present its recommendation to the Committee.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Committee that the vote had taken place following a proposal from Switzerland to which no-one had objected. Regarding the result of the vote, 14 had voted in favour of the proposal recommended by the Bureau and seven had voted against, thus the decision had been taken by a clear two-thirds majority.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that it had been proposed during the meeting of the Bureau that Ms. Y. Ferrer-Gómez of Cuba and Mr. B. Calkins of Canada should serve as co-Rapporteurs to draft the report and draft resolution on the item for discussion at the 130th Assembly. In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the proposals.

It was so decided.

Adoption of the draft resolution

The PRESIDENT said that as the Committee had only finished its deliberations on the draft resolutions and proposed amendments at its present meeting, a first draft was only available in English as there had not yet been time to translate it into French. He asked whether the Committee was happy to proceed with the adoption of the draft on the basis of the English version only, or whether it would prefer to wait until the French version was also available, which would entail reconvening in Plenary early the next day, so that the draft could be adopted and transmitted to the Assembly for approval.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France) observed that as both English and French were the official working languages of the IPU, the formal adoption of the draft resolution should not be taken up until the next day, when the text had been translated and could be circulated to the Committee in both languages.

It was so agreed.

Election of the Bureau of the First Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that in accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees, the officers of the Bureau of each Standing Committee must be elected or re-elected at the first IPU Assembly of the year. A titular member for the Eurasia Group and substitute members for the Arab and Eurasia Groups needed to be elected. All other members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election. Regarding the election of the President, he asked whether the Committee would agree to re-elect the incumbent to serve for the next year.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Eurasia Group had not submitted any nominations for its titular and substitute members and, as such, the positions would remain vacant. The Arab Group had nominated Ms. S. Haj Hasan of Jordan as its substitute member. In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Committee wished to approve that nomination and to re-elect all remaining members of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.

Sitting of Wednesday 27 March

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 8.40 a.m. with Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa), Vice-President of the First Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the draft resolution

(C-I/128/DR)

The PRESIDENT invited the Standing Committee to consider the draft resolution, which had now been made available in both English and French, and recalled that, in accordance with the Rules of the Committee, only amendments that had been submitted in writing before the statutory deadline could be reintroduced, and that sub-amendments could be proposed.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), co-Rapporteur, informed the Committee that some small amendments should be made to the draft resolution to improve the overall cohesion of the text; the changes were not substantive and would not affect the intended meaning of any of the articles. He proposed moving operational paragraphs 1 and 3 to the preamble, and merging the latter with preambular paragraph 4. Operational paragraphs 13, 14, and 16 should also be merged to avoid unnecessary repetition, as all three contained the same idea. The wording used in operational paragraphs 20 and 24 also required minor changes to match that of the relevant preambular paragraphs.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that he did not in principle support the idea of calling on parliaments to adopt and comply with the Rome Statute of the ICC but as the Committee had approved the relevant amendments, it was right to merge the three paragraphs specified by the co-Rapporteur and improve the overall text of the draft resolution. He was pleased that the Committee had negotiated the amendments to the draft resolution in a spirit of consensus; while not all amendments had been adopted, the draft reflected the Committee's discussion and the opinions of the majority.

Mr. J.-P. NGOUYA (Congo) requested clarification on whether the amendment his delegation had proposed as new operative paragraph 14bis had been taken into consideration in the final text of the draft resolution.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), co-Rapporteur, explained that all agreed amendments had been incorporated into the final text of the draft resolution and the changes he had proposed were only focused on improving the overall wording and structure of the resolution.

Mr. U. NILSSON (Sweden) said that, as the Committee had agreed on specific wording, the word “ensure”, as contained in the present operational paragraph 16, must be retained in the draft resolution once paragraphs 13, 14, and 16 were merged.

Mr. A. KUMAR (India) said that operational paragraph 14 included an incorrect reference to ethnic cleansing under the purview of the ICC. The Court was competent to hear cases involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression but not ethnic cleansing. During the discussions on amendments, a sub-amendment proposed by India to preambular paragraph 12 had been carried, but had not been incorporated into the final text. The paragraph should be revised accordingly to reflect the agreed sub-amendment.

Mr. S. JANQUIN, co-Rapporteur, confirmed that ethnic cleansing did not fall within the jurisdiction of the ICC and said that the paragraph in question would be amended accordingly.

Mr. A. KUMAR (India) pointed out that the word “take” was missing from operational paragraph 12.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that in view of time constraints, the Committee should adopt the draft resolution by acclamation rather than on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis.

The First Standing Committee adopted by acclamation the draft resolution, as amended during the meeting.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that Cuba could not join the consensus on the resolution, as the concept of the responsibility to protect was still very much under discussion by the international community; her delegation and others had raised a number of legitimate concerns on parts of the text during the negotiations on amendments, particularly on the issues of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Appointment of a rapporteur to the 128th Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda), who had represented the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians during the discussions on amendments to the draft, should present the resolution on behalf of the First Standing Committee to the 128th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the First Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 9.05 a.m.

**Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms
for sustainable development**

Second Standing Committee – Sustainable development, Finance and Trade

Sitting of Saturday 23 March

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.20 a.m. with Mr. Saleh E. Alhusseini, President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/128/C)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-II/128/C), and noting that no proposals had been made, said he took it that the draft agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

**Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on
the occasion of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala (April 2012)**

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Kampala, Uganda on 2 and 4 April 2012 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all IPU Members as part of the overall summary records of the proceedings of the 126th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions regarding the distributed text, he would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

**Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution
prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-II/128/R, C-II/128/DR-rev, C-II/128/DR-am, C-II/128/DR-am.1 and C-II/128/Sub-Am.1)

The PRESIDENT stated that, at the 126th IPU Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium) and Mr. R. Chitotela (Zambia) for the subject item to be considered at the present session, namely: "Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development". The co-Rapporteurs had prepared the final version of the reports that had been distributed to IPU Members on 3 December 2012. He stressed that the content of the reports was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as on past occasions, was intended to stimulate the debate and provide background for the Committee's work.

A preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion had also been prepared and distributed to IPU Members on 3 December 2012, and a revised version had been published on 11 February 2013. Members had been able to submit amendments to the revised draft resolution until the statutory deadline of 8 March 2013. Although amendments were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. A drafting committee, comprising representatives of all the geopolitical groups, would be appointed to consider the proposed amendments and produce the final draft resolution for distribution.

Mr. R. CHITOTELA (Zambia), co-Rapporteur, commented that although steps had been taken to incorporate as many of the proposed amendments as possible, both he and his co-Rapporteur had reservations about some as they implied a change of meaning. One such amendment was the substitution of the word "fair" with the word "free" in preambular paragraph 1; the two words could not be used interchangeably and such an amendment would significantly change the meaning of the sentence. One of the main aims of fair trade was to address the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminated against poor and small-scale producers, many of whom were women. During the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, he had given a presentation on the effects of fair trade on women. Women were one of the main beneficiaries of fair trade, as it gave them the opportunity to both work and attend to daily domestic tasks. That Meeting had raised a number of important concerns that needed to be incorporated in the draft resolution, such as the need to include women and recognize the triple role they played in society and the need for gender-sensitive policies to create gender parity and opportunities for women to have better access to land.

It was imperative that fair trade was supported and that countries, in particular developed ones, provided much needed financial resources to developing countries to enable them to develop new fair trade products and provide information to consumers. Parliaments, governments and other global bodies also needed to explore innovative financing mechanisms to meet development requirements; examples of such mechanisms included financial transaction taxes, taxation of global activities such as the aviation and maritime sectors, public-private partnerships and the fulfilment of commitments by developed countries. In addition, given that fair trade was voluntary, the private sector should develop initiatives to raise public awareness of the system and countries should introduce coherent policy frameworks and support fair trade mechanisms. It was important to note, however, that fair trade was not a complete solution as there was an insufficient number of fair trade companies to purchase all of the produce from farmers around the world. It was vital that the trade system as a whole be changed to ensure that small-scale producers were paid a fair price for their produce and that they had access to and ownership of economic resources, including land.

Mr. F.-X. DE DONNEA (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, observed that the sheer number of amendments proposed to the draft resolution demonstrated the significant level of interest in the topic. In order to develop the section of the report on innovative financing mechanisms, the co-Rapporteurs had considered the current situation and defined the main challenges, enabling them to draw conclusions on the requirements for sustainable agriculture and to address climate change. The amount of funding needed to address those issues was increasing, and there was a significant shortfall between the funds needed and the amount of money that the public and private sectors were donating. The current financial crisis had affected many member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, which were the principal donors of development aid. That meant that the governments of those countries were struggling to provide funding and reach their aid targets. Therefore, it was time to look for alternative mechanisms to provide funding.

Many ideas had already been floated at the international level, and some initiatives had already begun. The private sector was playing an increasingly significant role in that regard. Some of the proposed mechanisms were controversial, particularly those related to international levies or taxes on sectors that had benefited significantly from globalization, such as the air, maritime and financial services sectors. There were many difficulties with launching individual initiatives; if one country chose to introduce a tax on financial transactions, companies would just choose to move to a neighbouring country that did not impose such a tax, which could lead to a budget deficit in the original country. However, the importance of trade in developing economies and funding development should not be underestimated and due attention should be given to ensuring that trade was both free and fair. In addition, all countries should take steps to improve governance and address corruption. He deplored the hypocrisy shown by some countries in

insisting that developing countries tackle corruption, when often companies in developed countries experienced significant levels of corruption. The EU was in the process of developing laws to detect, address and punish corruption. He drew attention to the increasing importance of remittances by migrant workers, which now exceeded official development assistance (ODA). It was crucial that the countries involved took steps to ensure that those funds were used to support sustainable development and for the originating countries to address high bank charges for such transactions. In addition, he highlighted the importance of addressing and preventing climate change and drew attention to the section of the report on that issue.

Debate

Mr. N. NAVARATNA (Thailand) considered that in order to narrow the gap between the rich and poor, fair trade should be based on the principles of sustainability, transparency and gender equality. Therefore, it was the responsibility of parliaments to promote and support fair trade products in all markets around the world. Governments should also provide advice and assistance to farmers on improving the quality of products in order to meet fair trade standards. He called on parliaments to work together to push for a true fair trade system, without non-tariff measures and protectionist practices. Innovative financing mechanisms would also be vital.

Mr. ZHONGQING YIN (China) stated that protectionism was a significant issue for developing countries; despite the adoption of the Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and Public Health, developing countries were still suffering from a lack of funding and were faced with challenges including increasing food and energy prices and rising unemployment. Parliamentarians around the world should take a stand against protectionism and work to facilitate progress in the Doha negotiations. They should also explore new methods of financing using official development assistance as the main channel. However, innovative financing should be voluntary and should be consistent with the national circumstances and priorities of recipient countries. He urged developed countries to honour their ODA commitments and called on all governments to strengthen North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation and to come together to establish an open and just multilateral trading system.

Mr. A. EISSEN (United Arab Emirates), emphasizing the importance of focusing on development, particularly with regard to rural populations, said that parliamentarians had an increasingly important role to play in guaranteeing sustainable development policies, especially with regard to fair trade, as there were many challenges to address. The financial crisis was creating significant difficulties in many countries, which was having ongoing consequences for developing countries; innovative ways of promoting fair trade were therefore required. Efforts should also be made by national parliaments to take into account the principles of fair trade when implementing international conventions. The IPU should consider developing a handbook for parliamentarians on fair trade policies.

Mr. S. KIRICHUK (Russian Federation) considered that the call for concerted action in the draft resolution should also make reference to international organizations rather than only regional ones. The IPU should not promote the idea that the EU was the largest market for fair trade goods; other regions also had the right to be recognized as major consumers of such goods. In addition, the draft resolution should not call for the universal adoption of a financial transaction tax as that was a national issue and should be adopted in accordance with national priorities and circumstances. In addition, the draft resolution should be guided by the principle of consensus and should not push through decisions that differed from certain countries' approaches. Countries should instead endeavour to find common positions.

Mr. D. OPREA (Romania) opined that innovative financing should be linked to education; if a strong financial system was developed that was oriented to the education system, the education system would in turn become the main provider of innovation and creativity. He urged delegates to promote a new theory of social reform under which companies were required to share their profits with the planet and the environment. He informed delegates that when he had been a member of the European Parliament, he had introduced the idea of levying a tax on salaries which, regardless of the country the person worked in, was allocated to education. The idea had generated some support, but would be difficult to implement.

Mr. J. ONO (Japan) said that fair trade should be seen as an attractive tool for both producers and consumers. If fair trade products could also be used to guarantee other aspects of importance to consumers in industrialized nations, such as the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions or of dependence on nuclear energy, it would enable such products to become more widespread. Such information could be added alongside organic or other labels. Current ODA mechanisms were insufficient to achieve development aims; a new approach using innovative financing that built on the principles of fair trade was therefore vital. However, coercive measures, such as financial transaction taxes should be used with caution. On the other hand, public-private partnerships, such as establishing a fund for aid or encouraging private companies in industrialized nations to buy back developing countries' debt, should be encouraged. It was also important for the financial sector to generate socially responsible investments. His delegation's amendments to the draft resolution called on governments of all countries to engage in fair trade and to make fair trade an integral part of ODA and the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia), recalling decisions and resolutions adopted by the international community with regard to innovative financing mechanisms, stated that his country did not have a legal instrument in place to monitor and regulate fair trade; however steps were being taken to address that shortcoming and technical assistance and capacity building were needed. Although the principles of fair trade were positive, measures needed to be taken to ensure that producers in developing countries benefitted from the system. Subsidies in developed countries were one element that offset the benefits of fair trade for producers in developing countries. There were also too many conditions and restrictions on products entering the fair trade system. It was vital that developed countries honoured their pledges towards developing countries. Turning to climate change he said that countries in Africa suffered significantly from the effects of such change, despite producing significantly lower levels of pollution than other countries; his country was reliant on commercial and subsistence farming, which had been affected by drier than average rainy seasons. He urged developed countries to provide technical assistance to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) considered that the definition of free trade needed clarification as different definitions currently existed. One way to support the development of fair trade was through public sector procurement; governments should therefore provide support to public authorities in that regard. It was also important that all parties in the fair trade supply chain, including drivers transporting the products, should have fair salaries. A good example of fair trade was in the so-called fair trade towns; in those communities, local authorities worked with the private sector to promote fair trade. Sweden had proposed several amendments to the draft resolution to highlight the importance of gender equality, particularly in decision-making. Parliaments should work to ensure the humane treatment of workers worldwide and support business investment in fair trade. Fair trade was vital to help women as it provided them with opportunities for education and to play leading roles. Parliamentarians must ensure that the results of discussions on the issue were translated into action.

Mrs. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia) said that there was a significant need for innovative financing mechanisms to be used to complement the ODA system as it was vital that developing countries had access to steady and predictable funding from all sources. Her country had developed a master plan to accelerate economic development between 2011 and 2025; it was estimated that the plan would require US\$ 500 billion in foreign aid. As part of the plan, Indonesia had committed to promoting environmentally-friendly projects and to exploring public-private partnership schemes. Producers that sold their goods on the fair trade market should enjoy the same benefits as consumers. The Indonesian Government had taken steps to integrate farmers and rural workers into its financial inclusion strategy and a bill on the protection and empowerment of farmers was scheduled to be discussed in 2013. She called on IPU Members to take into account the role of farmers and farm workers in the trade chain and appealed for more support to increase production and export capacity in developing countries, particularly those with small economies.

Mr. H. MIR MORADZEHI (Islamic Republic of Iran), remarked that the main objectives of and requirements for sustainable development were poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, financial support and technology transfer. Recalling the steps taken by the international community with regard to sustainable development, he said that the ongoing financial, food and energy crises currently affecting the world were having significant and unforeseen impacts on developing countries, affecting their ability to achieve development goals. As such, capacity building, technology transfer, financial cooperation and fair trade should be the focus of the international community. The current financial crisis had proved that without the broad participation of both developed and developing countries in policy-making, a stable global financial market was not possible. A sustained, equal and transparent financial system would increase global prosperity and facilitate sustainable development. In order to achieve such a system, parliamentarians should promote inter-parliamentary consultations and cooperation.

Mr. T. BURGOS (Spain) suggested that fair trade implied trade relations based on dialogue, transparency and respect; therefore, any such trade should take into account ethical, social and environmental concerns, such as better wages and living conditions, high-quality products and the protection of the environment. His country had submitted six amendments focusing on better protecting the rights of the weakest, including women and children, and highlighting the responsibilities of governments and parliaments in promoting a clear and stable legal framework, reducing the costs of remittances by migrant workers, increasing funding for programmes aimed at promoting fair trade and fighting tax evasion.

Mr. B. AL-SALHI (Palestine) stated that his country was operating within the fair trade framework through the export of olive oil. He stressed that the draft resolution needed to include references to cooperatives as frameworks for work with small-scale farmers, particularly as it was difficult for such farmers to be successful without assistance. Governments should also reinvest some of their taxes in education. His country struggled to trade internationally owing to the action of another country and he encouraged the IPU to address the issues faced by his country with specific focus on the need to promote cooperation between Palestine and other countries within the fair trade framework and to provide support to farmers in the country whose farms were being destroyed by the actions of another country.

Mr. R. LEÓN (Chile) said that it was vital to develop strong financing mechanisms in order to ensure the creation of a new international trade system that was fair and equitable. Such mechanisms should recognize the multifaceted global reality and the significant lack of macroeconomic regulation. Reforms were needed to address inequalities created by the speculative and non-transparent actions of the financial sectors. Although the financial crisis had not been predicted, it was important to reflect on it and address its causes. In addition, those

sectors that had benefited the most from globalization should contribute to such activities. He welcomed comments of the co-Rapporteur from Zambia regarding farmers and small businesses, but stressed that it was also vital to underscore the need for timely payment for products.

Mr. M.J. HADID (Jordan) considered that the reference to the provision of jobs in preambular paragraph 2 of the draft resolution was not entirely accurate; the free movement of labour was only possible under specific arrangements between States, such as the EU. It was important to note that only EU Member States could utilize such measures. Developing countries wishing to export labour were not able to do so even if they were nationals of countries entering into free trade agreements. In addition, the concept of equality in international trade mentioned in preambular paragraph 3 was difficult to enforce as, although many free trade agreements promoted equal opportunities, the limited ability of weaker countries to be export-competitive could lead to trade deficits, affecting the currency and standard of living of the weaker country. Moreover, in models of free market economies that advocated privatization, deregulation and fair trade, the gap between the rich and the poor often widened. He expressed concern that the current international monetary system was biased towards advanced economies and led to surplus international liquidity that in turn led to more investments in rich economies and fewer in poor economies. Free and fair trade needed to be based on three main pillars, namely: the free movement of commodities and services, the free movement of capital and the free movement of labour.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) commented that despite the positive achievements of fair trade, there was still no international protection against less scrupulous offers of trade; only certain countries, including France, officially recognized fair trade on a national basis. The arrival of new actors could lead to the marketing of fair trade in name only, which could create confusion among consumers. Greater involvement of governments was therefore necessary to define at the regional and global levels mechanisms for the labelling of fair trade products. In addition, there should be a greater focus on South-South cooperation for fair trade; consumption of fair trade products should not be for developed countries alone. Innovative financing mechanisms would provide a stable flow of resources to complement traditional ODA, could include private partners, and were seen as a way to protect developing countries from the volatility of ODA, which was linked to the political and budgetary conditions in donor countries. Some innovative financing mechanisms were already in place, such as a small tax on airfares in some countries. It was important to learn from the experiences of those countries and develop new mechanisms, in addition to taking steps to fight tax evasion and illegal transfers of funds.

Mr. A. AL-OMAIR (Kuwait) observed that incessant development was a threat to the environment; it was therefore necessary to legislate in that area and apply sanctions in order to protect the environmental balance. Innovative financing mechanisms would thus be vital. The world was facing many problems, including hunger and malnutrition, climate change and rapid population growth, which affected food production in developing countries, particularly in rural areas. As a result, there was increased rural-to-urban and south-to-north migration and migrant populations were often marginalized. He called on developed countries to honour their aid commitments. Although there were already innovative financing mechanisms in place for the health sector, it was crucial that such mechanisms were developed for other sectors, especially to combat climate change and protect crops. Moreover, fiscal and police authorities in all countries must adopt measures to combat fraud and corruption. Kuwait had adopted the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Arab Cross-border Anti-Organized Crime Agreement.

Ms. J.-J. BAE (Republic of Korea) said that green technology was necessary for the balanced development of developing countries. Since 2008, her country had placed great emphasis on green ODA, moving away from the traditional concept of one-way grants and focusing on interactive ways to provide green technology. She therefore proposed that the following wording should be inserted at the end of operative paragraph 15: "and recommends the parliaments of developed donor countries to make efforts to establish a national coordinating body, such as green ODA council, to channel ODA that can contribute to green growth, in particular by supplying green technology to developing countries and supporting their development of green technology." In addition, an institutional framework should be established for the implementation of green technology projects.

Mr. G. GUNDERSEN (Norway) said that there was a need to move away from traditional ODA and recognize the importance of fair trade and investments. He expressed concern that the suggestion that companies should pay above-market prices and use economic incentives could reduce transparency and lead to corruption. It would be better to assist developing countries to fulfil their international obligations and national laws on labour rights and environmental issues. The majority of States had enacted legislation on labour rights, but that did not necessarily mean that goods were produced ethically or in an environmentally-friendly way and developing countries needed help in that area. Although developing countries needed to step up their efforts, industrialized nations also needed to contribute, for example by providing more information to enable consumers to make informed choices. Some companies in Norway were taking steps to raise consumer awareness about the entire supply chain, but more efforts were needed to change buying habits. In addition, developed countries must lower barriers to agricultural imports from developing countries and reduce subsidies to their own agricultural sectors. Although such a measure would likely be unpopular, it would be in the spirit of fair trade.

Mr. T. AHMED (Bangladesh), recalling that the First Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization had declared that duty-free market access could be given to least developed countries (LDCs), said that many LDCs were not reaping the benefits of free and fair trade. Bangladesh had an agriculture-based economy and exported products to developed countries; in the EU and other countries, it received duty-free and quota-free access to markets. However, such access was not provided for all products. Mechanisms were therefore required to promote and enable sustainable development and free and fair trade in and between all countries around the world.

Mr. A. MALANDI (Syrian Arab Republic) commented that trade relationships were characterized by a lack of equality; some countries wished to dominate the natural resources of other countries and place a monopoly on technological development. In addition, developed countries were often the dominating voice in international organizations such as the World Bank and, as such, were able to impose their views on other countries. Such countries often consumed products they did not produce, disregarding those they did. There were often double standards, as such countries sought to open developing markets when it suited them, while at the same time protecting their own national industries. He appealed for greater respect for national sovereignty.

Mr. B. CALKINS (Canada) said that the objectives of fair trade were fully embedded in his country's international aid agenda. The draft resolution made it clear that to meet long-term development objectives, both public and private funding would be necessary; in that regard, innovative financing mechanisms should focus on leveraging limited public funds to attract private-sector resources. The draft resolution also drew attention to the importance of remittances; in 2010, Canada had recorded the highest amount of remittances per capita. Drawing attention to the amendments to the draft resolution submitted by his delegation, he said that Canada wished to emphasize that sustainable development was also linked to the reform of

mainstream agricultural trade. In addition, while fair trade was an important tool for many communities, it would not solve the overall problems caused by current distortions in the agricultural market. The amendments proposed to the operative paragraphs were intended to ensure that countries had the flexibility to choose how they supported fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms. The resolution should recognize the different national priorities of Members and not be overly prescriptive.

Mr. A.N. EL SIDDIG (Sudan) observed that fair trade offered small farmers in developing countries important development opportunities and was aimed at transforming conventional trade and ending discrimination against the poorest farmers. Studies had shown that fair trade was having positive impacts in some countries, but challenges still remained, in particular the need to ensure that fair trade was sustainable. In order to tackle those challenges, it was necessary to reform the agricultural sector as small farmers were facing significant competition from developed countries. The World Trade Organization could play an important role in that regard. In addition, attention should be paid to the export of techniques to provide farmers with the means to produce successful crops and there was a need for an international agency to ensure that all transactions were legitimate and legal. Promotion of fair trade currently relied on marketing techniques which small-scale farmers did not have the capacity to use; assistance should therefore be provided. Steps should also be taken to address the highly damaging effects of natural disasters and man-made impacts such as blockades on small-scale farmers. Conflict resolution was also an important aspect of fair trade and should be mentioned in the draft resolution. He expressed reservations on sub-paragraph 8 of preambular paragraph 22 as lotteries were not acceptable in his country.

The PRESIDENT announced that the drafting committee would meet to discuss the draft resolution and would comprise representatives of Algeria, Australia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Japan, Palestine, Serbia and Sudan.

Mrs. S.M ESCUDERO (Argentina) commented that applying the environmental standards of developed nations to developing countries was not viable as those countries did not have the financial or technical means to enforce the standards. The gist of one of the amendments she had proposed was that fair trade should not be used to implement protectionist policies. Developed countries should not be able to pass on the costs of environmental standards to developing countries. She expressed concern over the mention of corruption in operative paragraphs 14 and 17 of the draft resolution, which seemed only to refer to developing countries; after all, corruption affected all countries, not just the poorer ones. The draft resolution should also include references to gender, particularly with regard to measures to foster the participation of women in fair trade. Lastly, she expressed concern that the EU had published a list of countries that would no longer benefit from the Generalized Scheme of Preferences; such a step would limit the entry of many fair trade products into the market.

Ms. M. REIS (Timor-Leste) stated that the relative newness of her country meant that its financial system was in the process of being developed; Timor-Leste had oil and gas reserves, but it was important not to be reliant on those revenues, especially as the sector did not involve many Timorese citizens. Therefore other sectors needed to be developed, such as coffee, eco-tourism and small industries. In addition, new mechanisms were needed to increase citizen participation in the economy and to develop human resources. She requested assistance from other countries, particularly with regard to foreign investment in the economy and training and development for small businesses.

Mr. A. FATEH EL-BAB (Egypt) considered that the main challenges of fair trade were how to achieve it in all countries around the world and how to transfer techniques and knowledge to other developing countries. National industries often experienced fierce competition from global companies, making it difficult to export their products. The profits generated in developed countries should be used to fund infrastructure and services in developing countries to address those challenges, such as improving education and developing port facilities.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom), welcoming the fair and balanced nature of the report, said that there was a significant need to assess the experience of NGOs working in the area under discussion; such organizations worked on a wide range of projects and their experiences would be useful. She drew attention to the work of Pro Mujer, an NGO operating in Latin America which provided funding to women producers, and expressed support for the amendments proposed by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, particularly those related to equal treatment when it came to land ownership and finance. The issue of remittances was a growing trend that needed to be addressed, as was the development of informal economies. In addition, tax compliance should be considered an important element of fair trade and the United Kingdom planned to pursue the issue at the next meeting of G8 countries.

Mr. A. ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) opined that fair trade was the most effective way to alleviate poverty and it was therefore vital to create favourable and enabling conditions for such trade. Developing countries were often reliant on oil to meet their energy requirements and the King of Saudi Arabia had called on the World Bank and other similar institutions to launch an energy initiative for such countries. In addition, in 2008, he had announced the allocation of US\$ 500 million in loans to finance energy projects in developing countries. He had also called for the organization of a meeting to enable donor countries to participate in such projects; however, no action had yet been taken. Energy access was not an end in itself, rather it was a means to facilitate sustainable development, poverty reduction and equal participation in global trade. Ending energy poverty required concerted and rapid action by the international community and he urged parliamentarians to support such actions in their own countries.

Mr. J. TREVIÑO (Mexico) suggested that the draft resolution should contain an introductory paragraph outlining the responsibility of parliamentarians on the issue, namely to focus on promoting fair trade through inter alia guaranteeing the safety of the population and the full application of the law, promoting inclusive social development and programmes to combat hunger and extreme poverty, maintaining macroeconomic stability and developing policies on international cooperation and free and fair trade. His country had sought access to external markets through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements resulting in 12 free trade agreements enabling access to 44 countries and more than one billion consumers around the world. The access to foreign markets had created more and better-paid jobs and had made Mexico the 14th economy in the world and the top exporting country in Latin America. The challenge was to ensure that the economic prosperity translated into financial prosperity for all Mexicans.

Mr. A. BOUCHOUAREB (Algeria) observed that some donor countries were reluctant to take action on fair trade, sustainable development and innovative financing mechanisms. The financial crisis had highlighted the need for change. There was currently a paradoxical situation in which donor countries were supporting fair trade but their own farmers benefitted from subsidies and measures such as the Common Agricultural Policy in the EU. He reminded donor countries that they were benefitting from globalization and therefore were obliged to contribute to development in other countries. The financial crisis and issues such as climate change were making the situation more complex, meaning that an innovative approach was needed. Such mechanisms should be dynamic and sustainable in order to adapt to changing global situations and become truly meaningful.

Mr. A. ABGAS (Burkina Faso) considered that fair trade was essential for sustainable development and that action needed to be taken on subsidies. Aid should have more tangible results and, as such, should include elements such as technology transfer in addition to funding. Climate change had a significant impact on the livelihoods of farmers in developing countries and renewable energies could be used to boost sustainable development. In addition, activities such as recycling should be promoted as they could help to push back poverty and protect the environment.

Mrs. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) said that while fair trade could be beneficial, it did not guarantee economic and social sustainability in developing countries. Implementation of programmes required technical and financial resources and it was necessary to develop a new international financial system that would enable developing countries to participate on an equal footing with industrialized nations. The ODA commitments made by developed countries should be honoured and international cooperation needed to be strengthened. Although innovative financing mechanisms were necessary, it was important that such mechanisms did not distract attention from ODA, which was still an essential component of sustainable development. In addition, it was difficult for some countries to become involved in fair trade; for example, Cuba had been subject to a trade blockade for more than 50 years, restricting its access to international markets. She urged parliaments to reject that measure and enable Cuba to stand on an equal footing with other countries.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) expressed concern over the mention of remittances in the operative part of the draft resolution. Countries needed to develop policies and an economic and social climate that encouraged migrants to return home rather than focus on remittances. There should be a fair system for the exchange of labour as such persons contributed to the wealth of their host countries. When developing innovative financing mechanisms, steps should be taken to establish proper control and oversight measures. It was the obligation of all States to undertake to guarantee a fair development model that respected the environment and other elements that did not have a market value, such as cultural and biological diversity. Mechanisms should also be developed to prevent pollution and ecosystem degradation. Greater emphasis placed on the role of States in combatting exploitation, speculation and other forms of economic and collective rights violations. It was unacceptable for countries to build wealth based on market manipulation and then tell developing countries that such activities were inefficient and created distortions. The prosperity of farmers in developed countries was dependent on elements such as subsidies, which had contributed to the development of those countries and should be applied throughout the world.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain), expressing hope that the draft resolution would avoid imposing protectionist measures on national markets, said that a greater opening up of markets was essential; small- and medium-sized enterprises played a vital role in the economic life of many developing countries. He welcomed the comment by the delegate from Argentina on the role of women in international trade; it was crucial that women had the same opportunities as men to have a sound education and get good jobs and the issue should be a high priority for all countries. Fair trade required oversight and monitoring; civil society had a role to play but international bodies should also exercise oversight. He agreed with the delegate from the United Kingdom on the importance of oversight and monitoring of taxation and of fighting tax evasion and with the delegate from Argentina on the presence of corruption in all countries. Lastly, the draft resolution needed to include elements related to protection of the rights of migrant workers.

Mr. O. LAVESSON (Sweden) commented that free trade was the cornerstone of wealth in developing countries as it opened up markets and was an effective measure against corruption. It also decentralized political and economic power as trade was carried out between companies rather than between countries. Parliamentarians must work to ensure that products were free from human and labour rights violations and must encourage governments to support business investments that strengthened and integrated fair trade. In addition, the best condition for fair trade was free trade. He expressed concern at the focus on international taxation as an innovative financing mechanism, considering that taxation should be a national rather than an international issue. That required further discussion by the IPU and priority should be given to building the capacity of individual countries to take decisions on the issue. The same applied for global lotteries. Therefore, he proposed that the first three bullet points in operative paragraph 5 should be deleted, together with operative paragraph 8 on a worldwide lottery.

Mr. F.-X. DE DONNEA (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, welcoming the comments made by the delegates, said that innovative financing mechanisms could only be used on a voluntary basis. However, one option could be regional partnerships that leveraged taxes. There were many different aspects to the issue and governments should take steps to analyse and discuss them. It was important that financial transaction taxes should not affect trade flows. A possible example of a financial transaction tax could be for oil producers to leverage a small amount per barrel sold and include that amount in the purchase price. The funds raised could be sent to the LDCs to help them address climate change. Another option could be to leverage a small tax on electronic devices such as mobile phones, computers and tablets; a 10-cent tax would not affect purchases. Parliaments should examine the different options before taking a decision. Responding to the comment by the delegate of Argentina, he said that the report insisted that all countries must do their utmost to address corruption and acknowledged that developed countries often did bring corruption into developing countries. The issue was addressed in both the report and in paragraphs 15, 16, 17 and 19 of the draft resolution.

Mr. R. CHITOTELA (Zambia), co-Rapporteur, said that fair trade was not the same as free trade. It would not be possible to have free trade between weak and strong countries, as one would collapse. Subsidies were an issue that needed to be addressed; countries should work together and support each other. There was a need to invest in research and development in emerging economies to enable them to participate in the global economy. He called for a marketplace in which all economies were able to compete fairly, not just because they were able to produce goods at a cheaper price. Protecting economies only served to prevent them from growing and developing; as such policies, promoting fair trade should be developed.

The sitting rose at 12.50 p.m.

Sitting of Monday 25 March (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 4.05 p.m. with Mr. Saleh E. Alhusseini, President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution (C-II/128/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to present the report of the deliberations on the draft resolution.

Mrs. C. GUITTET (France), rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that the drafting committee had met and endeavoured to incorporate as many of the 119 proposed amendments as possible; the spirit of the proposed amendments had been included, even if the exact wording had been changed slightly. The new draft resolution contained 27 articles instead of the original 22. She expressed appreciation for the flexibility and spirit of compromise shown by members of the drafting committee during its deliberations and hoped that a similar degree of flexibility would be shown by the Standing Committee in approving the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Committee was able to approve the draft resolution as a whole.

Mr. O. LAVESSON (Sweden) said that his delegation wished to propose a few amendments to the operative paragraphs and would therefore not be able to approve the draft resolution in its entirety at the present time.

Preamble

The preambular paragraphs were adopted.

Operative part

Mr. O. LAVESSON (Sweden) proposed that the first three bullet points should be deleted from paragraph 9.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia), President of the drafting committee, explained that there had not been consensus among the drafting committee on paragraph 9 but that the paragraph had been accepted after a brief discussion.

Mr. F.-X. DE DONNEA (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, added that paragraph 9 only encouraged countries to explore the possibility of using the listed innovative financing mechanisms; the countries were under no obligation to actually implement any of them.

The PRESIDENT reminded delegates that at the current stage of proceedings it was not possible to delete substantive sections of the draft resolution.

Mr. S.S. HAQUE (India) proposed that the third bullet point in operative paragraph 9 be deleted as the issue was being discussed in multilateral forums and it would not be appropriate to include it in the resolution. In addition, the following text should be inserted at the end of the second bullet point: “on a voluntary basis and in accordance with national circumstances and priorities.”

Mr. M.J. HADID (Jordan) stated that he had made a number of comments in the previous meeting related to the draft resolution. If it was not possible to incorporate those ideas at the current time, he suggested that the decision on the draft resolution could be deferred until the next meeting.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Standing Committee that there had already been extensive discussion of the draft resolution in the drafting committee, where consensus had been reached. Discussion of the substantive aspects of the draft resolution could not be re-opened at the current stage.

Ms. K. HENRIKSEN (Norway) recalled that at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians held earlier that week, the issue of land and funding access for women farmers had been raised. She wished to know where the issue was reflected in the draft resolution.

Mrs. C. GUITTET (France), rapporteur of the drafting committee, acknowledged that amendments from the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians had been received and had been carefully considered. References to gender issues had been incorporated into several paragraphs, including preambular paragraphs 2 and 7.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom), noting the importance placed on access to land and funding by women farmers by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, expressed concern that there were only references to the issue in the preambular paragraphs. Therefore, she proposed that the phrase “especially for women” should be inserted after “protection of property rights” in operative paragraph 17.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia), president of the drafting committee, observed that many of the amendments proposed by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians had been incorporated; with regard to operative paragraph 17, it had been felt by the drafting committee that the issues covered by the proposed amendments had already been included.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Standing Committee was willing to approve the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom.

It was so agreed.

Mr. I. CASSIS (Switzerland) asked why his delegation’s proposal for more general wording for preambular paragraph 5 on fair trade standards had not been incorporated. More general statements of principle would enable organizations to be inspired by the wording rather than limiting the effect to specific bodies.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia), president of the drafting committee, explained that the amendment had been considered but that it had been decided that fair trade would lead to the development of a set of standards regarding the definition of such trade.

Mr. F.-X. DE DONNEA (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, considered that the concerns of the Swiss delegation were reflected in the current text. The drafting committee had felt that it was not the right place for a specific reference to fair trade standards.

Mr. A. MALANDI (Syrian Arab Republic) observed that his delegation’s proposed amendments focusing on preserving the principle of sovereignty and cooperation between international organizations had not been included in the final text. He requested clarification on the matter.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia), president of the drafting committee, explained that the drafting committee had spent a significant amount of time on compliance; the wording of the text provided the basics. Some proposed amendments had been included and the ideas proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic were considered to be covered by those amendments.

Mr. S.S. HAQUE (India) proposed that the last line of preambular paragraph 1 should be deleted. In addition, in preambular paragraph 2, the words “on employment” should be replaced by “on generation of productive employment opportunities” and preambular paragraph 18 should be deleted. The second half of preambular paragraph 21 should be amended to read: “urgent provision of enhanced financial and technological support from developed countries to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change”. In addition, in preambular paragraph 22, the reference to the EU should be deleted as he considered that an IPU resolution should not refer directly to that body.

The PRESIDENT stated that the drafting committee had considered all the proposed amendments, which were numerous. However, it was not possible to incorporate all of them. The members of the drafting committee had reached a consensus on the draft resolution and as a result, substantive changes could not be made at the current time.

Mr. D. ADAMS (Australia), president of the drafting committee, added that the drafting committee had done its utmost to take into account every amendment proposed. The text contained a reference to climate change and the issue had been considered by the committee in its deliberations.

Mrs. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) expressed concern that the draft resolution did not fully take into account the concerns of LDCs and did not recognize that some countries had not signed some of the international agreements referenced in the text. The text focused mostly on European issues and ignored the priorities of developing countries. It also seemed to disregard issues that should be determined through electoral choice and gave no consideration to national priorities and different decision-making processes. In addition, a number of concerns raised during the debate did not seem to have been taken into account during the deliberations on the draft resolution.

Mrs. C. GUITTET (France), rapporteur of the drafting committee, stressed that all of the amendments proposed had been considered by the drafting committee; in many cases, the concepts behind the proposed amendments were deemed to be similar to others and covered by other changes. With regard to the comment on regional agreements; the issue had been taken into account and the draft resolution did not contain any reference to specific agreements.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the minor amendments proposed by India.

It was so agreed.

The resolution as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

Appointment of a rapporteur to the 128th Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mrs. C. Guittet present the resolution on behalf of the Second Standing Committee to the Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparations for the 130th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had met and considered the relevant proposals for the subject to be discussed by the Second Standing Committee at the 130th IPU Assembly. Following an exchange of views, the Bureau had adopted by consensus the subject entitled: Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints. In the absence of any comments or objections he took it that the Second Standing Committee approved the choice of the subject for discussion.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT explained that two co-Rapporteurs should be appointed to draft the report and resolution on the subject for discussion at the 130th IPU Assembly. In line with standard practice, one co-Rapporteur should be appointed from a developing country and the other should be from a developed country. The Bureau had selected Mr. S.H. Chowdhury of Bangladesh and Mr. P. Mahoux of Belgium to act as the two co-Rapporteurs. In the absence of any objections he would take it that the Second Standing Committee could approve those nominations.

It was so decided.

Election of the Bureau of the Second Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that pursuant to the Rules of the Standing Committees, the officers of the Bureau of each Standing Committee must be elected or re-elected at the first Assembly of the year. In addition to a new President and first Vice-President, titular member and substitute members for the Twelve Plus and Arab Groups and a substitute member for the Eurasia Group must be elected. All other members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election. Mr. R. León of Chile had been nominated to serve as the next President of the Second Standing Committee for a period of one year. He took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve that nomination.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Mr. F.-X. de Donnea of Belgium as its titular member and Mrs. M. Obradović of Serbia as its substitute member. The Arab Group had nominated Mr. M. Mubarek Najadah of Kuwait as its titular member and Mr. M. Dmour of Jordan as its substitute member to replace Mr. Rawadeshdeh, who was no longer a member of parliament. The post of substitute member for the Eurasia Group would remain vacant pending a nomination. In the absence of any comments or objections he would take it that the Second Standing Committee approved the nominations and wished to re-elect all remaining members of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT added that Mr. F.-X. de Donnea of Belgium had been nominated to serve as First Vice-President of the Standing Committee. He took it that the Standing Committee approved that nomination.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

**The use of media, including social media, to enhance
citizen engagement and democracy**

Third Standing Committee – Democracy and Human Rights

Sitting of Saturday 23 March

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. J.M. Galán, Vice-President of the Third Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-III/128/C)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-III/128/C), and said that no requests for amendment had been made. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft agenda.

It was so decided.

**Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on
the occasion of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala (April 2012)**

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Kampala, Uganda, on 1, 2 and 4 April 2012 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all IPU Members as part of the overall summary records of proceedings of the 126th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions regarding the distributed text, he would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

**Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution
prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-III/128/R, C-III/128/DR-rev and C-III/128/DR-am)

The PRESIDENT said that, at the 126th IPU Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. C. Charlton (Canada) and Ms. M.T. Kubayi (South Africa) for the item to be considered at the present session, namely: "The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy". He stressed that the content of the reports was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as on past occasions, was intended to stimulate the debate and provide the background for the Committee's work. Although amendments to the draft resolution were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. A drafting committee, comprising representatives of all the geopolitical groups, would be appointed to consider the proposed amendments and produce the final draft resolution for distribution. He drew attention to the IPU's recently-published Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments, which encouraged parliamentarians to use social media to foster citizens' engagement.

Ms. C. CHARLTON (Canada), co-Rapporteur, remarked that one of the main challenges concerning the use of social media was balancing the right to freedom of expression with accountability. Social media could not be used to replace traditional media, which still had a crucial role to play. Any efforts to improve citizen engagement must make the most of all

channels in order to reach all sectors of society. She drew attention to the information contained in the report, particularly regarding the challenges and constraints faced by parliamentarians in using social media, such as the digital divide and a lack of skills, resources and time, the use of social media by citizens to play a watchdog role, accountability for journalists and the importance of striking a balance between freedom of expression and accountability. The report also called for the development of guidelines to address those concerns. She summarized the elements of the draft resolution and added that although social media could be used positively, parliamentarians should also be aware of the limitations; the opinions expressed on such sites were not a reflection of society as a whole and an ill-advised comment could be quickly shared and have long-lasting ramifications. Despite those risks, countries should resist the urge to limit freedom of expression on social media sites and consider developing codes of conduct for journalists and social media users.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), co-Rapporteur, said that certain parts of the draft resolution focused on communication with vulnerable groups, such as women and young people and she urged delegates to maintain that focus. There was also further emphasis on the importance of regulating social media within the scope of international human rights law; such regulation would not suppress freedom of expression. Moreover, the IPU should play a leadership role in guiding parliaments on how to implement and use the guidelines referred to by the President of the Committee. The immunity granted to parliamentarians when using social media was also a crucial issue that would require guidelines. It was important for parliamentarians to advocate improving access to social media, particularly for those living in remote areas, together with enhancing computer literacy. It was important for parliamentarians to understand how to utilize social media in a secure manner to ensure that the information published on such sites was not intercepted and distorted. She urged the Committee to ensure that the draft resolution was applicable to all countries.

Debate

Mr. S. ASHOUR (Kuwait) commented that social media were essential tools for strengthening democracy as they enhanced communication between parliamentarians and their constituents and could be used to inform public opinion. In many countries, efforts were required to strengthen democracy in order to ensure free and comprehensive access to information. It was vital for citizens to obtain objective and neutral information, hence the media's key role. The media must be neutral, transparent and free of political pressure; it also must comply with laws regarding criminal activity. Media workers must be properly trained as they played a vital role and their words could have an impact on public opinion.

Mr. B. NEMATİ (Islamic Republic of Iran) observed that respect for religious and cultural diversity and rejection of intolerance, hatred and violence were essential principles of human rights. There was a risk that media could be used to incite religious hatred, xenophobia and terrorism, therefore information must be treated by the media in accordance with a code of conduct and professional ethics. Regulation of the media must be consistent with human rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression. The exercise of that right entailed responsibilities and could therefore be subject to some restrictions. It was vital that providers and users of all forms of media respected their country's laws on defamation and libel, in accordance with international human rights law. The media had a crucial role to play in education, promotion of human rights and accountability. Digital social networks for example, which often had a greater sphere of influence than traditional media, could be used to promote tolerance, human rights, mutual respect, sustainable development and global peace. Enhanced cooperation between parliaments would encourage promotion of dialogue between the media of different countries, thereby increasing the media's capacity to promote democracy and good governance at the national and international levels.

Mr. C. JANIAK (Switzerland) stated that transparency was a crucial aspect of parliaments' work. In modern societies, the media was the principal means of disseminating information; the increasing commercialization of the media, however, meant that there was greater competition and more focus on scandals and entertainment than on political issues. Such a focus meant that it was often the negative aspects of politics that received greater coverage. The report and draft resolution presented social media as a remedy to issues experienced by traditional media; however, he did not believe that to be the case. The information published by traditional media was the work of professionals and there was trust in the institutions publishing that information. Inversely, the Internet and social media offered a greater amount of information, which was often poorly structured and required a certain level of reasoning to discern the salient points. As such, relying solely on that information could lead to a growing knowledge divide between those with that ability and those without it. It was undeniable that social media played a significant role in the organization of social movements and the mobilization of citizens, but such activities were not necessarily synonymous with democracy; indeed, extremist groups were also highly active on the Internet.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) considered that it was important to protect freedom of speech and human rights both online and offline. Although the draft resolution covered some important aspects, others should also be included. First, there was a need to ensure that access to a free, open and secure Internet was a fundamental right for all. In addition, it was necessary to protect both freedom of expression and that right of journalists and bloggers and thereby enhance democracy. It was important to combat censorship and ensure that online safety measures did not undermine freedom of expression. Countries should have the will and power to protect an uncensored, accessible and open Internet. Lessons learned from the Arab Spring underscored the importance of the Internet and social media in raising awareness of the situation inside totalitarian States.

Mr. O.-a. KLAMPAIBOON (Thailand), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that the Thai National Assembly had implemented a number of activities to foster youth participation in the democratic process and greater engagement between parliamentarians and young people on youth issues. Those activities included seminars, field trips and social media communications. Thailand had also been promoting access to parliamentary media in remote areas through the establishment of parliamentary radio stations and provincial offices of the Thai National Assembly would be created in the near future.

Mrs. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) observed that the communications sector had become highly dynamic and had repercussions across all levels of society. In Latin America there were currently efforts to democratize the media; democratization of the Internet should be high on the international agenda as it related to the security and sovereignty of States, self-determination, peaceful coexistence between nations and universal rights. The digital divide was not only the result of a lack of technology but often also a lack of cultural capacity to find meaningful uses for such technologies. Despite myriad efforts, technology had not led to a significant increase in citizen engagement in politics. She reminded the Committee that the United States continued to block Cuba's access to certain technologies, for example by thwarting its attempts to connect to the fibre optic cables in the region, thereby limiting bandwidth in the country while at the same time orchestrating a media campaign against the country. Cuba was ranked fourth in the world for IT use and students of all levels had access to computers in schools. However, such information was hidden and manipulated by the media, including social media. Her country was experiencing a period of change and she expressed concern at the lack of media coverage of such events; all people had the right to receive accurate and objective information.

Mr. F.A. JUMAN (United Arab Emirates) stated that general references did not truly reflect the progress of mass media and its important role. He proposed that an expert group on social media should be created to study the impact of information and communications-related developments on economics, culture, society and world peace. His country focused on developing policies to use the media to disseminate information on the Constitution, political progress and other legislation-related matters. In addition, a code of conduct for the media and users of social media was also vital. Attention should also be paid to information professionals to ensure that persons working in the mass media were neutral; experts should be consulted when developing legislation.

Ms. A. TORME (Spain) remarked that members of parliament were aware of the importance of all types of communication media to guarantee political participation and engagement. Spain had proposed four amendments related to digital media, including the risks of indiscriminate use of social media, particularly to target vulnerable groups. A regulatory framework should be established to protect such individuals. There was also a need to strike a balance between freedom of expression, and the rights to political pluralism and privacy. Resolution 20/8 adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council in July 2012 on “The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet” was of particular importance. She drew attention to the wording of the amendments proposed by Spain to the draft resolution.

Mr. K. TSUMURA (Japan) said that use of the Internet as part of election campaigns was banned in his country; however, steps were being taken to address that issue and it was hoped that the ban would be lifted by July 2013 in time for elections. Social media were useful for disseminating information and conveying specific points of view, but it was not conducive to producing consensus. In addition, social media also had negative elements and therefore should only be used in a supplementary role. Parliamentarians needed to become skilled in the use of social media, taking into account their strengths and weaknesses. He drew attention to the amendments to the draft resolution submitted by Japan.

Ms. J.-A. HAN (Republic of Korea) commented that, in her country, politicians had started using social media as part of their election campaigns, with favourable results. Until recently, the use of social networking sites in election campaigns had been prohibited by law; however, regulations had been eased to enable their use to encourage voters to come to the polls. Although regulations on political participation on social networking sites were necessary to a certain extent, political expression should also be as free as possible to ensure democracy. Governments and parliaments should find ways to encourage citizen participation in politics through social media based on private, voluntary regulation rather than active regulation. In addition, social media should not be seen as a unilateral public relations tool; parliamentarians should use them as enhanced communications platforms, enabling both input from multiple sources on legislative issues and the sharing of policy-related information. Lastly, social media should not be used as a tool to shape the opinions of social groups; rather they should become a medium for free and fair participation based on objective information.

Mr. M. MONSALVE (Chile) said that it would be important to investigate how to ensure that democracies and political institutions were able to strengthen their role in crisis situations and how ICT could be used to strengthen the role of democratic institutions and give them greater legitimacy. Steps needed to be taken to ensure that access to ICT and social media were fundamental rights for all citizens; in addition to the issue of how to ensure freedom of expression and how to use social media as a tool to strengthen democracy. New media technologies provided more opportunities for communication and had given rise to a new political powerbase dominated by online citizens. The bidirectional nature of social media made it possible for greater interaction with the electorate on specific policies, giving them greater control and ensuring

increased transparency, which helped to achieve a more representative and better participatory democracy. The main challenges were to democratize the media so that it could reach all citizens and to monitor freedom of expression in the best way possible.

Mrs. F. ABU ABTAH (Jordan) considered that parliamentarians should use social media increasingly as they were useful tools for disseminating information to citizens and helped parliaments keep up with changes in society. However, it should be noted that in some countries such methods would have a limited effect because of lack of access to social media or poor Internet access; therefore it was important for parliamentarians to use all means possible to disseminate information. He suggested that a code of conduct for the media was required that included respecting freedom, objectivity and neutrality. Such a code should be shared with all institutions and all people involved in the media around the world should work together to develop programmes to strengthen democracy in all countries.

Mr. H. MAUREY (France) suggested that countries should embrace the need for transparency rather than fight it. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were key instruments that struck a balance between public order and freedom of expression. The protection of personal data on social networking sites was an important issue and there was no international instrument that regulated access to such data. He drew attention to the amendments proposed by France to the draft resolution related to freedom of expression, defamation, discrimination and user protection.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) said that social media should be considered an effective tool for use by both the electorate and parliamentarians. It should be used by parliamentarians, in particular to strengthen relationships with citizens and enable two-way communication. In his country, parliamentarians and the Shura Council had access to social media and websites for communication with their constituents, which served as a quick method to provide information and garner the views of the electorate. Parliament should work with different powers inside the country to agree on national concepts in accordance with the issues discussed at the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012. Parliaments should use social media to explain how they worked and establish good relations with the media. Workshops could be organized for training parliamentarians on the proper use of such media.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium), welcoming the high-quality debate and work on the issue, noted the references made by delegates to the digital divide, which could be financial or technology-related. The timeframe followed by social media differed to that used by politics owing to its immediacy. Other elements of social media that needed to be considered included the popularization of information and immunity. There had been cases where parliamentarians had been threatened via social media sites. In addition, social media could be used to spread rumours and destabilize political power. Training and education for both parliamentarians and the general public on the use of social media and how to maintain perspective and distance were also vital.

Mr. B. AL-SALHI (Palestine) explained that his country did not have free access to the Internet as access was controlled by Israel and sites used by Palestinian companies and businesses were often blocked. In spite of those challenges, the use of social media sites by Palestinians was increasing. Such access was important as it enabled Palestinian parliamentarians to use social media in election campaigns. The use of media and technology should be subject to guidelines regarding content and safety. He expressed concern at the increasing control of the Internet, whereby companies were able to block information they did not want to be published and at the increasing dominance of such companies. The international community should work with journalists to develop regulations governing the use of social media and facilitating access for all citizens.

Mr. T. YAHYA (Indonesia) said that in a democratic context, the will of the people should be at the centre of the policy- and decision-making process. Use of media, in particular social media, was an excellent method to facilitate two-way interaction and awareness-raising activities. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to foster communication, engage with their constituents and translate their aspirations into policies. Freedom of expression was an important element of social media use and guaranteeing that right presented many challenges; the Internet provided an excellent channel for citizen engagement, but also provided the tools for people to use it to spread hatred, defamation and libel. To address those challenges, any bill on freedom of expression should guarantee that right within the spirit of mutual respect and responsibility. Among its amendments to the draft resolution, Indonesia wished to emphasize the need to establish accountability in the media through the development and enforcement of ethical journalism standards.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic) observed that media and social media were playing an increasingly important role in international issues; however, in some cases, that role could have a negative impact. For example, in his country, some parties were using social media to publish negative images of the country, spread lies and threaten its minority populations. It was important to develop a code of ethics for the use of all forms of media.

Ms. Z. GUDIÑO (Ecuador) noted that all individuals had the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which included the right not to be harassed for expressing their opinions, as recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The provision of justice and the protection of human rights must take into account the right of the media to be free from censorship; however, anything that incited hatred and threatened human rights ran counter to that right. Any guarantee of freedom of expression should be closely linked to the rights to equality and participation in society. However, such guarantees were useless if the State did not take steps to increase access to technology and the Internet and improve related elements such as electricity supply. The Internet had enabled global connectivity and generated important forums for debate. Legislation was needed on the right to information and freedom of expression, particularly in countries establishing participatory democracies in order to protect citizens and provide all persons with the same opportunity to participate in the public debate. The real-time element of social media enabled rapid interaction and fostered public participation in the decision-making process. The National Assembly of Ecuador had a webpage and Twitter and Facebook accounts to facilitate closer contact with its constituents.

Ms. CHUNYING XIN (China) said that the Internet had become a place for public participation and debate and as such, how to enhance citizen interaction using such media was an important issue for parliamentarians. In China, the National People's Congress and its Standing Committee had published information online relating to laws, draft laws and discussions in order to make the information available to the public. Draft laws had been published online and opened for comments from the public; more than 1 million comments had been received from citizens around China on the different laws. The Internet had immense potential to enhance public engagement, but access in many countries, including China, was limited, particularly in rural areas.

Mr. A. HAGEN (Norway) welcomed the draft resolution and the proposals made by delegates during the meeting, which he believed would further improve the text. It was crucial to highlight the importance of dialogue regarding the use of social media. It was difficult to move from a situation of information flow to an actual debate; however, citizen engagement had to be based on more than just the provision of information. Unfortunately, stimulating and participating in a debate on the Internet was a time-consuming process. In addition, there should be consideration of the ownership of information published on social media sites; for example, to

what extent should parliamentarians have the opportunity to withdraw statements published on social networking sites? That was an especially important issue when a parliamentarian died; should it be possible to delete the page or should it be considered to be published material?

Mr. B. SIBALATANI (Namibia), noting that the media played an important role in informing and educating the public, observed that social media had opened new avenues for citizens to communicate with their government, something which was vital for good governance and increased citizen participation. ICT had been instrumental in encouraging and facilitating citizen engagement in the political sphere and had led to enhanced transparency, openness and accountability. Namibia was one of the top-ranked countries in the world when it came to press freedom, although it did not currently have any legislation in place on access to information. Mainstream media were increasingly using social media to engage citizens in discussions on a variety of issues; however, such interaction was limited in Namibia as a result of poor ICT infrastructure. Addressing that challenge was a key priority for the Government. Media and social media were powerful tools but they could be misused to incite violence or hatred and therefore should be used with care, especially in countries with limited ICT infrastructure in place. The IPU's Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments were therefore of particular importance.

Ms. H. AL AHMADI (Saudi Arabia) stated that in her country, traditional media were losing ground to new media types, such as social media. For example, Twitter had more than 3 million users in the country, many of whom were women and young people, which was having a significant impact on society as a whole. However, not all of the consequences had been positive; social media sites had been used by extremist groups that opposed the participation of women in the Shura Council to fuel scepticism and doubts over the role of women. The government had ignored those efforts and had pressed ahead with plans to admit women to that Council. Unfortunately, those events had made some women think twice about participating in public life. She welcomed the content of the draft resolution and urged the Committee to adopt it.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that using social media to build bridges between different sectors of society and to disseminate a culture of democracy was vital to promote human rights and uphold the values of peace and solidarity. Parliamentarians should use social media networks to take stock of the concerns and aspirations of their constituents, including young people. Algeria was currently undergoing a reform process, taking into account the changes called for by young people. In addition, it had adopted procedures to foster the use of social media, although traditional media were still also being used. A new law on mass media was due to be debated in parliament shortly, which would encourage that form of media without disregarding the need to regulate it through a code of ethics. He urged parliaments to consecrate the right to citizen participation as a priority and to adopt legislation criminalizing any violation of the privacy of social media users.

Ms. G. NOMALUNGELO (South Africa) expressed support for the use of social media as they would create a platform in which all citizens could participate. Their use by parliamentarians should be encouraged but the importance of coverage should not be underestimated; the digital divide affected many countries and parliaments should play a major role in ensuring access for all. The media's high level of influence could be used to change people's minds and such power should not be abused; therefore, she particularly supported the language of preambular paragraphs 14, 15 and 18 on regulation of the media.

Ms. J. BINTU (Uganda) agreed that the media could play a complementary role and give a voice to vulnerable groups. However, there were many challenges affecting the media, particularly State-owned media, which could be seen as biased. On the other hand, the commercialization of the media could also have a negative impact. Inadequate financial

resources were also a significant challenge for media groups in developing countries. Those countries also experienced lower levels of citizen engagement with the media as there was a lack of access to the Internet. A number of steps could be taken to increase the role of the media in citizen engagement, including promotion of universal access to ICT, particularly in rural areas; development of a code of conduct for journalists and improvement of journalism standards; development of a strong community broadcasting sector; promotion of local content in broadcasting; and review of sometimes harsh media laws and the criminal prosecution of journalists.

Ms. U. STEPHENS (Australia) observed that open governance and transparency were vital for engagement with constituents in order to inform them of their rights and of government decisions. Australia had been taking steps to address the digital divide by investing in a national broadband programme and improving access to education for rural and remote areas. Regarding the role of social media, her country was endeavouring to strike a balance between the right to privacy and national security. She shared the concerns expressed by other delegates regarding the immediacy of information, the use of anonymous accounts to disseminate false information and the use of the Internet for illegal activities such as drugs and weapons trafficking. Australia was working to achieve technology-neutral communications legislation so that when future media were developed, the legislation would still be applicable.

Mr. B.V. NEATOBEI (Chad) noted that the Internet offered a range of interactive platforms and was altering the relationship between parliaments and the electorate. However, democratic engagement using such media could still be tedious for citizens because the platforms were not located in the same place. Internet access in Chad was limited and many towns did not have sufficient technological infrastructure to enable access. Steps were being taken to address that issue, including connection to a fibre optic cable. It was vital that States and partners made all possible efforts to enable the media to play a role in the emergence of a democratic society. In developing countries, where digital media might not be able to play such a large role, it would be necessary to develop legislation to allow different agencies to promote democracy using all forms of media.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) suggested that politicians should participate in online networks as they provided an opportunity to explain positions and air criticisms. The sittings of the Portuguese Parliament were broadcast on television and on Facebook; it was important for the electorate to be aware of what was happening in parliament and to have an opportunity to interact with their elected officials.

Ms. J. TUFFY (Ireland) informed the Committee that a survey had been conducted in her country to investigate how citizens monitored what was occurring in Parliament. According to that survey, 52 per cent of respondents got their information from television, 41 per cent from newspapers, 19 per cent from radio and 12 per cent online, despite the fact that 55 per cent of adults had a Facebook account and 22 per cent had access to Twitter. As such, although social media could play a vital role, it was important not to overuse it to the detriment of other media. In general, politicians were wary of participating in online discussion forums; however, those were important forums for debate and parliamentarians should consider making use of them. She welcomed the proposed preambular paragraph 11bis as face-to-face contact remained the most meaningful way to keep in contact with the electorate. Data protection was an important issue; people had the right to own access to personal information collected from social media sites. Lastly, the reference to women parliamentarians in operative paragraph 17 should be deleted; the use of social media by all parliamentarians should be welcomed, regardless of their gender.

Ms. A. WOLBERT (Netherlands), welcoming the IPU's Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments, said that her country had a long tradition of guaranteeing freedom of speech, which had not changed with the advent of social media. Social media had a significant role to play in improving the democratic processes in society as it lowered some barriers to receiving information. In the Netherlands, it had been found that face-to-face contact with constituents was extremely important; the use of social media alone was not sufficient to increase engagement, especially among constituents with a low level of interest in politics. Social media should be used to continue communication with constituents but should not fully replace a face-to-face approach.

Ms. H. PETERSSON (Sweden) remarked that a free, uncensored press and the opportunity for citizens to be part of the democratic process were crucial. Parliaments were responsible for ensuring that the media was not limited by laws and regulations that restricted their freedom of speech and their right to scrutinize the government. Instead, the media should enable a free exchange of ideas. Parliaments must work to safeguard freedom of expression both domestically and internationally. It was important for journalists to be able to scrutinize governments without running the risk of being imprisoned; their role as watchdog was a vital element of any democratic society. However, journalists should also respect a code of ethics and strike a balance between respecting privacy and freedom of information. Despite the growing use of social media, traditional media were still widely used and both forms played a significant role in providing information and knowledge. Therefore, it was important for all people to have equal access to newspapers, radio, television and a free and open Internet.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France), expressing appreciation for the IPU's Social Media Guidelines for Parliaments, said that access to information engendered greater confidence and opened other means of access, thereby building new relationships between parliaments and their constituents. Transparency in the commercial use of personal data was vital and there was a need to protect online data. Greater global governance of the Internet was also needed.

Ms. M.C. KRONFLE (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians, opined that it was necessary to recognize that the right to information through communication was a human right, and as such, the State had a responsibility to guarantee access to that right, including for the young people in their countries. The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians generally supported the draft resolution, but felt that paragraph 18 required stronger language; the media should also work to ensure the participation of young people in the development of legislation, in particular through tools such as Facebook and Twitter. In many countries, there was apathy among young people towards political issues; social media could help to reduce that apathy and youth disengagement around the world. She welcomed the comments made by the delegate from Ireland regarding abuse of personal data and would submit in writing a proposed amendment on that issue.

The PRESIDENT announced that the drafting committee would meet to discuss the draft resolution and would comprise representatives of Gabon, Ireland, Mexico, Switzerland, Uganda and Uruguay. Nominations had not yet been received from the Arab, Asia-Pacific and Eurasia Groups and he urged those groups to submit their nominations as soon as possible.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), co-Rapporteur, said that the co-Rapporteurs would take into account all of the issues raised, particularly those related to freedom of speech and human rights law. She acknowledged the concerns expressed over abuse of social media sites by users and the call for measures to protect all users. She summed up other important issues raised, including the importance of addressing the digital divide and the promotion of local and community media. She hoped that the Committee's discussions on the issue and the content of the draft resolution would translate into action by parliaments around the world.

Ms. C. CHARLTON (Canada), co-Rapporteur, shared the concerns expressed by many delegates. It would be important to ensure the right balance in the draft resolution. She acknowledged that social media could not replace face-to-face contact with constituents as such contact was vital.

The sitting rose at 5.35 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 26 March (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m., with Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), President of the Third Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution (C-III/128/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to report on its deliberations relating to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted on the subject item by the co-Rapporteurs (C-III/128/DR-rev).

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that the drafting committee, composed of two representatives each from the African and Asia-Pacific Groups, GRULAC and the Twelve Plus Group, and ably chaired by Ms. U. Stephens of Australia, had worked on a basis of consensus in considering the amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted within the statutory deadline (C-III/128/DR-am). Essentially, it had agreed to reject amendments deemed to be outside the scope of the subject item or the IPU's mandate and to incorporate amendments that would either achieve protection for vulnerable groups, enrich the substance of the text, or enhance readability. The result was the draft resolution now tabled before the Committee for consideration, as contained in document C-III/128/DR-cr.

The PRESIDENT, having ascertained that the Committee concurred with motions from Mrs. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba), Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) and Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) for consideration of the draft resolution as a whole, invited comments on the text, emphasizing that no new amendments could be entertained; only sub-amendments were now admissible.

Mrs. A. HEVIA GONZÁLEZ (Cuba) suggested that the concept of respect for domestic laws provided for in operative paragraph 13 should be reiterated in operative paragraph 15; and that, instead of "requests", operative paragraph 26 should begin with "calls on" or "invites".

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden), stressing the importance of upholding the right to freedom of expression, said that she opposed the suggestion concerning operative paragraph 15; the wording of that paragraph should remain unchanged.

The PRESIDENT remarked that it would be superfluous to reiterate in operative paragraph 15 the concept already expressed in operative paragraph 13, which served to address the issue definitively and thus allay any concerns relating to the same issue in subsequent paragraphs of the draft text.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), rapporteur of the drafting committee, observed in response to the suggestion concerning operative paragraph 26 that “urges” would be a more appropriate replacement for “requests”.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the comments made and in the absence of any objection, he took it that the Committee wished to retain the current wording of operative paragraph 15 and replace “requests” with “urges” in operative paragraph 26.

It was so decided.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic) stated that operative paragraphs 14 and 15 failed to convey the conclusions reached during the Committee’s debate concerning the extent of the traditional media’s dependence on social media, which could be used without legal consequences to change agendas and distort facts.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) additionally recalled the issue raised in that debate concerning the need for criminal legislation to deter the dissemination of misinformation through social networks. With their global reach and influence, social media should be held liable and punished for violations of privacy in the same way as traditional media.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that the regulation of social media was beyond the scope of the draft resolution; it was an issue to be tackled at the individual country level.

The PRESIDENT, albeit acknowledging the comments made, said that he concurred with that view. He invited the Committee to vote by a show of hands for approval of the draft resolution, as amended, for transmittal to the Assembly.

The draft resolution, as amended, was approved by acclamation.

Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 128th Assembly

The PRESIDENT suggested that Ms. M.T. Kubayi of South Africa be appointed Rapporteur of the Committee to the 128th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparations for the 130th Assembly

(a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Committee was required to submit to the Assembly its proposal for a subject item to be placed on its agenda for the 130th Assembly due to take place in the spring of 2014. At its meeting of the previous day, the Bureau had decided that the proposals submitted for that purpose by the delegations of Bahrain and Mexico should, on account of their similarity, be combined as a joint proposal, leaving a total of five proposals on the table. Unable thereafter to reach a consensus as to which of those five proposals it should recommend for the Committee’s consideration, the Bureau had proceeded to a vote, with the majority favouring the joint proposal entitled “The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict”.

Despite that outcome, the New Zealand delegation had indicated its intention to maintain its proposal “Sexual orientation and gender identity rights: the role of parliamentarians in affirming these rights in legislation”. He would therefore invite the Standing Committee to vote on those two proposals.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic) voiced his objection to that procedure; the Bureau had already made a decision. If, notwithstanding that decision, a delegation was permitted to maintain its proposal and thereby occasion a vote within the Committee, the proposals submitted by other delegations, including his own, should each be included in that vote.

Mr. R. ABDUL-JABBAR (Iraq), supported by Mr. A. OMARI (Algeria), said that to vote on a matter already decided by a majority vote, in accordance with the applicable Rules, would run counter to the very principles championed by an organization fundamentally engaged in working for global democracy. The Bureau’s decision by democratic vote could not now be overruled.

The PRESIDENT said that the applicable Rules provided for the reconsideration of a decision already taken, if so requested by a delegation. He also emphasized that all three titular members present at the Bureau meeting had voted in favour of the joint proposal.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN (Colombia), speaking as one of the three titular members of the Bureau, said that, as he had understood it at the time, the vote concerned no more than the preselection of subject items and did not rule out the opportunity for subsequent consideration of the New Zealand proposal. He regarded the subject item embodied in that proposal as worthy of consideration in that it was highly topical and, moreover, largely absent from the IPU agenda.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, at the request of the PRESIDENT, confirmed for the record that, at the previous day’s meeting of the Bureau, the titular members of the Committee had been invited to vote on each of the proposals submitted for subject items. In his capacity as a member of the IPU Secretariat, he had recorded three votes in favour of the joint proposal.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic), supported by Mr. R. ABDUL-JABBAR (Iraq), Ms. J. BINTU (Uganda), Mr. A. OMARI (Algeria), Mr. A. FATEH EL-BAB (Egypt), Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain) and Ms. G. CUEVAS (Mexico), reiterated his view that the outcome of the democratic vote taken by the Bureau must be respected.

Mr. T. HENARE (New Zealand) proclaimed that he likewise stood by the democratic principles evoked by his fellow parliamentarians. In the interest of expediency, however, he urged the Committee to proceed to a vote on the matter, as provided for in the Rules.

The PRESIDENT then proposed two ways to proceed. The Committee could either respect the vote that had been taken by the Bureau and adopt the Bureau’s recommendation for a subject item on children’s rights or the Committee could decide to reopen the discussion and also consider the proposal for a subject item submitted by the New Zealand delegation. The President then called a vote by show of hands on whether or not to retain the Bureau’s recommendation for a subject item.

The Committee voted to retain the Bureau’s proposal by 31 votes to 21.

The PRESIDENT said he therefore took it that the Committee wished to propose for consideration by the Assembly the subject item “The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict”. As noted in the document listing the proposed subject items, the co-Rapporteurs would be Ms. G. Cuevas of Mexico and Ms. J. Nassif of Bahrain.

It was so decided.

Mr. R. ABDUL-JABBAR (Iraq) said that the failure to take account of the Bureau's vote by proceeding to a different form of vote on the matter was incompatible with the parliamentary democracy for which the IPU stood. It was a regrettable state of affairs. The IPU Secretariat must practise what it preached by respecting the outcome of a democratic vote.

The PRESIDENT reiterated that the voting procedure undertaken was in keeping with the Rules of the Standing Committees. There had been no favouritism involved in the instigation of that procedure. For the record, in his capacity as the titular member for the African Group, he had voted in the Bureau for the joint proposal.

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, said that the undue prolongation of the discussion and the unfortunate turn it had taken could have been avoided if the Bureau-recommended proposal had been the only one put forward to the Committee and if the New Zealand delegation had nonetheless been afforded the liberty to explain the rationale behind its proposal for future reference. His Group had unanimously supported the New Zealand proposal, but the Committee had made its decision, which must now stand.

Mr. T. AL-SEHRY (Egypt) agreed that the decision must be respected. In order to avoid a repeat of the same scenario, however, the Rules should be re-examined with a view to clearly define the circumstances in which a sponsor could submit for reconsideration a proposal rejected by the Bureau in an apparently pointless exercise.

The PRESIDENT said that the previous speaker had put his finger on the crux of the matter; it was indeed the lack of clear and unequivocal provisions in the Rules that had led to the situation just witnessed, which had given rise, in addition, to unwarranted suspicion of bias. It was furthermore untenable that a sponsor could theoretically insist on bringing before the Assembly a proposal that had been rejected by the Committee. He agreed that representations must be made to the governing bodies of the IPU with the aim of resolving the anomalies in the Rules that could give rise to such unpleasant scenarios.

Election of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT recalled that, in conformity with Rule 7.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the officers of the Committee were to be elected or re-elected at the first IPU Assembly of the year. All members of the present Bureau were eligible for re-election and those who had not yet served a full term were traditionally confirmed in office. A single candidature had been received in the case of three of the vacancies, specifically: Mr. C. Janiak (Switzerland) for titular membership, submitted by the Twelve Plus Group; Ms. G. Ortiz (Mexico) for substitute membership, submitted by GRULAC; and Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) for substitute membership, submitted by the Twelve Plus Group. In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Committee wished to elect those three candidates.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT, noting that no candidatures for substitute membership had been received from the Eurasia Group, invited nominations from the floor.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had submitted a request for membership of the Eurasia Group and wished to put one of its members forward for the vacancy.

The PRESIDENT replied that the delegation must receive formal approval of its request before it could nominate a candidate for that vacancy. The position would therefore remain vacant pending the next election, as no other nominations had been forthcoming from the floor.

Turning to the election of a titular member for the Asia-Pacific Group, he announced that three candidatures had been received for the one vacancy, namely those of Ms. F.Z. Nadiri (Afghanistan); Ms. U. Stephens (Australia); and Mr. M. Hosseini Sadr (Islamic Republic of Iran). As none of the candidatures had been withdrawn, it would be necessary to conduct a vote by secret ballot, but candidates present in the room were first invited to make their respective cases for election.

Ms. F.Z. NADIRI (Afghanistan) said that her country had experienced gross human rights violations and acknowledged the international support extended to it, which was very much appreciated. It was now time, however, for Afghanistan to move on from the status of victim to that of a responsible and active member of the global community. Membership of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee would contribute to that goal and to strengthening the country's capacity for resolving its own problems, promoting in turn the resolution of various problems at the international level. Her delegation had passionately supported other candidatures in the past and she now appealed for that support to be reciprocated for her own candidature.

Ms. U. STEPHENS (Australia) said that her candidature had been submitted in a bid to ensure representation in the Bureau for South-East Asia and the Pacific region, where Australia was leading important efforts to build democracy and strengthen parliaments. If the Committee were to lend the necessary support to her candidature, her delegation would in return support Ms. Nadiri's strong candidature in the impending election to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

The PRESIDENT, explaining the voting procedure to be followed, said that each delegation would have one vote and that the candidate receiving an absolute majority of the votes cast would be declared elected. If no candidate received an absolute majority in the first round, a second round of voting for the two candidates with the most votes would be conducted.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, in providing further details of the voting procedure, recalled that only parliamentarians who were members of national delegations were entitled to vote. The delegations of Bolivia, Iraq, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone were not entitled to vote on account of their non-payment of contributions to the IPU.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to elect by secret ballot a titular member of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific Group.

At the invitation of the President, a member of the delegation of Bahrain and a member of the delegation of South Africa acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers	:	52
Number of valid ballots	:	51
Number of members voting	:	52
Required majority	:	27
Number of votes obtained	:	
Ms. F.Z. Nadiri (Afghanistan)	:	28
Ms. U. Stephens (Australia)	:	20
Mr. M. Hosseini Sadr (Islamic Republic of Iran)	:	3

Having obtained the required majority, Ms. F.Z. Nadiri (Afghanistan) was elected titular member of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee for the Asia-Pacific Group.

Ms. F.Z. NADIRI (Afghanistan) expressed her deep appreciation for the support she had received. By voting in her favour, the Committee had afforded Afghanistan the privilege of responsibility in such important institutions as the IPU and its Third Standing Committee. She would devote her full efforts and energies to achieving beneficial outcomes for all in the area of human rights. As a young woman parliamentarian from a country known for its complex politics, she had much to learn through sharing experiences with fellow parliamentarians at the IPU.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the Third Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

Meeting of Young Parliamentarians

Saturday 23 March

(Morning)

The Meeting of Young Parliamentarians was held as an informal event and was attended by about 60 parliamentarians.

It was called to order at 9.30 a.m. with Mr. K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands) in the Chair.

The CHAIR drew attention to the supporting documentation for the meeting and took it that the participants agreed to the proposed agenda contained therein.

Objectives and activities of the young parliamentarians at the IPU

Proposal to establish a formal structure for young parliamentarians at the IPU

The representative of the IPU Secretariat gave an overview of the history and activities of young parliamentarians within the IPU since 2010, when the 122nd Assembly had passed a resolution on youth participation in the democratic process. Informal meetings of young parliamentarians had been held at subsequent Assemblies and a Task Force had been formed to develop a proposal on establishing a formal structure for young parliamentarians within the IPU. The young parliamentarians had discussed that proposal for the first time in Quebec, when they had met during the 127th Assembly, and the group now had before it a revised proposal for consideration.

All speakers expressed strong support for the proposal to establish a Forum of Young Parliamentarians, with many stating that it should be adopted as soon as possible so as to strengthen the work of the young parliamentarians within the IPU. Some aspects of the proposal would need fine-tuning, but those could be addressed once the Forum was established as a formal IPU body, at which time it could begin to draw lessons from its early experiences. Several noted that the Forum should also draw on the experiences of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, particularly with regard to the functioning and composition of the Coordinating Committee, as the two would have a similar status within the IPU. Noting that Member Parliaments were required to include women in their delegations to Assemblies, a number of participants considered that a similar policy should be adopted regarding young parliamentarians. Speakers agreed on the importance of promoting the participation of young people in democratic processes, enhancing the participation of young parliamentarians in IPU Assemblies and fostering greater consideration of the youth perspective within the IPU.

There was much discussion about paragraph 6 of the proposal and on whether or not an age-limit for participation in the Forum should be set. One speaker observed that the social and parliamentary situation differed from country to country and as such, the Forum should leave it to IPU Members to set what they considered to be the age-limit for a young parliamentarian. Some amendments were proposed to the paragraph; one that set a strict age-limit of 40 years was rejected, but the group agreed to replace the words “senior MPs interested in youth issues in an observer capacity” with “other MPs interested in youth issues in an observer capacity”. In approving that amendment, the group agreed that senior parliamentarians should not have voting rights within the Forum, but recognized that the question of setting an age-limit could be revisited if a precise definition was needed of eligibility to voting rights.

The young parliamentarians unanimously approved the proposal, as amended during the meeting, and decided to submit it to the Executive Committee for its consideration.

Young parliamentarians' perspective on decisions relating to the new format of the IPU Assemblies, the functioning of the Standing Committees and their Bureaux, and the status of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs (EX/266/7(b)-P.1)

The group welcomed the references to the young parliamentarians and their work already contained in the document on the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2012–2017 and put forward a number of proposals on how to further strengthen the text and the status of young parliamentarians within the IPU. As the decision had been taken to submit the proposal to establish a Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU to the Executive Committee, it was agreed that, should the proposal be approved, all references in the text to the “informal meeting of young parliamentarians” should be replaced with the formal name. In addition, participants agreed that the composition of the bureaux of the Standing Committees and the appointments of co-Rapporteurs should take into account not only the principle of gender equality but also an equitable representation of young parliamentarians.

Participants welcomed the proposed timetable of the future four-day Assemblies, which would continue the practice of scheduling the young parliamentarians' meeting on the first day. It was important to maintain that practice as it allowed the young MPs to meet before the Standing Committees and to decide on how they wished to contribute to the Committees' discussions.

At the proposal of one speaker, participants agreed that the Task Force should be given a broad mandate to review the document in detail and to incorporate the proposed changes on which the young parliamentarians had agreed as well as any others it deemed appropriate.

Contribution to the work of the 128th Assembly

It was agreed that representatives of the young parliamentarians should contribute to the discussions of the First and Third Standing Committees and share a youth perspective on the respective draft resolutions. It would not be possible to appoint a representative of the young parliamentarians to attend the deliberations of the Second Standing Committee, as both that and the present meeting had been scheduled at the same time.

A number of participants put themselves forward to act as representatives and, after considering their backgrounds and experience in the areas under discussion by each Committee, it was agreed that Mr. H. Lucks (Namibia) and Ms. M.C. Kronfle (Ecuador) would represent the young parliamentarians at the First and Third Standing Committees respectively.

Discussion with the Secretary General of the IPU

In a short question-and-answer session, the Secretary General of the IPU commended the young parliamentarians on the progress they had made on their proposal to have the Forum established as a formal entity within the IPU. There was already strong support at the highest level of the Organization for the work of the young parliamentarians and many were eagerly awaiting the submission of their proposal to the Executive Committee so that the group could become part of IPU's formal structure. The Secretary General confirmed that, once the proposal was approved by the Executive Committee, it would be presented to the 192nd session of the Governing Council in Quito on 25 March 2013 and to the 129th Assembly in October 2013 for endorsement and the decision would be applied as of 1 January 2014. The Statutes would also be amended accordingly at the October Assembly.

As part of the proposed reform to the format of the Assemblies and functioning of Committees, the Committee on United Nations Affairs would be granted the same status as the Standing Committees. The move would provide the young parliamentarians with an opportunity to contribute to the discussions of that Committee and to promote a youth perspective in the context of IPU cooperation with the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

Meeting of Parliamentary Whips

Sunday 24 March

(Morning)

The meeting was held as a side-event of the 128th Assembly and attracted 22 participants.

It was called to order at 11.25 a.m. with Mr. P. Secker (Australia) in the Chair.

The CHAIR drew attention to the supporting document for the meeting: a letter written by Mr. J. Fitzgibbon (Australia), who had chaired the first informal meeting of parliamentary whips held in the wings of the 127th Assembly in Quebec. The letter outlined a number of matters relating to the establishment of a parliamentary whips' network, initially for an 18-month pilot period. At the present meeting, participants were to discuss the following:

- The objectives of the network;
- The name of the network;
- The network's resources and website; and
- A possible workshop event to be held in 2014.

Objectives of the network

The CHAIR recalled that, at the meeting in Quebec, participants had agreed that the objectives of the network should be: to promote the professional development of whips and those with similar duties; to facilitate and foster information-sharing; and to allow and encourage whips and their equivalents to promote the work and objectives of the IPU.

Participants had no changes to propose to those objectives, but one remarked that if the network was to be established under the auspices of the IPU, the question of Australia's role as sponsor of the network – including its provision of secretariat support – should be discussed with the Organization.

The Chair explained that the long-term aim was for the whips' network to be an established entity within the IPU, and Australia was willing to provide the necessary support only for as long as it took to get the process off the ground.

Name of the network

The CHAIR informed the group that the name "Parliamentary Party Organizers' Network" was being put forward for consideration since at the previous meeting, many participants had felt that the name of the network should not include the term "whip", which was little known or understood outside the Commonwealth. Participants had agreed that a more suitable name should be found, which would be understood globally and encompass the role of the whip in Commonwealth parliaments and their counterparts elsewhere. As the ultimate objective was for the network to come under the auspices of the IPU, a key matter to be resolved was whether "IPU" could be included in the name. The IPU Secretary General confirmed the acceptability of that proposal during the course of the meeting.

Several participants described the responsibilities of members in their own parliaments whose functions were most similar to that of a whip. In those parliaments with party blocs, a key duty of the leader of each bloc was to coordinate and try to find common ground or consensus on an issue before a vote became necessary. Other duties included ensuring House procedures were followed, organizing parliamentary work and drawing up lists of speakers.

One speaker considered that the term "organizer" did not adequately cover all of the responsibilities of a whip while another proposed the name "IPU Parliamentary Coordinators' Network". The group endorsed the latter name as it broadly encapsulated the duties that had been described by participants. It was agreed that adopting a name was an important step in the

network's development and should not be postponed until the next meeting. In response to some concerns that had been raised about adopting a name before a clear definition of "parliamentary coordinator" was established, it was also agreed that research should be conducted on how the roles of whips and their equivalents functioned in different parliamentary systems. The name of the network could be changed at a later stage if it was felt that a more appropriate one could be identified as a result of that research.

Resources and website of the network

The network's website would provide an overview of its objectives and assistance would be needed from some parliaments in providing resources for the site, such as translation support, updating and maintenance. A number of speakers stated that they were not in a position to commit to providing resources, but gratefully welcomed Australia's earlier offer to lead the development of the website. One participant commented that if the network was to ultimately come under the auspices of the IPU, any future website of the network should be integrated into IPU's website and, as such, the Organization should provide its opinion on the site and be involved in its development.

The representative of the IPU Secretariat confirmed that some discussions had already been held with the Secretariat. She expressed the IPU's support for ongoing coordination as the network and its website were developed. Further discussion was still needed, however, not least because the IPU was in the process of redeveloping its website and faced some budgetary constraints.

Workshop event

Participants expressed their support for holding a workshop within the coming 12 months. Its objective would be to provide support to developing country parliaments, which was an important area for the IPU as a whole. The event would mark an important step in getting the network up and running and ensuring it was a useful entity for parliamentarians.

A few participants highlighted the need to gather the views of parliamentarians on the network and its objectives in the interim, so that their comments could be presented at the next informal meeting of parliamentary whips and party coordinators and taken into account as the network was further developed. One speaker suggested that a survey be sent by the IPU to all Member Parliaments, which would also enable further coordination between the Organization and those spearheading the network.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on The IHL dimension of the responsibility to protect

Sunday 24 March
(Morning)

The session was called to order at 9 a.m., with Mr. A.A. Cakra Wijaya (Indonesia) in the Chair.

The MODERATOR, introducing the session, recalled that, at its last meeting at the 127th Assembly in Quebec, the Committee had decided to focus on the relationship between international humanitarian law (IHL) and the responsibility to protect. Its decision had been inspired by the subject item Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives, to be debated by the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The open session had thus been organized with a view to raising awareness of the important role of parliaments in IHL issues and feeding into the debate of the First Standing Committee. He introduced the three panellists and invited them to make presentations on the subject before engaging in an interactive exchange with the Committee.

Ms. T. PARK, Panellist, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, outlining the background to the responsibility to protect, said that the concept referred to the international commitment made to protect populations at risk from genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as described in the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the UN General Assembly in its Resolution 60/1. A relatively young international protection norm, the responsibility to protect was premised on the notion of sovereignty as responsibility and on the three pillars identified in the report "Implementing the responsibility to protect", issued in 2009 by the UN Secretary-General, namely: the responsibility of the State to protect its population from those four specific crimes; the international responsibility to encourage and assist individual States in meeting that responsibility; and, in the case of a State's manifest failure to protect its population, the need for appropriate, timely and decisive international action in accordance with the UN Charter. The international commitment to the responsibility to protect had been reaffirmed with the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 63/308, which took note of that report by the Secretary-General, who had since issued three further reports emphasizing the importance of global and regional collaboration for implementation of the responsibility to protect.

An important contribution to the protection of civilians was the Brazilian concept of responsibility while protecting, articulated in 2011, which focused on the need to improve the monitoring and assessment of use of force sanctioned by the UN Security Council. It raised concerns about the sequencing of the three pillars and emphasized the need to exhaust all peaceful means before considering the use of force as a last resort. Early warning systems and prevention at the national and regional levels should therefore be emphasized. Responsibility to protect was a fast-evolving concept and it was through continued dialogue, debate and real-life application that its intellectual and practical foundations would be solidified. Precisely because of its young age, however, concerns had been raised about its military aspect and about selectivity in the responsibility to protect implementation.

Concerning the relationship between the responsibility to protect and IHL, many of the normative roots of the former were firmly embedded in international law, as in the case of the four crimes mentioned and war crimes in particular. However, while both were fully in keeping with the UN Charter and underscored prevention through education, training and capacity building, IHL was codified under customary law and was legally binding, whereas the responsibility to protect was an emerging norm endorsed only relatively recently by UN Member States. The responsibility to protect did not have the degree of detailed provisions found in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and was decades younger, dating back only

to 2001 compared with 1864 in the case of IHL. Furthermore, IHL applied only to armed conflict and to combatants, civilians and various non-human objects, whereas the responsibility to protect applied to four crimes that might or might not occur during an armed conflict and to all populations at risk from those crimes.

Lastly, IHL was far more advanced and authoritative with respect to enforcement, an area of responsibility to protect that still lacked development. The draft IPU resolution on the subject thus marked an important turning point in terms of national implementation insofar as State practices would affect the evolution of the responsibility to protect and its context and status in international law.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), Panellist, Member of the National Assembly of France and co-Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, said that humanitarian NGOs had for many years been the only entities working in crisis zones and that their stringent criticism of the impassive response from politicians to their calls for stronger international intervention had resonated with the media and the public. For better or worse, such NGOs had since had to accustom themselves to working alongside a massive international presence, including United Nations peacekeepers and forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which had created an association between them and weapons. Their neutrality had consequently been called into question and some had come to regard them as a Trojan horse for neo-imperialism. Thoughts had therefore turned to means of ensuring that humanitarian interventions were more firmly rooted in IHL, giving rise to the responsibility to protect concept articulated in the World Summit Outcome.

Parliamentarians should play a more active role in the progressive development of better solutions and approaches with respect to crisis prevention measures, including by aligning their work with that of the Executive. They should also fully exercise their oversight functions throughout all stages, from prevention to reparation. The IPU must likewise be fundamentally involved in the responsibility to protect issue, which was central to its *raison d'être* and would entail long-term efforts, as future conflicts were bound to arise. Problems to be addressed included the suspicion that the responsibility to protect concept was selectively applied. The proposals for parliamentary action he had developed in conjunction with his co-Rapporteur were centred on four main guiding principles. The first was prevention insofar as military intervention must be considered only as a last resort, be authorized by the Security Council, use proportional means and have reasonable prospects of success. Second, parliaments must debate the issues and be acknowledged as competent by the Executive if international inaction were to be avoided. Third, parliaments must be more involved in the operational implementation of the responsibility to protect. Lastly, parliaments must step up dialogue with the authorities in the interest of forestalling gross human rights violations and major conflicts by addressing their root causes. He added that young parliamentarians and women MPs alike had much to bring to the debate with their lively enthusiasm, passion and commitment.

Mr. P. ZAHND, Panellist, Continental Legal Adviser, Regional Office, Mexico City, International Committee of the Red Cross, recalling the human efforts exerted in the face of many challenges to develop IHL, said that today's challenge for States and parliamentarians was to fulfil their responsibility to ensure that all parties to a conflict, including non-State actors, complied with IHL norms. The further development of those norms in order to enhance their clarity and eliminate any gaps was also a challenge. IHL applied not only to the protection of persons but also to the conduct of hostilities and went beyond the four crimes covered under the responsibility to protect, limiting in addition the types of war tactics that could be used. All States had an obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL, pursuant to common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions. To that end, parliamentarians could work on fine-tuning IHL treaties with a view to pre-empting human rights violations and ensuring that customary norms were applicable to all parties, even in non-international conflicts. Another important consideration was the need to legislate for the implementation of such treaties, including within the armed forces.

Nor must the role of diplomacy be forgotten. In short, there were many stages to ensuring that the world order was based on IHL and that IHL was respected before turning to the three pillars of the responsibility to protect.

The right to life was protected through such fundamental IHL principles as those relating to proportionality, distinction, superfluous damage and unnecessary suffering. Obligations under the UN Charter also entailed obligations under many IHL treaties and it was important to grasp the distinction between *jus in bello* (law in war) and *jus ad bellum* (law on the use of force); IHL was the former, comprising a neutral body of law. Humanitarian assistance in conflicts was neutral, impartial and independent, while any use of force in the name of humanity was to conduct hostilities. In that event, IHL was applicable and must be respected in all circumstances, including when force was used within the framework of the third pillar of the responsibility to protect, one danger of which was the militarization of humanitarian action. The integrity of the law must be maintained, irrespective of the legitimacy or grounds for use of force or the character of the conflict, and all State obligations must be respected rather than only those within a limited scope. Humanitarian action was distinct from and incompatible with military operations, which were a last resort, and it must not be discredited or diminished in furtherance of a political agenda. Notwithstanding the requirement under Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions for signatories to undertake to act in cooperation with the United Nations and in conformity with the UN Charter in situations of serious violations of the Conventions or that Protocol, the use of force could not be employed as an IHL implementation mechanism. IHL was designed to protect international peace and security and its neutrality was therefore crucial.

Mr. B. SAKKOUR (Syrian Arab Republic), endorsing those comments, said that IHL was often no more than words on paper in many countries experiencing conflict today. Protection was vital, but State intervention in smaller countries that ended in mass murder and destruction could not be called protection. What outcomes had intervention authorized by the Security Council brought for Palestine and Iraq other than atrocity and devastation? In the case of Syria, weapons and ammunition were being supplied in the name of protection to foreign terrorists on its soil, who were bent on destroying the country and the only law was the law of the jungle, where the strong ruled the weak. IHL must be applied without double standards and irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or religion.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) said that the focus must be on defenceless civilian populations as opposed to those who were armed and who were invariably to blame for responsibility to protect situations. He would be interested to hear the views of panellists concerning paradoxes that could arise in those situations. The failure to intervene in the Rwandan genocide, for instance, had demonstrated that the law did not automatically confer protection onto populations at risk. On the other hand, a move to apply the law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by issuing an international arrest warrant for a wanted warlord had sparked new bloodshed, causing many civilian deaths and casualties. The law must be enforced to protect civilians but its limitations were highlighted by those two examples.

Mr. B. YAZJI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the situation in Syria created an imperative for protection. The crisis there had now reached global proportions, with implications for international peace and security in the absence of a rational and prudent approach, which parliamentarians could play a role in establishing. As it was, foreign governments were supporting jihadist activities on the ground in Syria with the twofold objective of eliminating terrorists and destroying Syria and its people, which not only violated international law but was also irrational in that it would ultimately prove impossible to control those elements. Such actions endangered the whole world and the governments at fault would be unable to claim innocence.

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain) said that numerous measures had been adopted to strengthen the protection of civilians in Bahrain. The country's reform plan and indeed its Constitution affirmed respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in which context she cited such examples as the release of political prisoners, judicial and legislative reforms, women's participation in politics and the ratification of key international human rights instruments. The Government's response to the events of 2011 had demonstrated compliance with those instruments and the efforts to protect civilians in the face of danger or threat and avoid escalating tension. The Parliament had played an active part in that response: the Speaker of the National Assembly had presided over the national dialogue for reconciliation that had given rise to constitutional amendments; and the Speaker of the Shura Council had been appointed to chair the committee tasked with following up the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry established in the wake of the crisis.

Ms. S.V. KALYAN (South Africa) emphasized the need for solutions to be found across party political lines but wondered, given the sway and authority wielded by the Executive, how parliamentarians could play a role in achieving the goals mentioned. They could indeed raise debates and make recommendations but they had to consider the financial and other implications of committing their parliaments to courses of actions without the requisite authority to do so, which was particularly the case for opposition members. Guidance as to how parliamentarians could be more proactive in those circumstances would therefore be welcome.

Ms. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that parliamentarians and governments must work together to establish a new international order and eliminate the polarization and double standards present in the world of today where violence, exclusion, injustice and oppression were rife. International solidarity was the key to achieving those objectives. All available means, among them the new social media, must be deployed to protect life on the planet shared by all of humanity.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), Panellist, responding to the comments made, recalled that the task in hand was not to discuss individual situations but to develop recommendations whereby parliamentarians could give substance to the new responsibility to protect standard by ensuring its implementation and parliamentary involvement in peace efforts. The crux of the issue was to protect when all other channels had failed. In order to avoid the type of paradoxical situations mentioned, more attention should be placed on measures aimed at preventing and adapting to such situations. Furthermore, parliamentarians should become more actively engaged in resolving them. He was not qualified to judge individual situations but fitting questions about the origin of the weapons finding their way into Syria might well be asked. Concerning the other issues raised, the fact was that all parliamentarians were empowered to enact laws to ensure IHL enforcement. It was for them to ensure, however, that their authority and competence were acknowledged by the executive, which tended not to surrender any of its powers easily. Parliamentarians could also establish committees dedicated to IHL issues and work on raising public awareness of those issues through media and other outlets as part of laying the necessary groundwork for the responsibility to protect.

Ms. T. PARK, Panellist, said that the reported death tolls in Syria's ongoing internal conflict indicated that civilians continued to be primary targets of violence in a classic violation of IHL and of responsibility to protect in general. Government forces and militias were committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, as were armed opposition groups, albeit on a smaller scale. The conflict threatened to destabilize the region and to claim yet more civilian lives. International and regional efforts should therefore be focused on ending IHL violations and the foreign arming of the Syrian Government that allowed it to commit those violations. The crimes should be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

As to the role of parliamentarians, they could endeavour to ensure the establishment of a national focal point on responsibility to protect-related matters and also contribute to the development of responsibility to protect education by seeking funding for that purpose and using their public profile to raise the responsibility to protect awareness and draw attention to perceived gaps between action and realities on the ground. A useful awareness-raising tool was an initiative developed by her organization as a multilingual online resource for tracking responsibility to protect-related news, available at www.r2plive.org.

Mr. P. ZAHND, Panellist, said that questions raised about the validity of the law in the light of the lack of response to IHL violations constituting war crimes, as in Syria, were understandable. IHL embodied the most imperative of all norms in public international law insofar as, together with the Martens Clause, it remained applicable to the protection of civilians and civilian property and to the conduct of hostilities when all else had foundered. The threat posed to international peace and security by gross violations of humanitarian law was the basis for action by the Security Council in such cases. The implementation mechanism provided for IHL under common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions must not, however, be confused with the mandate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure respect for and develop IHL. Criticism should not be directed at the law in the event of any failure of application; it was instead a case of mustering the political will and means to ensure its application, identifying the core problems and avoiding any politicization or militarization of humanitarian action. Referring to the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty currently taking place, he said that a key criterion in developing the terms of that Treaty was the obligation of States to ensure respect for IHL and to refrain from selling arms and ammunition to parties in a conflict who might violate IHL.

The MODERATOR cited the recent enactment of a law on managing social conflict in his country, Indonesia, as an example of what parliamentarians could do to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden) raised the question of what could be done when the responsibility to protect implementation entailed IHL violations, as in the case of attacks on health professionals and facilities in Syria.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) said that IHL and the responsibility to protect must both be implemented and noted that the ICRC had grown out of times very different from those of today. In short, the key IHL treaties were applicable to inter-State conflicts and were not easily transferable to apply to civil wars, rebellions and uprisings. Furthermore, it was difficult to ensure IHL compliance by all parties to a conflict once a State had invoked the failure by others to respect IHL as justification for its actions. Parliamentarians had a role to play in stemming those conflicts by addressing their root causes and also by seeking to ensure that all current IHL instruments and future responsibility to protect-related instruments were universally ratified; it was highly regrettable, for example, that Israel and the United States, among others, were not parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC in particular. States also had a responsibility to respect IHL under all circumstances in the event of an internal conflict. Lastly, every effort must be made to strengthen laws prohibiting the supply and trafficking of small arms and light weapons to rebel forces, which could never be justified and could lead only to the proliferation of conflict.

Ms. Z. GUDIÑO (Ecuador) recalled General Assembly Resolution 53/164 on the situation of human rights in Kosovo, which affirmed the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the primary responsibility of the State for that protection. The responsibility to protect must have priority over the principle of non-interference, bearing in mind that the international community had diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means at its disposal for protecting populations against the four specific crimes mentioned. As a last recourse, the responsibility to protect could presume the use of armed force in order to save human lives,

which was disconcerting in that violence engendered more violence. Collective efforts must therefore be made to protect populations without resorting to military intervention. Parliamentarians should seek alternative solutions through mediation and negotiation from start to finish of any crisis, with the maintenance of international peace and security as the ultimate objective. In working to strengthen democracy, they should also seek to establish a legal framework for ensuring that States assumed their responsibilities and fulfilled their international commitments, in addition to laws against the dissemination of misinformation relating to any crisis.

Mr. E. HAQUE (Bangladesh) said that the peoples of the world must have equal opportunities to access the basic necessities of life, including food, health care and education. Denial of access to those necessities was a human rights violation.

Mr. N.E. SHAMDEAN (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he wished to set the record straight; the Syrian army provided the necessary protection to civilians, while the other party did not. International organizations must be impartial and take a balanced view of the situation on the ground. Foreign military intervention undoubtedly made for worse-than-expected outcomes, with adverse repercussions for civilians, social values and the humanitarian situation. Civilian protection could be promoted, on the other hand, through initiatives to encourage good-neighbourliness among States, a principle articulated in the preamble to the UN Charter and the basis of various UN resolutions relating to the subject under discussion. Indeed, Syria's policies were inspired by the need to establish good relations with its neighbours on the basis of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, crisis prevention through early warning and the peaceful resolution of any problems. As centuries of history had shown, border incidents could easily fuel grave political conflicts with implications for international relations and the protection of civilians. The principle of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, except through political diplomacy, must therefore be respected.

Ms. Y. ATEK MEFTALI (Algeria) said that, in today's increasingly violent world where human values were fading and violations rising, IHL and the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in particular must be better transposed into national legislation, implemented and respected. IHL was a means of regulating international relations, strengthening human rights and providing protection for persons not involved in conflicts, such as civilians and non-combatants. It also recognized the principles aimed at limiting both the impact of armed conflict and the tools and tactics of war. Algeria complied with IHL norms, lived by the principles of independence, universality and neutrality, was a signatory to the core IHL instruments and stood in solidarity with oppressed peoples. Action must be taken to eliminate deliberate IHL violations through implementation of those instruments. The number of deteriorating humanitarian situations and victims claimed as a result of the unilateral use of force and lack of respect for the law was worrying. Parliamentarians should work for the establishment of a legally-binding mechanism to punish countries that failed to respect IHL by ordering them to pay large fines into a reparations fund.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia), recalling the deafening silence of the world's parliaments in the face of the tortures and massacres committed in his country by the Khmer Rouge, said that parliamentarians should look beyond their own countries and condemn humanitarian situations around the globe.

Ms. G. CUEVAS (Mexico) said that a major debate was now taking place in Mexico as to whether it should reverse its traditional policy of not sending troops to participate in peacekeeping operations. The Senate was due to vote on the matter and she would be interested to learn of the experiences of other countries in order to form a balanced view.

Mr. R.M. AL SHURAIQI (United Arab Emirates) asked the panellists for their thoughts about whether IHL was fairly or selectively applied in time of crisis; whether double standards were employed in the application of Chapter VI of the UN Charter; and what role parliamentarians could play in the implementation of IHL and the responsibility to protect.

Mr. G. OKOELE (Congo) said that the unrest in his country in the 1990s had given rise to abuses on both sides, although the situation had been somewhat unique in view of the questionable legitimacy of the authorities in power at the time. With the restoration of that legitimacy, IHL implementation had been put back on the agenda. He himself had attended two ICRC training courses on IHL, for example. Noting the emphasis placed during the discussion on the incorporation of IHL into domestic law, he asked what parliamentarians could do to incorporate the responsibility to protect into legislation, given that it was not yet codified.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) said the issue of IHL and the responsibility to protect was vital to his country, which, despite being under occupation, was compliant with IHL requirements, as integrated into its national laws. He wondered how parliamentarians might best intervene to counter IHL violations by Israel, including its detention of over a dozen Palestinian parliamentarians in Israeli prisons, where, in addition, the lives of four other Palestinian prisoners who had been on a six-month hunger strike were now at risk. Living as they did under Israeli occupation, Palestine's civilian population needed protection in accordance with the core IHL instruments, yet Israel was never called to account for its violations of IHL and its disregard of United Nations resolutions. Instead, it was treated as an equal partner in international forums. What role could the IPU therefore play in forcing Israel's compliance with IHL, starting with an end to its occupation of Palestinian territory?

Mr. P. ZAHND, Panellist, reacting to questions raised, said that lack of access to health care as a consequence of attacks on health professionals and the health infrastructure was a crucial issue already on the table. It constituted a fundamental violation of IHL; the Red Cross emblem symbolized protection for civilians and it was being disrespected. Concerning the application of IHL to conflicts, including non-international and non-armed conflicts, all concerned parties were under the same obligation to respect IHL. The ICRC worked to that end with all such parties, including non-State actors. Efforts were under way to iron out the many difficulties involved in ensuring IHL implementation in all circumstances, but customary law also applied to all parties in all conflicts, who were treated as equals; they were all required to ensure respect for the law, without discrimination or selectivity, and binding mechanisms for compliance were indeed imperative to ending IHL violations. As representatives of the public conscience, parliamentarians must contribute to the development of more stringent rules for IHL compliance and for the mechanisms relating to prosecution, sentencing and extradition with respect to those who perpetrated crimes against humanity. Concerning Palestinian civilians, they were protected under the relevant international instruments and all States were required to ensure the same respect for IHL in the occupied Palestinian territories as elsewhere.

Ms. T. PARK, Panellist, thanked all participants for their spirited contributions and said that there had been repeated failures ever since the time of the collective pledge never again to fail in the responsibility to protect vulnerable populations in the face of atrocities. Lessons had been learned from each failure, however. Despite the remarkable progress achieved with respect to the responsibility to protect in just over a decade, new champions were needed to ensure that it did not remain the rhetoric of powerful western countries. The diplomatic intervention in Kenya's post-election crisis was often cited as the most successful case to date, but the responsibility to protect in the future would need to prove its usefulness and strength in cases that required more than diplomatic efforts and a willingness to use force, although only as a last resort; the responsibility to protect was most effective as a preventive measure.

The recent uprisings in the Middle East had produced dire situations where the responsibility to protect application was desperately needed, yet vulnerable populations in Syria were still being killed daily. The gap between the responsibility to protect and IHL was smaller than imagined because the responsibility to protect was already well-entrenched in the international legal regime. Criticisms of the responsibility to protect scope should be taken on board, however, and the concept must be clarified across regions before it could become an operational norm. Intensive efforts were needed at the municipal, national and regional levels to solidify the regional prevention and response mechanisms with respect to mass atrocities. While each situation called for different priorities and action, the three-pillar framework of the responsibility to protect had implications for national policy that cut across a diverse spectrum of governance structures critical to ensuring domestic protection, capacity-building and appropriate responses to international atrocity threats. Implementation of the responsibility to protect was nonetheless an incremental and evolving process, measured by a State's priorities and existing regional and global capacities. The ongoing atrocities in Syria were an example of how such problems as Security Council vetoes, coordination with regional actors and lack of military forces and domestic political will could interfere with that process. She expressed the hope that participants would pursue the responsibility to protect dialogue in their home countries.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), Panellist, said that more questions had perhaps been raised than answered during the session, but it was a start. The fact was that the world was often blind to the type of contradictions evoked in the discussion. Peacekeeping forces might carry out inexcusable abuses, for example, and individuals might be subjected to rape and other atrocities in refugee camps where they had sought protection. With all due respect to those driven to defend their cause, it was unconscionable to deny that the standard response to the efforts of the Syrian opposition to seek greater democracy was violence, with disastrous effects on the population. Peaceful solutions must be found and, as frequently emphasized by women in particular, willingness for dialogue was crucial. Indeed, the IPU Committee on Middle East Affairs was striving to maintain a dialogue for the release of the Palestinian parliamentarians held in Israeli detention. In such situations, however, it could be a delicate balancing act to avoid the worst-case scenario of a breakdown in dialogue as a result of voicing necessary condemnation and disapproval of actions. As had been usefully suggested, parliamentarians could enter into dialogue beyond national borders in the interest of conflict prevention and must work tirelessly to preserve that tool in all circumstances. Any other course would only lead to failure.

The MODERATOR expressed thanks to the panellists and participants for their contributions to broadening the horizons and knowledge concerning the link between IHL and the responsibility to protect. The hope was that parliamentary input would help to foster solutions to the issues surrounding the provision of humanitarian support in times of crisis.

The session rose at 11.15 a.m.

Open session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on Promoting greater parliamentary solidarity with MPs under threat

Monday 25 March

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m. with Ms. M. Kiener-Nellen (Switzerland), a member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, in the Chair.

The MODERATOR stated that the purpose of holding the Open Session was for participants to share their experiences and describe the institutional measures taken in their own countries regarding the protection of the human rights of parliamentarians. Comments would be welcome on what actions the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians could take to further improve its response and follow up of the cases of human rights violations brought before it.

The Committee was particularly keen to receive such input as it had recently modified its working practices, underpinning them with four core principles: establishing priorities among cases (with priority cases to be reviewed three times a year and all others once a year); adopting a more proactive approach through more fact-finding missions and fewer meetings; heightening awareness of the Committee to secure a broader audience for its work; and reverting to a policy of making public the cases submitted to it (except in exceptional circumstances) in lieu of its recent principle to keep cases confidential.

Ms. P. ERNSTBERGER (Germany), Panellist, said that the situation in Germany was very different from that in many other countries, as no person there advocating the observance of human rights ran any risk of reprisal. In other countries, however, those who defended human rights often became victims of human rights abuses. Politicians were among those at risk and frequently carried out their activities in difficult political conditions. Exercising their right to free speech was often their only crime as it rendered them a thorn in the side of State and/or military institutions in countries with problematic human rights situations. While they could be threatened, slandered, removed from office, arrested, tortured or even murdered, the perpetrators were seldom convicted.

The Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid of the German Bundestag had therefore launched a campaign entitled Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians, whose basic tenet was that parliamentarians who could exercise their mandate in safety should assist their counterparts who were at risk in other countries. The campaign represented a milestone in solidarity between German and foreign politicians and was a significant contribution to a credible human rights policy. Through it, the German Parliament was honouring its voluntary commitment within the framework of the IPU to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights. Crucially, the campaign was not carried out solely by members of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid; all members of the German Parliament were called upon to participate, regardless of their areas of expertise.

Mr. F. KABURA (Burundi), Panellist, said that during a decade-long socio-political crisis in Burundi that had begun in the 1990s, many political figures and parliamentarians had suffered serious human rights violations, including torture and assassination. Following the end of that crisis and on the recommendation of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Burundi's National Assembly had established a commission to look into the cases of parliamentarians who had suffered those violations. Certain factors had unfortunately meant that the commission could not continue its work, but the Parliament did retain its political will and commitment to reviewing and resolving those cases. A new committee had been established, comprising five members from across the political spectrum, whose mandate included ensuring respect for the rights of parliamentarians; monitoring the cases that were

pending before national courts; capitalizing on the return to peace to shed light on the pending cases; analysing the content of particular cases and making recommendations to the National Assembly; seeking the prevention of conflicts that could lead to violations of the human rights of parliamentarians; and reporting regularly to the National Assembly on the results of its work. The National Assembly also ensured that at least one member of the Burundian delegation to IPU Assemblies was a member of that committee in order to facilitate communication with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

In terms of its working practices, the committee made an inventory of all known cases of human rights violations of parliamentarians and categorized them by type of violation. The committee then established at what point during the crisis the violation occurred and sought to fill any gaps in the different aspects of the case. As part of the review of any case, the committee could organize meetings with relevant judicial bodies and conduct visits to meet victims of human rights violations. The committee was then tasked with evaluating the progress of each case and establishing a timetable of necessary action.

It was important to note that the committee was not designed to replace national courts and tribunals but to supplement the State's efforts to seek the truth about human rights violations during the crisis period. Indeed, the committee coordinated when necessary with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other judicial bodies. Crucially, the committee's work had yielded positive results; several former parliamentarians had been released from prison and charges against them had been dropped.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) said that he was very impressed with the presentation on the Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians campaign in Germany. He called upon Israel to work in the spirit of solidarity to defend the human rights of Palestinian parliamentarians and to do its utmost to release those who were imprisoned. He hoped that the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians would send a mission to Israel to investigate the conditions of detention of imprisoned Palestinian parliamentarians.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom) said that, as the President of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, he would welcome greater coordination with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, as the former often encountered human rights challenges in the course of its work.

Solidarity was not something that should only be expressed at meetings and in resolutions. Physical solidarity was also crucial; parliamentarians should visit countries with known human rights issues and develop solid relationships with their counterparts. Furthermore, it was important to ensure that rhetoric on the need for democracy and human rights did not become meaningless; promoting solidarity entailed not only the formal process of democratic elections but also ensuring the quality of that democracy. Election processes should, however, be carefully monitored, not only in the last few days as the electorate went to the polling stations, but also in the preceding weeks. Solidarity was important not only with current parliamentarians but also with those candidates who might be under threat of unfair disqualification, arrest and from being prevented to stand.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that the Committee should take advantage of the annual International Day of Democracy to promote and raise awareness of its work, including via the media, as parliamentarians and other parties sometimes had apprehensions about the Committee and its work because of fears that it was interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. Once resolutions were adopted, they should also be made known through the media, so that their implications were understood by both parliamentarians and the public at large. Setting aside the principle of confidentiality in the Committee's work was a welcome step, as it had hindered the settlement of certain conflicts in the past. Improving diplomatic relations with parliaments and governments was important for enhancing acceptance of the benefits and value of the Committee's work and for facilitating greater cooperation in addressing the issues raised.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) enquired about the criteria for selecting members of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and, in particular, asked how it was verified that Committee members did not come from countries where human rights were systematically violated or were accused of or supported terrorism. The effectiveness of the Committee's work was tied to the reputation of its members and it should therefore strive to preserve its status as an impartial body that could not be accused of negligence. As the terms of reference of the Committee had recently been refined, it could be useful for the Committee to reassess its overall mandate to ensure that there was no room for misinterpretation.

Ms. V. BAXTER AMADE (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) said that those who took a stand against corruption were as much under threat as those who did so against human rights violations. The members of her organization included present and former parliamentarians as well as candidates who had been denied the right to take up their seat despite being elected. She called on the Committee to broaden its remit and to ensure that it came to the assistance of all those who came under threat on account of their words or deeds as parliamentarians.

Ms. P. ERNSTBERGER (Germany), Panellist, responding to the representative of Palestine, reported that the German Parliament was aware of the situation of the detained Palestinian parliamentarians and country visits, including to Palestine, formed part of the work of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. The Committee endeavoured to develop relationships with individual parliamentarians and to assist those who were at risk of or who suffered human rights violations.

Ms. I. STOEJBERG (Denmark), a member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, endorsed the comments by the representative of the United Kingdom on the importance of assisting not only elected parliamentarians but also those standing as candidates in elections. However, she felt that the latter matter could not be adequately addressed by the Committee.

Mr. R. HUIZENGA, Representative of the IPU Secretariat, responding to the representative of Bahrain, explained that in filling vacancies on the Committee, the first requirement was that candidates be either English- or French-speaking. The second was that candidates must demonstrate a real commitment to human rights issues. Ultimately, however, it was the IPU Governing Council that reviewed the nominations and ensured that those criteria were correctly applied to and fulfilled by candidates.

While instances of human rights violations of parliamentary candidates were of serious concern, the mandate of the Committee was strictly limited to cases relating to sitting parliamentarians and, occasionally, former parliamentarians. He assured participants, however, that if such violations came to the attention of the Committee, it endeavoured to forward those cases to other competent bodies.

The MODERATOR welcomed the proposals to increase the visibility of the Committee's work through the media. She agreed on the need for the Committee to be open to reviewing its mandate so as to ensure the continued effectiveness of its work.

Mrs. F.N. SERTER (Turkey) said that, as the Committee was aware, a number of parliamentarians in her country were currently in prison and it was extremely difficult to obtain information from the relevant national authorities on their cases and any potential violation of their rights. She knew that the Committee communicated with the heads of national IPU delegations when it was reviewing cases, but as they were often from the ruling party, she was concerned about the objectivity of the process and the effect political bias could have on the Committee's ability to access the necessary information and resolve cases.

Mr. K. BAMNANTE (Togo) requested clarification from Mr. Kabura on whether the ability of the Burundian committee to defend the human rights of parliamentarians was ever compromised, given that its members came from different political parties and could have differing views on certain issues.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) welcomed the clarification on the criteria for membership of the Committee, but felt that those criteria should be reviewed and made more robust so as to ensure that parliamentarians' human rights were not compromised and that all cases of human rights violations received equal attention by the Committee.

Ms. F.Z. NADIRI (Afghanistan) asked whether members of the IPU Committee visited countries from which they received large numbers of cases of severe human rights violations. She understood that during such visits the Committee members would not be able to visit all relevant authorities to investigate cases but believed they could have a considerable impact on efforts to end those violations through their mere presence in such countries.

She concurred with the representative of Bahrain that the criteria for membership of the Committee should be strengthened, but underscored the importance of considering parliamentarians from countries with high levels of human rights abuses. As long as individual curricula vitae were reviewed to ensure that candidates were not from the same background as the perpetrators of those abuses, it was important to provide those parliamentarians with the opportunity to share their perspectives with the Committee.

Mr. A.S.S. DOUGAN MALABO (Equatorial Guinea) said that while the current criteria for membership of the Committee could be improved, that should not prevent any person from standing as a candidate. To restrict membership in any way would only serve to devoid the Committee of its objectivity and to call into question its ability to act in the interest of justice. Human rights protection was an important issue for all countries, and no one, including those who stood against violations in their own countries, should be excluded from membership.

Mr. F. KABURA (Burundi), Panellist, responding to the representative of Togo, assured him that the work of the committee in Burundi was not affected by the fact that members came from different political parties.

He underscored the strong political will of the National Assembly underpinning the committee. All political parties were committed to investigating and understanding what had happened during the long crisis with a view to ensuring that it would never be repeated. They also recognized the need to shed light on the many crimes committed during those years and to ensure that no parliamentarian would be imprisoned in the future on account of their political affiliation or persuasion.

Mr. B. MBUKU-LAKA (Democratic Republic of the Congo), a member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, responding to the comments made by the representative of Equatorial Guinea, agreed that any criteria that conceivably excluded a person's candidature for membership of the Committee would not be objective. Candidates needed to show a strong individual commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. It was important to remember that members were appointed not to defend countries but to defend parliamentarians and their human rights. However, members were obliged to recuse themselves from deliberations in the event that the Committee had before it a case from their country.

The MODERATOR, responding to the representative of Turkey, said that the Committee did indeed communicate with heads of delegations when it could facilitate the settlement of a particular case, but most often it communicated with the Speaker of parliament and – if there were problems with the ruling party – also with minority party representatives if their contributions could be valuable in the review of pending cases.

She thanked the participants for their comments and suggestions on how the Committee and its work should evolve and hoped that they would have more opportunities to hold open sessions in the future.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

**Panel discussion on Development in danger:
Filling legislative gaps to combat tomorrow's natural disasters**

Sunday 24 March
(Afternoon)

The panel discussion was opened at 2.45 p.m., with Ms. S.V. Kalyan (South Africa), in the Chair.

The MODERATOR, introducing the panel discussion, said that it would be divided into two parts. The first part would cover the subject of legal preparedness for international disaster assistance, with specific reference to the new Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, which had been developed jointly by the IPU, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), copies of which had been circulated to participants. She then introduced the two expert panellists and invited them to make presentations on the subject before proceeding to an interactive discussion with participants.

Ms. A.M. REBAZA, Panellist, National Disaster Response Adviser, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, presenting, in conjunction with slides, information designed to set the scene for the discussion, said that OCHA's mandate was to coordinate the response of humanitarian actors to emergencies; provide policy guidance; advocate the rights of persons in need; manage disaster-related information; and monitor the allocation and levels of humanitarian financing. The key coordination mechanism was the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which provided humanitarian leadership, including through its in-country personnel; adopted a cluster approach to strengthening humanitarian response; sought the deployment of appropriate technical and financial mechanisms; and produced and analysed information products. The OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) worked to coordinate and strengthen humanitarian efforts at the national level in partnership and cooperation with a United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE), humanitarian networks and the annual Regional Meeting on Enhancing International Humanitarian Partnerships (MIAH). The effectiveness of international humanitarian cooperation was being heightened through a humanitarian reform process, in particular the IASC Transformative Agenda, which comprised a set of relevant recommendations. The aim was for countries to strengthen their legal and organizational frameworks with a view to exercising essential leadership by way of more integrated policies, better coordinated plans and instruments, and more explicit procedures.

During the earthquake that had occurred in 2007 in Peru, where she was based, logistical problems typically encountered in humanitarian response efforts had arisen. They included the inability of State and international mechanisms to cope with the demands of the situation; failure to document much of the assistance; poor record-keeping; inappropriateness or impracticality of donated items; lack of established procedures for the speedy distribution of assistance; disproportionate customs fees and administrative costs; and the absence of a structured legal framework for humanitarian action. On the basis of lessons learned from that situation, efforts had since been made to step up Peru's disaster response preparedness by inter alia establishing a National Humanitarian Network and protocols for action; seeking technical advice and support from a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team; developing plans and projects, thematic clusters and a new legal framework; and engaging in national simulation exercises (SimEX) in accordance with the guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

The Model Act was important for ensuring that the complementary efforts of international humanitarian actors were in line with national normative frameworks, which should also facilitate their work and provide for sufficient oversight. The preparation process included the establishment of the necessary humanitarian architecture, the development of plans and protocols, and the identification of challenges in the area of humanitarian logistics. The way forward could include such actions as strengthening humanitarian coordination structures, establishing multisectoral working groups to identify issues to be resolved, adopting temporary measures and enhancing the rules in place in order to facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance as and when needed.

Mr. D. FISCHER, Panellist, Coordinator, Disaster Law Programme, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, illustrating his presentation with slides, said that the project for developing the Model Act in order to improve disaster relief had grown out of the disaster response experiences of the IFRC and its members at both the local and international levels. As evidenced by the number of major disasters and victims around the globe in recent years, no country was immune to disaster and the need to plan responses was therefore imperative. The difficulty of managing international responses increased in proportion to the number of responders, however, and was further exacerbated by lack of legal preparedness to deal with the complexities created by a sudden massive influx of aid and aid workers. Barriers included matters relating to visas, customs clearance and transport, while oversight gaps included coordination failures, lack of financial controls and the type and quality of donated items. In short, the delivery of assistance could be so slow and ineffective as to deter governments from requesting it. In 2007, the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL) had been adopted with the aim of providing recommendations for enhancing disaster response preparedness at the domestic level. On the basis of those Guidelines, new laws or regulations had been enacted or were pending enactment in 23 countries and a further 24 countries were reviewing their existing laws.

In response to requests from policymakers for guidance in language that was more attuned to domestic law, the IFRC had started in 2009 to develop the Model Act in partnership with OCHA and the IPU. Over the following two years, almost a dozen consultative meetings involving over 200 legal and other experts had been held and the final version of the Model Act was now being launched, although it represented only a starting point. Key elements of the Act included the establishment of a “fast lane” or package of legal facilities tailored to disaster relief and initial recovery needs and provided to trusted States and organizations, with clear mechanisms for coordination, oversight and quality control. The Model Act was suggested for use as a stand-alone statute or in making amendments to existing laws or developing regulations. It also contained a commentary comprising examples of existing legislative language, where available, bearing in mind that relatively few countries had yet addressed the subject matter. Stressing that the project partners stood ready to provide technical advice, he expressed the hope that parliamentarians would find the Model Act useful in working to create an environment conducive to facilitating international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance. Indeed, bills patterned on the Model Act and its pilot version were currently pending before the Parliaments of Rwanda and the Philippines, respectively.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their insightful presentations and expressed confidence that the Model Act would come to fruition in many more countries. She invited reactions from participants to the presentations.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) said that the information presented had been a much appreciated eye-opener for him, coming as he did from a region that fortunately had little experience of natural disaster. Given the remarkable number of disasters taking place around the

world and the varying needs among different regions, it might be useful if the United Nations played a coordinating role in the compilation of a region-specific list categorizing items needed and not needed in the event of disaster.

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda) suggested a similar approach of developing guidelines for responders concerning such items. The gender aspect of relief operations should also receive consideration; pregnant women must be guaranteed safe passage, as must children, and relief items should be given to women, rather than to male heads of household who, in polygamous cultures, might have to divide items meant for one family among up to four families. She was interested to know how gender issues in disaster situations might have been addressed, if at all.

Ms. I.M. FILA LEMINA (Congo) raised the question of disaster management training, including for trainers, stating that many food aid supplies had been wasted in a recent disaster of relatively large proportions for her country because disaster managers were inadequately trained in food distribution methods and some had even misappropriated supplies for their own benefit. Her suggestion for pre-empting the delivery of inappropriate aid in time of disaster was to provide online information about the affected country for consultation by donors.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia) said that the excellent information provided was also unnerving in the light of the global nature of the disaster threat. The African continent was particularly at risk on account of the ongoing destruction of its ecosystems and biodiversity. Citing the example of the Kyoto Protocol, he wondered how an international mechanism for preventing such destruction might be coordinated and what role parliamentarians could play in reducing the threat to acceptable levels.

Ms. A.M. REBAZA, Panellist, responding to the comments made, referred to the two-decade involvement of the United Nations, through IASC, in the development of instruments and tools for strengthening humanitarian assistance. An example of its output was the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action, which set forth standards for the integration of gender issues into humanitarian responses. Similarly, an initiative of humanitarian agencies around the world known as the Sphere Project had produced a title named the Sphere Handbook setting out, in addition to a Humanitarian Charter, Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response with respect to such areas as water supply, food security, shelter and health action. The role of parliamentarians was to establish the necessary legal framework for disaster coordination and management and to exercise their oversight function in order to ensure the effectiveness of local disaster responses.

Differing from disaster reduction, preparation was crucial to the success of any disaster response, yet inadequate resources were often allocated to such activities as needs identification, training and skills development. Broad communication among governments, humanitarian agencies and CSOs was also a prerequisite for expanding and improving international humanitarian coordination. A wealth of material was available for assisting national authorities in identifying and addressing shortcomings in their disaster response systems.

Mr. D. FISCHER, Panellist, said that tremendous efforts had been made at the international level, in particular by OCHA, to enhance humanitarian coordination and professionalization with a view to delivery of the right type of aid. For its part, the IFRC complied with its own specific rules relating to international relief operations, including with respect to the complementarity of such operations with those of domestic actors, and it had a catalogue of emergency items that were standardized in order to make them more readily acceptable by all authorities. The coordinated supply of such items was highly problematic, however, in the absence of an entity dedicated to overseeing that process. The Sphere Handbook (www.sphereproject.org/handbook) already mentioned should be considered a critical tool; indeed, it was so well formulated that its integration into domestic law was encouraged in the Model Act.

Ultimately, the authority to coordinate international disaster assistance lay with the affected State, which therefore had its part to play through preparedness. The IFRC had been working extensively to improve disaster response systems in numerous countries, in which regard the importance of training for disaster managers and volunteers could not be overemphasized; it was instrumental in preparation and was a main focus of in-country disaster preparation activities carried out by international organizations. Lastly, the important role of legislators was exemplified by difficulties experienced in providing shelter to women in natural disaster settings on account of domestic or customary laws relating to women's inheritance and property ownership, which sometimes precluded international humanitarian organizations from operating in accordance with international human rights standards.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their thought-provoking and motivating contributions to the discussion and directed attention to the second part of the panel discussion, which would deal with the subject of effective disaster-risk management. She introduced the two expert panellists and invited them to make presentations on the subject before proceeding to an interactive discussion with participants.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh, speaking to the accompaniment of a slide presentation, said that a better understanding of disaster-risk reduction (DRR) was key to filling legislative gaps in order to combat disasters, which were not natural but rather attributable to poor development planning and policymaking. Indeed, the IPU's highly recommended advocacy kit for parliamentarians on DRR as a means of achieving the MDGs made clear the distinction between natural hazards and man-made disasters. In recognition of that distinction, a policy shift had been made towards building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, in particular through the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, an instrument little-known to parliamentarians. The shocking statistics relating to the human and financial losses from disasters triggered by natural hazards in the past two decades testified to the growing risks faced, which were exacerbated by rapid urbanization and to which coastal areas were more vulnerable. Furthermore, wealth lost through those hazards was higher than any wealth created and more notably so in high- and upper-middle-income countries, paradoxically indicating that development increased exposure to hazards. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had also predicted a rise in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather patterns and events.

All those factors pointed to the vital need to incorporate into disaster-related legislation the preventive aspect, which included elements prioritized under the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as risk identification and impact assessment; awareness-raising; commitment to DRR implementation; and preparedness. Investment in DRR measures was historically low but, weighed against the cost of inaction, was a smart investment that could be more easily promoted if disaster-impact data was systematically collected to provide evidence of its benefits. It was also an investment for sustainable development that required political, financial, educational, development, and humanitarian and recovery commitments. Bearing in mind the 2015 end-date for the Hyogo Framework for Action, parliamentarians must be attuned to the need to find synergies between the post-2015 sustainable development goals and the aim of risk resilience and reduction, including by encouraging governments to link those two frameworks in the post-2015 consultation process. Parliamentarians themselves were encouraged to join their national delegations attending the upcoming Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Highlighting in addition the IPU's growing partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), he stressed that parliamentarians could engage in no greater cause than DRR, which saved lives and protected livelihoods.

The MODERATOR noted that even a quick analysis of legislation could be revealing; on the basis of the elements mentioned, significant gaps were immediately identifiable in the disaster-related legislation in her country, South Africa.

Mr. V. HERNÁNDEZ (Ecuador), Panellist, Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador, began his presentation by posing the key question of whether the unbridled development model was in danger or whether the model itself was the danger. The majority scientific view was that climate change and global warming – often man-made - were under way and potentially fatal and irreversible, with dramatic consequences. Parliamentarians must therefore legislate with a view to mitigating that risk, bearing in mind that disasters were neither inevitable nor natural but the outcome of the unregulated and uncontrolled use of finite natural resources that distorted climates, in turn increasing the occurrence of disastrous natural phenomena. Double standards were also at play with respect to the environmental management standards applied by multinationals in developed and developing countries, with the result that the latter were more vulnerable to disaster and climate change.

As to the power of laws to promote public policymaking aimed at preventing natural disasters, he highlighted the tendency for corporate and economic interests to win out over democratic representation and the dearth of laws that effectively addressed the issue of climate change and its effects. Moreover, the fact that multinational corporations held over one half of the planet's wealth enabled them to wield political influence to the detriment of the public interest. International negotiations and agreements on climate change were thus hampered and global problems such as unequal development owing to overexploitation of natural resources were instead approached from a purely local perspective.

The Model Act presented to participants was undoubtedly an excellent tool for assisting parliamentarians in their efforts to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and address disasters. To that end, they could also consider making provision for the rights of nature, as Ecuador had done in its Constitution; seek international support such as that garnered by Ecuador for its Yasuní-ITT Initiative to refrain from oil production in favour of preserving biodiversity; allocate funding to and monitor the integration of risk prevention and identification into development plans; establish clear land-use standards; legislate for the right to the city, which was enshrined in the Ecuadorian Constitution; introduce laws covering all areas of risk management; focus on an integrated approach to disaster resilience, mitigation and reduction; strive through the IPU and other parliamentary forums for the democratization of knowledge; and lastly, spell out the role of the media in keeping the public aware and informed of natural risks. In short, the mitigation of natural risks and hazards was achievable through the enactment and implementation of appropriate legislation.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia) asked how it was possible to mitigate disasters caused by natural phenomena rather than by anthropogenic activities. He encouraged parliamentarians to engage in the post-2015 development debate and raise the issue of disaster mitigation and adaptation.

Ms. K. KOMI (Finland) said that the post-2015 development agenda must prioritize the building of resilience to the natural disasters that had so compromised MDG attainment. Resilience and DRR were both addressed in Finland's development policy, while Finland's involvement in developing-country projects for strengthening environmental governance would serve as good preparation for the development of future legislation on that subject. A pioneer in the area of climate change adaptation, Finland was experiencing an increasing number of powerful storms and ensuing disruption in electricity supplies, despite its efforts to prepare for such events. The world was therefore as one in that natural disasters affected not only developing countries.

Mr. W. MADZIMURE (Zimbabwe) said that parliamentarians often failed to exercise their important oversight role with respect to statutes in place for addressing disaster management and risk reduction, as in his country. Raising public awareness of disaster risk was yet another challenge. He emphasized the importance of early parliamentary involvement in the negotiation of new agendas and added that disaster risk efforts would be furthered if parliamentarians followed through at home on the matters raised during the panel discussion.

Mrs. J. FONSECA SOLANO (Costa Rica) said that her country was situated in an earthquake zone but that, thanks to its preventive efforts, it had fortunately experienced only structural damage from the disasters it had suffered. A special budget was also allocated for dealing with the after-effects of disasters. The disaster-related laws in place, however, would no doubt benefit from a review in the light of information provided during the panel discussion. Potential investors in the country were not required, for example, to conduct an environmental impact assessment, an exercise on which countries should place more emphasis.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), Panellist, responding to the comments of participants, said that the preventive efforts mentioned by the previous speaker were a classic example of how DRR was a smart investment that saved lives through building resilience. The key was to be proactive rather than reactive. Concerning disaster mitigation, he gave examples of successful measures taken in Bangladesh to adapt to glacial melting and salinity pollution of agricultural land, but there was a limit to adaptation, which ultimately addressed only the symptoms of climate change. Mitigation through emissions reduction was more ideal in that it addressed the root causes of the problem. It was encouraging to learn of national efforts to tackle climate change, which was indeed a global problem, and it was a fact that parliamentarians sometimes lacked the belief, confidence and political courage needed to enforce legislation. They must, however, fulfil their constitutional mandate and thus assert their leadership.

Mr. V. HERNÁNDEZ (Ecuador), Panellist, added that disaster mitigation involved global geopolitics and power plays; powerful countries did not reduce emissions but expected others to do so, for example. Their decentralization of production also increased emissions in developing countries. Parliamentarians must continue to insist on compliance with commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol, at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference and upon accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Coordinated efforts were needed to ensure that global policies were not governed by the interests of multinational corporations or by the decentralized production model. Without a genuine commitment on the part of the worst polluters, climate change could not be adequately addressed and there would be a major disaster. Examples of other issues to be addressed by parliamentarians included the definition of environmental crimes committed by both natural and artificial persons, which was being discussed in the Ecuadorian Parliament; land management, especially in disaster-prone areas; and the democratization of access to information.

The MODERATOR expressed gratitude and appreciation to the two panellists for their fascinating insights into the topic. She also thanked participants and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

**Panel discussion on The legalization of drugs:
Can it help curb organized crime?**

Monday 25 March
(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m., with Lord Dholakia (United Kingdom) in the Chair as Moderator.

A short documentary film “Breaking the taboo” concerning the war on drugs was screened.

The MODERATOR, introducing the panel discussion, said that the aim of the event was to address the questions posed in the concept paper drawn up for the session and to explore the role of parliamentarians as legislators and opinion leaders in driving forward the issue of drug legalization. With respect to the question of trafficking and organized crime, he would be making available for circulation to participants a briefing paper produced by the United Kingdom All-Party Parliamentary Group for Drug Policy Reform, of which he was a member. Organized crime thrived in conditions such as those associated with the illicit drugs trade: high profits; a huge guaranteed market; weak and corruptible institutions; poverty; and lack of opportunity. It was in fact more acutely involved in the drugs trade than in any other illicit business.

The cost of fighting the war on drugs was astronomical and yet neither drug consumption nor the prevalence of drug misuse had been curbed. Moreover, a well-developed evidence base on effective means of reducing the damage caused by the illegal drugs trade was still a long way off. The three key drug-related treaties had substantially driven the tendency for drug policies worldwide to focus on criminalization and prohibition rather than on a health-based approach, which was a new option to be explored. Attention should also be paid to the effectiveness of the anti-drug policies in place and to the relationship between the illicit drug trade and such matters as poverty, ignorance and the destabilization of States. Parliamentarians must lead the way at home by opening up the debate and offering alternative solutions for moving forward to create sound and stable societies.

He introduced the four panellists on the chosen topic and invited them to make their presentations in order to set the stage for the discussion.

Ms. F.Z. NADIRI, Panellist, Member of the Parliament of Afghanistan, said that she welcomed the topic of discussion as a great opportunity to work collectively on solutions for tackling the drugs problem that so adversely affected her own country, among others. There was no black-or-white answer, however, as each country approached the subject from its own unique perspective. In Afghanistan, for example, it would be a complex matter to legalize drugs in the light of the prevailing institutional weakness, insecurity and absence of rule of law, which would simply pave the way for further abuse. At most, a pilot project could perhaps be implemented with caution in certain provinces with a view to expanding it elsewhere if it achieved positive results.

Ms. M. OBRADOVIĆ, Panellist, Member of the Parliament of Serbia, illustrating her presentation with slides, said that, as a parliamentarian and member of the public, and in particular as a mother wishing to protect her child, she was concerned by the easy availability of drugs, by the tactics employed by drug dealers to increase their trade and by the lengths to which young addicts would go to acquire drugs. In Serbia, the number of drug addicts was estimated to be over twice as high as the officially registered number and the consequences for families and society at large were manifest. Parliamentarians must ensure that sufficient funds were allocated to equipping law enforcement agencies with the means to fight the burgeoning problem and also pass laws to simplify legal procedures and speed up trials, as well as protect all those involved in bringing major criminals to justice.

Located as it was on the so-called “Balkan route”, Serbia was a transit country for international criminal gangs smuggling heroin to Western Europe from Afghanistan and Iran. It was considered risky, however, on account of the many seizures and arrests made by its law enforcement agencies working in cooperation with their counterparts elsewhere. As a result, heroin routes had shifted and heroin seizures had fallen significantly from 1.4 tons in 2007 to only 55 kilograms in 2012. The National Assembly was also active in Serbia’s fight against drugs; a parliamentary committee had organized a public hearing on the topic at which participants had emphasized the preventive approach and the importance of family, school and environment, peer education, and the social reintegration of former addicts. Having monitored the impact elsewhere, Serbian experts had concluded that drug legalization would make no positive contribution at the present stage to alleviating the country’s drug situation. The immediate imperative was to strengthen the institutions, procedures and mechanisms for controlling it.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, Panellist, Journalist, stated that, in addition to his work as the Latin American correspondent for a Swedish newspaper, he had written a book on cocaine after realizing from his experience of living in Mexico that it was impossible to comprehend Latin American politics and economics without taking into account the huge impact of drugs money and the war on drugs in the region. A panel discussion on the legalization of drugs would have been inconceivable only a few years earlier, which showed that the taboo was indeed being broken, as also evidenced by the public debates on the subject in such countries as Guatemala and Uruguay and the legalization of some drugs in sport. The different pros and cons of legalization must be weighed up separately for each drug, however.

Many thousands had been killed, tortured or abused in the drug war in Mexico, where criminal organizations often colluded with corrupt politicians, police and other authorities. It was therefore essential to move away from the strategy of combating organized crime with the help of those authorities, which had been a huge strategic failure. Efforts should instead be focused on combating the poverty, inequality and unemployment that drove many into working for criminal organizations. Essentially a paradigm shift in the approach to development was required.

Mr. J. CALZADA, Panellist, Secretary General of the National Drugs Bureau of Uruguay, presenting an overview of the Uruguayan approach to the fight against drugs, said that the idea was not to legalize or liberalize drugs per se but rather to introduce a State-controlled use of drugs, specifically marijuana, the premise being that the drug problem was not sufficiently clear-cut as to be resolved by either prohibition or legalization. Drugs policies had social and other impacts and it must also be remembered that democratic stability was closely linked to the vast amounts of drug money that circulated around the world daily in small denominations and eventually ended up on the legal market. The unhelpful legacy of the 20th century was that criminal sanctions were the way to eliminate drug use, which was not borne out by the evidence; drugs now had a larger market and a more harmful impact than ever before, with the most vulnerable regions suffering the worst effects of the war on drugs, as seen in certain parts of Latin America. It was a complex ill for which there was no simple cure.

Uruguay had made progress towards stronger democracy and poverty reduction, but violent drug-related crime in particular had paradoxically increased, prompting the adoption of a State-controlled use of marijuana as a policy. The complete lack of control over drug markets had serious implications for health, security and lives and a more productive way of moving forward would be to conclude regional agreements rooted in the realities of the current-day era. Legalization was a hot topic in Latin America and a study commissioned by the Organization of American States on alternative policy options was expected to take the debate further towards action. Amendment of the key drug-related treaties on which current policies were based would be a step in the right direction. It would be senseless to continue pursuing current policies in the hope of achieving results.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their presentations and invited comments and questions from participants, who might also wish to share information about good practices undertaken in their countries for addressing the issue under discussion.

Mr. B. NEMATI (Islamic Republic of Iran) observed that drug activities escalated crime and had grave implications for security, social stability and economic development, with his country paying a heavy price for its location on the drug-trafficking route to Europe. The 1,200 kg of trafficked drugs seized daily by Iranian police accounted for only one fifth of the total. One third of the remainder was consumed inside the country. The experiences of countries that had legalized drugs should be carefully studied in order to learn useful lessons, although any negative repercussions, such as increased consumption owing to lower prices and the diversion of crime to other areas, must also be borne in mind. Localized success stories were not necessarily transferable to other contexts, however, nor did legalization address the core problems associated with drugs. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was the most appropriate forum for leading the debate on drug legalization from the technical standpoint. Indeed, it was through a technical approach, free of political considerations, that the drugs threat was best fought. Resources must therefore be mobilized to that end.

Mr. C. VELASCO (Ecuador) considered that breaking the taboo was to open up a crucial discussion for Latin America, which would otherwise be mired in the same problems as it had been for the past 50 years, including militarization of the drugs war and further social breakdown. Alternative drug policies without such fundamental implications for democracy, economy and culture as the policies of today were needed. Decriminalization or the State-controlled use of drugs would provide clarity and the courage must therefore be mustered to enact necessary legislation and jettison established ideologies. Control must be scientifically based, however, in order to avoid disparities among countries concerning legal quantities of drugs, which were after all a global industry, as indicated by the recent Latin American boom in synthetic drugs previously confined mainly to Europe.

Mrs. K. SIRIKOMUT (Thailand) noted that the drug epidemic had spread worldwide and that the connection between drugs and organized crime had long been recognized as a problem that transcended borders and required global solutions. Having considered drug legalization as a means of addressing the country's long-standing drug issue, the Thai authorities had concluded that it would not only motivate customers and suppliers to increase their consumption and production but would also give rise to other problems, such as theft, gambling and murder. Nor did they expect that it would prevent and control organized crime. In short, drug legalization remained a debatable issue for Thailand.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN (Colombia) welcomed the discussion; his country had a long history of war on drugs but until only recently it had been taboo to talk about changing the drug policy. The debate must be broadened in order to dispel some of the myths surrounding drugs, including through the collection of more scientific data. Colombia's new Drug Policy Advisory Commission and the International Drug Policy Reform Conference were achieving significant results in their work and the Colombian Parliament had unanimously adopted a bill he himself had tabled recognizing drug addiction as an illness and a public health issue and decriminalizing addicts, who needed medical help and not punishment. Public health and prevention measures could be included under regulation, which he saw as a middle approach preferable to the two extremes of either prohibition or legalization. It was children such as the one third in Colombia born without a responsible father in their lives who were most likely to fall into the drug trap. The IPU could play a defining role in broadening the debate.

Ms. I.M. FILA LEMINA (Congo) stated that her country had ratified key drug-related treaties and had anti-drug laws in place but law enforcers were themselves often caught up in the drug culture, which was a major problem. Children used as go-betweens for drug dealers also became addicts as a result of their exposure to that culture. Efforts must therefore be stepped up to prevent the involvement of children in drugs and to raise awareness of drugs as a public health problem, which was something she did in her own district. The media should furthermore be enlisted in those efforts in order to focus attention on prevention and publicize the harms of drug use.

Ms. L. DAVIES (Canada) reported that the most critical problem in her own community was the criminalization of drug users and the needless deaths from overdoses of illegal drugs. The fact that the war on drugs had been a political rather than an evidence-based construct was a major challenge. People were calling for changes: decriminalization and focus on a health-based approach, harm reduction and drug policy reform, which must be debated at the national level. She wondered, however, if panellists agreed with her perception that the most important changes were being driven by local communities who witnessed the terrible impact of the war on drugs and of criminalization, which affected mostly poor people.

Mr. D. HAWAZI (Singapore) expressed appreciation for the concerns raised by the two women panellists in that the impact on individuals, families and the fabric of society must be a key consideration in drug policymaking. Singapore had a small population but its position as an Asian air hub and a maritime and tourist centre increased the potential sources of incoming drugs. Nonetheless, it was relatively drug-free, due in part to its tough stance against drug trafficking and consumption. He respected the diversity of views expressed in the discussion and the right of every State to address its own concerns as it saw fit. Singapore, however, did not advocate harm-reduction measures that condoned and facilitated drug-taking, which conflicted with its national values, and nor did it regard the drug problem as unsolvable. It rejected the “drug peace” school of thought and based its treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts on its view of drug addiction as a social-behavioural problem. It favoured harm prevention that underlined its zero-tolerance drug policy, adopting an integrated multi-agency and multipronged anti-drug approach that took into account the operating environment and relied on stringent legislation, effective enforcement, intensive preventive drug education and coordinated treatment and rehabilitation. Singapore’s drug situation remained comparatively under control.

Mr. I. BOUTKHIL (Algeria) stated that his country was engaged in continuous efforts to curb the use of all types of drugs. What criteria had been applied, however, to determine that the current drug policy had failed? Its failure did not yet appear to be absolute and would not decriminalization increase drug consumption and trafficking? The problem was that drug consumption and trafficking were facilitated through the bribery of officials and law enforcers, whose job was to combat the problem. Provision should therefore be made for their punishment on that score.

Mr. S.S. HAQUE (India) commented that the combination of illicit drug use and organized crime damaged health and had deleterious social effects. Drug legalization was a complex issue, however. While it paved the way to new thinking on alternatives to the current enforcement-oriented regime of prohibition and might also boost government coffers, it could have unintended consequences, especially where law enforcement was weak. Those consequences might include criminal outbursts in other spheres; feeding the habit of addicts; higher levels of social paranoia and violence; more drug experimentation by youth; and the creation of a large black market for tax evasion purposes. Drug-related crimes and illegal drug syndicates would also persist insofar as a blanket legalization of all drugs was impossible because of the toxicity and high health costs associated with them. In the current drug climate, near universal adherence to

the international drug treaties should be welcomed. India's policy was to promote the scientific and medical use of narcotic drugs and to prohibit illicit traffic and abuse. Keys to combating the drug menace included demand reduction; better-coordinated intelligence-sharing and international cooperation; and prevention and awareness. India was committed to enhancing community safety and health by meaningfully reducing substance abuse and curbing crime through such measures.

Ms. A. HUBER (Penal Reform International) opined that the criminalization of drug use was a failed response to the problem, particularly as little distinction was generally made between the criminal sanctions imposed for use and possession and for wide-scale trafficking linked with organized crime. Most drug convictions were for lesser offences and were responsible for a massive increase in prison populations. Studies also indicated that criminalization was a marginal deterrent to drug use and the World Drug Report 2012 had therefore recommended a rebalancing of drug control policy through alternative methods. The link between substance abuse and poverty was evidenced by the typical profile of users, whose criminalization and stigmatization drove them further into the poverty cycle; the criminalization of users, treatment and harm reduction measures had contributed indirectly to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic; and the death penalty for drug offences was retained in 33 countries. Parliamentarians were therefore urged to pursue criminal law reforms with a view to fair sentencing and decriminalization of personal possession. Drawing attention to her organization's briefing paper on the unintended consequences of the "war on drugs", she lastly reiterated a UNODC statement that drug dependency was a health disorder and that drug users needed humane and effective treatment - not punishment.

Ms. M. CHAVEZ COSSIO (Peru) admitted that her country had made mistakes in its fight against cocaine production and was far from proud of its status as the world's largest cocaine producer, but legalization was not the answer. Peru had decriminalized personal drug consumption and legalized limited possession, which contradicted the fact that it remained a criminal offence to supply drugs for personal consumption. Legalization was the start of a slippery slope and even decriminalization sent the same wrong message that drug use was acceptable. It was regrettable that drug-consumer countries saw fit to allocate only limited resources to combating drug trafficking and finding social solutions in producer countries, such as alternative livelihoods in the case of Peru's cocaine growers. The issue was complex but legalization would be tantamount to capitulating by allowing drugs to continue killing and destroying families and societies. The fight must not be abandoned.

Ms. S.M. ESCUDERO (Argentina) remarked that the economic factor was an important part of the equation in that drug trafficking was a highly lucrative business and had paradoxically benefited from the liberalization of finance and trade. The root causes of drug consumption, which included poverty and desperation, must be addressed in addition to problems such as the institutional fragility that bred corruption among politicians, judges and other officials. The war on drugs had done more harm than good and producer, transit and consumer countries must work together, including through forums like the present one, to pool scientific and other knowledge in order to identify reasonable alternatives for strengthening public policy with a view to prevention. Not forgetting the destructive power of sophisticated weaponry in the hands of criminal organizations, efforts must also be directed to the control of arms trafficking. In Argentina, where addiction was treated under the health system, drug consumption had not been decriminalized but there was a desire to broaden the debate going forward.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) said that, with the exception of medication, all substances affecting the natural state of mind were prohibited in Islam. Consequently, the annual figure for drug-related offences in Bahrain stood at under 1,000. Treatment for drug addiction was also provided free of charge. The essential questions to be answered with respect to the legalization of drugs concerned the social impact and the activities into which organized crime would next venture instead in order to make profits.

Ms. Y. ATEK MEFTALI (Algeria) stated that drug use had been criminalized in Algeria from the outset. Criminalization was a preventive measure and treatment facilities were available for those who broke the law by taking drugs. If drug use was legalized, however, treatment facilities would have to be made available immediately for the many more people who would take legalization to mean that drug use was acceptable and embark on that path. Furthermore, would legalization also mean that sportspersons would be permitted to use drugs that enhanced their natural physical abilities?

Ms. A. RAMIREZ NAVA (Bolivia) indicated that the Bolivian Government was firmly committed to combating drug use and working with local communities to find alternative crops to coca, although coca leaves in their natural state were not a drug; their consumption had been a part of everyday life in Bolivia for centuries. Tighter controls had been introduced as part of the fight against drugs, but the technology needed to detect criminal activity was lacking. The international community must unite to tackle the scourge of drugs in the hope of achieving a drug-free world.

Mr. V. HERNÁNDEZ (Ecuador) observed that there were four key issues to consider when talking about drugs. First, as stated in the Ecuadorian Constitution, addiction was a public health problem and must be treated as such. Second, sentencing must be proportionate to the offence, distinguishing between major traffickers and small-time dealers, for example. That question of proportionality was currently being debated in Ecuador in the context of its new criminal code. Third, the drugs market was huge and market deregulation was known to benefit only those who wielded the most economic and financial power. If the market was clearly regulated, it would be possible to overcome the dichotomy between prohibition and legalization, which was the fourth issue to consider. Intermediate solutions would surely be found, but prohibition did not work and the debate must now move forward onto questions such as what should be legalized and how, what should be subject to prosecution and what form cooperation between consumer and producer countries might take. In the 21st century, the key issues in the legalization debate could no longer be brushed aside and must be tackled head on.

Mr. W. MADZIMURE (Zimbabwe) considered that to talk of decriminalization was to admit failure in dealing effectively with drug trafficking. Attention was not being paid to the reason behind the thriving drug trade, namely corruption. The establishment of accountability systems, especially for law enforcers, would resolve nothing unless the problem of corruption was addressed. All bank account funds must also be accounted for in order to stop money-laundering. In short, it was essential to strengthen accountability institutions and deal with corruption in order to address drug trafficking.

Mr. S.I. BENOIT (Haiti) explained that Haiti's drug problems had started only after its military forces had been disbanded following the return of President Aristide in 1994, at which point it became the main transit country for drugs to North America. Drugs were trafficked via Haiti in huge quantities by sea and air and across the border with the Dominican Republic, but they were little used by Haitians. No arrests were made and the State was powerless in the face of such a large business encouraged by imperialist interests. His message to the United States and the United Nations occupiers of his country was that they had made the current mess and it was they who should clean it up.

Ms. M. BRAWER (Argentina) opined that an in-depth analysis of the situation should be undertaken, drawing a distinction between legal and illegal drugs and between drug use, drug abuse and drug addiction. In Argentina, alcohol was the most consumed drug, followed by prescription drugs and lastly, synthetic designer drugs. The biggest social problems were caused by the first two, which were legal. Limited possession of drugs for personal consumption was permitted on the basis of a Supreme Court ruling and treatment was provided for addicts. Over three quarters of drug convictions involved small-scale dealers, but to focus on them was tantamount to acting in complicity with traffickers. It was the large-scale drug trade that must be targeted. Lastly, drug use must be viewed in the context of today's capitalist world of instant gratification, status symbols and materialism.

Mr. F.-X. DE DONNEA (Belgium) said that prohibition had been imposed on public health grounds and that it had generated huge wealth for criminal organizations, funded civil wars and rebellions, and led to a dramatic increase in drug consumption, especially among young people. Any overhaul of the system must be geared not only towards public health but also towards reducing both drug trafficking by organized criminals and the funding of rebel groups. Full legalization was not the best answer in terms of public health, as it would send a message to young people that drug use was not dangerous. It was therefore essential to find a middle way that balanced public health concerns with those relating to public order and public security.

Mr. J.G. RIVERA LÓPEZ (Ecuador), speaking as someone from a country situated between the world's two biggest cocaine producers, said that the war on drugs was evidently in deep crisis. Despite all, weapons kept flooding in, but from where? He had his suspicions about their origin. The fight to end the scourge must continue but it must not be used as a geopolitical weapon of control. The impression given was that drugs cartels existed only in certain Latin American countries, whereas big businesses elsewhere were busy raking in cash. Key to dealing with the scourge were demand reduction and public accountability. As already suggested, State regulation of the drugs trade was among the alternative solutions to consider, in addition to the more radical solution of drug liberalization.

Mr. C. BOUSSINOT (Guatemala) stated that Guatemala was among the Central American countries suffering a daily toll of drug-related murders. Its President had sought to raise the issue of drug regulation on the international agenda and a special session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem was now scheduled for 2016. Guatemalans were burying their casualties from a war that was not of their making, a war between consumer and producer countries, and it was at forums such as the present one that efforts must be made to take matters forward. Little attention was paid to the drug problem in Central America and he therefore wished to sound the alarm in the hope that it would be heard.

Mr. J. FAKRO (Bahrain) said that the discussion led him to ask if terrorism would be the next to be legalized, adding that it was perhaps economic and political interests that prevented the whole world from coming together and waging the same successful fight against drugs as it had waged against organized terrorism. To legalize drugs would run counter to protecting individuals and society at large, damage the morals of young people and compromise values and principles. The very idea of drug regulation was truly sorrowful and it was discomfiting that parliamentarians should even be thinking about it. Drugs were a scourge on society and there should be no truck with the few rogue voices calling for the regulation of something that destroyed societies and values. The international community had united to fight the Taliban but why had it stopped burning the opium poppy fields in Afghanistan?

Mr. I. SALL (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS) said that the drug problem was familiar to all and that the nub of the issue, as encapsulated in the speech delivered by the President of Ecuador at the inaugural session of the Assembly, was that there were no quick-fix solutions because the world was controlled by a handful of individuals, organizations and superpowers and nothing could be done about what they had in mind for the future of the world.

Mr. A. GOBBI (Algeria) said that a global effort was needed to fight a complex global problem linked to organized crime and terrorism. Drug use was criminalized in Algeria, which was now both a transit and a consumer country. A national observatory had therefore been established to combat the drug menace. While it might be difficult to legalize drugs in a country with weak institutions, such as Afghanistan, there were surely other solutions to be found in that situation, otherwise nothing would change. The suggestion that a new way of attacking the problem would be to focus on the eradication of poverty and unemployment disregarded the fact that drug use and addiction were not confined to the poor; there were also drug users and addicts among the wealthy.

Ms. J. TEVES QUISPE (Peru) said that the role of parliamentarians was key; they were the lawmakers and must work for the interests of the people they represented. Hence, regardless of their political affiliations, they must support the control, regulation and enforcement efforts of their governments with respect to drug matters and seek to ensure that political groups worked in coordination and conjunction with the executive on those matters. It must be asked, however, whether the legalization or decriminalization of drugs was designed to benefit the public or certain other interests. The unquestionable point, however, was that IPU Members must work together on finding a solution to the global drug problem.

Ms. Z. GUDIÑO (Ecuador) said that clandestine drug use simply led to higher drug prices and harmed the poorest and most vulnerable. She recalled the harm done to ordinary people as a result of the war on drugs; thousands of cocaine farmers had been killed during the implementation of Plan Colombia in the late 1990s and food produce had been contaminated by chemicals dropped on illegal drug crops around the world. The illegal flow of drugs generating huge profits nevertheless continued unabated. More people were imprisoned for drug offences in the United States than anywhere else, a disproportionate number of them of African descent, including women, who also tended to receive longer sentences. The real solution would be to legalize drugs with a view to ending the link with organized crime and to provide support services for what was a public health issue. Legal provisions to that effect were currently being drafted in Ecuador.

Mr. J.C. MAHÍA (Uruguay) said that, as part of their legislative role, parliamentarians must encourage debate and engage civil society in the search for solutions, without preconceived notions or prejudices. Global forums such as the present panel discussion were an excellent means for exploring, in the light of accurate information and current realities, the solutions needed at the national, regional and international levels to address a problem that transcended national borders and to raise the profile of the debate. The prohibition approach driven by consumer countries had not worked and a paradigm shift was therefore needed towards focus on the middle-ground perspective of State involvement in the regulation of drugs.

Mr. H. MOHAMMED (United Republic of Tanzania), highlighting global issues to be brought to bear on the debate, cited an example provided by his country: it had borders with eight countries, raising the question of what the impact might be on its neighbours if it decided to legalize drugs and they did not. More must also be done to build capacities and resources for enabling drug producers to pursue other livelihoods. Corruption posed another serious problem.

National drug enforcement agencies could help to raise awareness of the dangers associated with the drug trade by sharing information with parliamentarians, political leaders and the public. Banks that facilitated drug-related transactions should be investigated and pharmaceutical companies purchasing drugs for use in manufacturing medicines should be monitored. Lastly, countries should exchange experiences concerning the success or failure of their punishment regimes.

Mr. E. NAYAP KININ (Peru) said that societies today operated on the premise that individual wealth equalled happiness, with the result that policies were driven by the quest for wealth. However, the lack of effort to share and spread that wealth created social injustice. The current Assembly was also debating the topic of moving on from unrelenting growth to harmonious living because those policies led to neither individual wealth nor healthy societies; money did not buy everything. The fight against drugs must encompass moral and spiritual issues, without which all respect for life was lost. It must also devote priority to early prevention and the enactment of legislation to punish offenders and provide security for citizens.

Mr. L. IDA (Indonesia) said that his country's position on the subject was clear; it had a law dedicated to combating illegal drug use, dealing and trafficking and it had established a National Narcotics Board. Illegal drug use claimed over 50 lives daily in Indonesia. The individuals behind the international drugs network had still not been identified, however, and parliamentarians might wish to set up a forum for that purpose.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France), speaking in his personal capacity, said that he welcomed the genuine debate on the topic, which was all the more essential in that a global solution to the drug problem was the only way forward. It must first be established whether drug use posed a serious risk to health and, if so, what the most effective way of reducing that risk might be. Possibilities included continuing the status quo of prohibition, with its negative results; permitting and teaching control or abstinence; and tackling the causes of drug use and demand. It must be decided whether to attach more importance to the health or the security risk and the pros and cons of possible strategies should also be compared for each drug type. Regardless of the strategy chosen, global agreement was essential and the IPU should therefore continue to work on the issue at future Assemblies.

Mr. S. BLANCO (Mexico) expressed the hope that parliamentarians would continue in their own countries to debate the issues raised during the discussion in order to highlight the problem, which was particularly serious in his country. The possession of small amounts of drugs was already decriminalized and the Mexican Congress was now considering legalization. Recreational marijuana use had been legalized in some parts of the United States, which was ironical in view of the extraterritorial war on drugs that it was waging. The IPU could perhaps conduct an in-depth analysis of the issues surrounding legalization and drugs and present proposals or adopt a resolution for discussion by parliaments around the world with a view to coordinating a global effort on the matter.

The MODERATOR invited the panellists to voice their thoughts on the discussion.

Ms. F.Z. NADIRI, Panellist, said that some very interesting and stimulating contributions had been made in the discussion. Concerning Afghanistan's own efforts, it had, with international assistance, developed an anti-narcotics strategy centred on measures for disrupting the drug trade, diversifying rural livelihoods, reducing demand and improving treatment facilities, and developing State institutions at the central and provincial levels. It was therefore moving forward, but the results thus far achieved were by no means adequate to address the immensity of the challenge. Aerial spraying had been employed to eradicate opium crops and manual destruction

was still practised, but it had been argued that eradication ultimately benefited traffickers and officials because it raised crop prices and drove farmers into the hands of insurgents and warlords. Afghanistan welcomed the debate, but legalization was too risky a step for it to take at the current stage. The remedies tried had proved to be no match for the strength of the global drug industry, which was ever growing in wealth and dominance at the expense of countries that suffered the consequences. Care must be taken, however, not to pursue remedies at the other extreme. In brief, parliamentarians must act collectively, globally and prudently to overcome the challenges posed by the drug menace in the 21st century.

Ms. M. OBRADOVIĆ, Panellist, said that the discussion had painted an alarming picture, especially for someone like her with teenage children. Output on the subject from the Assembly could be a start towards finding the much talked-of global solution, which was the only way to tackle a problem without borders. The media should also be enlisted to campaign on the issue and parliamentarians must build on the energy from the meeting to take the debate further in their own countries.

Mr. E. DE LA REGUERA, Panellist, said it was critical to ensure that the next stage of the legalization debate was based on scientific facts and investigations into the dangers of each individual drug. An important starting point was the evidence that not all users became addicts. The problem was that the money spent on drugs by even occasional users went to organizations that were tearing apart countries such as Mexico. More funding must therefore be channelled into research, which should have none of the blocks of the past placed on it. He added that the drug-related treaties of the future might have a regional rather than an international scope. All such issues must be part of the debate.

Mr. J. CALZADA, Panellist, said that prohibition, which had been the byword until now, offered the worst blanket solution to the drug issue and that the significant contributions made during the discussion had therefore been very useful. It was dangerous to oversimplify and the debate must move beyond the black-and-white argument of prohibition versus legalization. No one could deny that alcohol and tobacco were drugs, yet they were legal. Some countries might introduce regulation on the basis of cultural or religious considerations, whereas others took a different approach, as in Uruguay. Criminalization and enforcement had only swelled the prison population with those convicted of lesser drug-related offences; greater police resources had not improved drug seizure rates; and prevention and education measures had not reduced consumption. A serious evidence-based debate was the way forward and in that context he recommended two works by Thomas Babor and others, which had been partly sponsored by the World Health Organization and would provide food for thought: *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity*; and *Drug Policy and the Public Good*.

The MODERATOR, outlining his reflections on the discussion, said that inaction would clearly have serious consequences and that positive measures needed to be taken by parliamentarians in order to lead public opinion included opening up the debate in their own parliaments and communities and questioning personal and cultural opinions on drugs. Issues identified as requiring consideration included decriminalization of possession, legalization of possession, and regulation of supply. The most important point, however, was to determine what action was best suited to a particular community and how to take that action forward. The opportunity to face the challenge of halting a major disaster of universal proportions through a cause-and-effect solution, and in a rational manner, must not be lost. Indeed, the test of any civilized society was how it treated issues that affected humanity. He thanked all parliamentarians and the panellists for their insightful contributions to the discussion.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

Panel discussion on Addressing the rights of children with disabilities

Monday 25 March
(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m., with Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom) in the Chair as Moderator.

The MODERATOR, setting the scene for the panel discussion, said that addressing the rights of children with disabilities was an important topic, as it could so often happen that such children slipped through the net. Crucially, however, many countries were now adopting legislation and utilizing parliamentary procedures to ensure their protection. Today's discussion would provide an opportunity for an open and frank discussion of the challenges to achieving that protection, including with the assistance of the many charities and organizations involved in that area of work. The aim was to find ways forward in the long term for helping children with disabilities to fulfil their potential. He introduced the three expert panellists and invited them to make presentations on the subject before engaging in an interactive debate with participants.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Deputy Director, Programme Division, UNICEF, Panellist, said that addressing the rights of children with disabilities had been central to the UNICEF mandate since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and that the issue had gained momentum with the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. UNICEF worked to translate into reality the normative principles and frameworks embodied in those two Conventions through concrete programming at the country office level and through technical and policy dialogue with signatory countries with a view to establishment of the necessary institutional arrangements and service options for children with disabilities. A key objective was to raise the visibility of the 100 million children worldwide with disabilities, many of whom were likely to have no access to basic health and education services and be vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. Ecuador's Manuela Espejo Solidarity Mission, to which a field visit had been organized the previous day, was an example of an innovative project for achieving the principle that all children were equal, regardless of ability or income, bearing in mind that disability was a driver of inequality compounded by such factors as poverty, gender and ethnicity, which demanded a multisectoral approach.

Parliamentarians could assist in moving forward the disability agenda, not only through legislation harmonized with the two Conventions but also by ensuring the adequacy of budget allocations to disability issues, engaging in dialogue with their constituencies, giving voice to the views of children with disabilities and their families, and stepping up accountability for implementation of the Conventions. Inclusive development would be comprehensive only if children and adolescents with disabilities were regarded as right-holders and if policies and programmes were devoted to their interests. She would be pleased to share information on how UNICEF worked in broad partnership with stakeholders, including children and families, to translate ideas into action.

Mr. X. TORRES, Deputy Director, National Council for Disability Equality of Ecuador, Panellist, using slides to illustrate his presentation, said that work in the field of disability in Ecuador had taken a fresh direction involving civil society and that persons with disabilities were no longer referred to as vulnerable; they were seen instead as a group deserving priority care. In addition to the two Conventions already mentioned, Ecuador had ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which countries should do if they were to

assume their full responsibilities towards children. It had also adopted a law covering matters relating to all those involved in the care of children with disabilities, which was seen as a priority and a participatory process. Public funding allocated to disability issues had furthermore increased dramatically from roughly US\$ 4 million to \$ 138 million.

Through special field missions, over 47,000 children had thus far been identified as having some form of disability. Measures adopted in favour of such children included entitlement to health care under a parent's medical insurance up to 18 years of age and the establishment of a fund providing monthly allowances to mothers caring for children with severe learning difficulties. Emphasis was placed on the need for child-focused activities in all of the relevant programmes, as in the case of those implemented as part of the Manuela Espejo initiative, with a view to ensuring equal opportunities, including with respect to future employment, for children with disabilities. As to the aim of mainstreaming those children in education, adaptation of the physical school environment posed a much lesser challenge than the lack of appropriately trained teachers. Public policies must address the rights of children with disabilities from all perspectives and parliamentarians must be committed to enacting laws in full consultation with the stakeholders in order to determine the key essentials.

Mr. B. SAVADOGO, Director, National Solidarity, Burkina Faso, Panellist, speaking on the topic with specific reference to civil society activities in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo, said that the number of children with disabilities in those four countries was unknown because they were largely invisible. Various measures had been taken for the benefit of such children, however, and the four countries were each party to the two above-mentioned Conventions, in addition to International Labour Organization Convention No. 159 concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons). Civil society had played a major advocacy role in lobbying for the ratification and subsequent transposition into national law of those Conventions. It also engaged in public awareness-raising and in capacity-building for persons working with children with disabilities, to whom it likewise delivered psychosocial support. Indeed, civil society was behind most initiatives in the four countries for promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities, as the State provision in the sphere remained minimal.

The invisibility of children with disabilities in those four countries meant that statistics were lacking, which created difficulties in planning for their needs. Other problems included the emphasis on a needs-based rather than a rights-based approach; overprotection, which precluded children from fulfilling their potential owing to the focus on their vulnerability; and the disparity between the laws, policies and strategies in place and the realities on the ground. Children with disabilities were expected to adapt to society rather than vice versa. Parliamentarians had an important oversight role to play and must hold governments to account with respect to implementation of the Conventions and the laws in place. They should also ensure that sufficient funding was allocated to overcoming the obstacles blocking progress, such as the lack of statistics mentioned, which was now being addressed in Burkina Faso, where a UNICEF-supported census of children with disabilities was under way for the first time ever. Parliamentarians must also raise public awareness of the rights of children with disabilities, share good practices and highlight success stories. In conclusion, he appealed to participants to consider the possibility of convening an international conference on children with disabilities, which would be a very positive outcome from the discussion.

The MODERATOR endorsed the appeal made by the previous speaker. He thanked the panellists for their presentations and invited comments from the floor.

Ms. P. KUMARI (India) remarked that children with disabilities were often excluded from mainstream society, which conflicted with the concept of social justice and the realization of human rights. In pursuance of the equality, freedom, justice and dignity enshrined in the Indian Constitution for all individuals, the Indian Parliament had adopted a series of measures and laws

designed to ensure the welfare, empowerment and social participation of persons with disabilities, who were recognized as valuable human resources. Under a special scheme, children with disabilities were enrolled in schools staffed with teachers, resource persons and volunteers trained in providing the necessary support. Disability research and training centres had also been set up. She would be interested to learn more about the public perception of children with disabilities.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, considered that it was crucial to change entrenched perceptions that stigmatized children with disabilities and perpetuated discrimination against them rather than recognizing the diversity in ability that was the underpinning of more inclusive policies. A long-term multifaceted approach was therefore needed in order to undertake the difficult task of changing social attitudes. Parliamentarians could assist in that task through awareness-raising and the establishment of legal mechanisms that rewarded positive attitudes and penalized discrimination.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, said that disability was not a perception but a reality. The potential and strengths of children with disabilities must be appreciated if full inclusiveness was to be achieved in the knowledge that everyone stood to gain from a culture that accepted diversity. Even the best legislation needed support and follow-up in order to be effective. Policies must be made to apply across the board and attitudes must be changed through sensitization and other means so that children with disabilities came to be regarded in a positive light rather than as objects of sympathy.

Mr. B. SAVADOGO, Panellist, commented that children with disabilities in the four countries he had mentioned were victims of a negative attitude; they were regarded as abnormal and lacking in intelligence and were branded as “snake” children, which worked against their integration into society and prevented even their families from seeing their potential. Efforts must therefore be made to alter that fatalistic view of children with disabilities as different beings into something much more positive.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) commended the exemplary approach to disability rights adopted by the Ecuadorian Government and said that lack of information was among the major challenges to representing children with disabilities. Indeed, it hampered the ability to form a complete picture on which to base allocation of the resources needed to assist and educate that important social group, including through the harnessing of modern technology. Her country had achieved progress through a number of support initiatives designed to promote social integration and educational and job opportunities for such children, who were mainstreamed into public schools. Civil society was involved in awareness campaigning and the Government ensured the ready availability of assistive and other equipment, which was tax-exempt. In addition to legislating in the interest of children with disabilities, parliamentarians must lead the way to the adoption of national strategies for removing economic, social and cultural obstacles to the equality of opportunity, full social integration and dignity to which they were entitled; for ensuring their access to treatment and rehabilitation facilities; for protecting them from discrimination, abuse and exploitation; and for raising public awareness of disability issues. The present discussion could be fed into the larger debate on plans for the future of children with disabilities. She advocated for a declaration on the issue at the end of the panel.

Mrs. M. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) endorsed that view and likewise applauded the disability efforts under way in Ecuador, of which the Manuela Espejo project visited by parliamentarians was a magnificent example. She would like to have more information about UNICEF programmes in Africa, where children with disabilities were kept hidden, and also wondered whether countries included in their legislation harsher penalties for offences and rights violations involving persons and children with disabilities. Disability-inclusion efforts were under way in Namibia but were inadequately monitored. It would be useful to learn of the experiences of other countries. She also repeated her support for a declaration on the issue.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, said that, on the basis of national needs assessments, UNICEF worked at the country office level with governments to provide assistance in such exercises as the harmonization of laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the mapping of children with disabilities, in a participatory process involving such children themselves and their families, in order to create a profile of their situation, including their locations, types of disability and access to health and educational facilities. Efforts were also being made to promote the openness of schools to embracing diversity and their adoption of the tools and approaches needed to support learning. At the global level, UNICEF was working to increase the visibility of children with disabilities, not least with a view to seizing the present opportunity of ensuring that they were taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda, which would influence future policy-making. The position of children with disabilities in different worldwide settings was also the focus of the next edition of its flagship publication *The State of the World's Children*, to be launched in May 2013. Building on lessons learned, the report would provide recommendations for moving the agenda forward and would aid decision- and law-making.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, said that it had taken 60 years for the United Nations to produce the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which held the record for the most swiftly ratified treaty ever, having attracted 129 ratifications to date during the five years since its adoption. Persons with disabilities had always existed, however, and inclusive public policies that treated persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others were therefore overdue. The answer would not be found through censuses but through development of the policy tools for identifying the needs of disabled persons and achieving the goal of full inclusiveness in society for such persons, including children. Legislation requiring major drug manufacturers to invest in disability-related research would also help towards advancing that goal.

Ms. P. BECKLES (Trinidad and Tobago) said that services provided in her country for persons with disabilities included specially adapted buses, various grants, and a multi-sector skills training programme. Training and skills enhancement opportunities were also provided to single mothers of children with cerebral palsy under an unemployment relief programme, while mothers caring at home for children with disabilities received a stipend. Centres for children with visual impairment or blindness were publicly subsidized and efforts were being made to ensure adequate facilities and accessible infrastructures for persons with disabilities. A process allowing feedback from stakeholders in the pre-legislative stages of work should be developed with a view to bringing parliamentarians to realize that to strengthen vulnerable groups was also to strengthen communities and create a more caring world. The passage of laws and policies to address infrastructural and employment issues was absolutely necessary. Her country's Equal Opportunities Act, for example, provided an avenue for persons with disabilities to challenge inequalities. In closing, she recommended medical screening for preschool children and ratification of the various conventions relating to the rights of children.

Ms. M.C. KRONFLE (Ecuador), speaking as a parliamentarian with a physical disability, said that persons with disabilities in Ecuador had won the important battle for respect. Parliamentary awareness of disability and its implications for families was essential but sensitization to the fact that disability measures benefited the whole community was a difficult process. Parliamentarians must be willing to learn, observe and interact with persons with disabilities, without being judgemental. Available in an English abstract and also in Braille, Ecuador's Organic Law on Disabilities had been one year in the drafting, as disability was far from uniform and its many different aspects had to be taken into consideration. Among other things, the Law covered the significant issue of counselling for families of children with disabilities, including siblings; recognized the right of parents of such children to work in order to maintain adequate family living standards; provided for genetic testing for early detection and preventive treatment purposes; and prescribed three additional months of maternity leave for

mothers of children with disabilities. Mainstream education was prioritized on the basis that all children must learn to coexist in the real world. She asked if the forthcoming UNICEF report addressed the issue of behavioural training for parents of children with disabilities, whose appearance in public was often taboo in developing countries.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, replied that the range of issues addressed in the UNICEF report included stigmatization and discrimination and recommendations for dealing with both. Focus was also placed on psychosocial support and counselling for families of children with disabilities in order to equip them with coping skills and help them avoid perpetuating the social taboos surrounding such children.

Ms. G. NOMALUNGELO (South Africa) said that her country did not have a specific law on disabilities but that it honoured the conventions to which it was a party. Under its Constitution, children were protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, degradation and exploitative labour practices. A particular challenge was that children born with disabilities were seen as a curse on the family and were kept hidden from the world, as she herself knew from personal experience. Psychosocial support for families was therefore crucial in those situations. The fact that some 16 South African parliamentarians had disabilities demonstrated, however, that persons with disabilities were now being taken seriously and no longer pitied. Inclusive education had also been declared the priority of the year with a view to enabling children with disabilities to realize their potential. Sign language was moreover an official language. The right not to have a disability was another principle upheld insofar as compulsory prenatal screening was conducted in order to reduce disability risks through early detection. In short, efforts were directed at ensuring that resources were effectively used for the benefit of children with disabilities and for their mainstreaming into society.

Ms. V. RATTANAPIAN (Thailand) said that Thailand had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that its Constitution contained anti-discrimination provisions and guaranteed social welfare services and equal right of access to education for children with disabilities. Two disability-related bills had also been initiated. The lack of specialist trained teachers was a major problem, however. Were there any recommendations as to best practices? She looked forward to learning from the information contained in the above-mentioned UNICEF report.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, said that UNICEF had successfully worked with education ministries in many countries in order to help facilitate the transition from special to inclusive education, which was difficult to achieve without trained teachers who had the necessary skills profile for working with children with disabilities. Its Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, would either be able to assist Thailand directly with its request or facilitate communication with other countries in the region that could share information and best practices.

Ms. T. UKISHIMA (Japan) said that the education and social welfare systems were vital elements in building a society where all children coexisted. The traditional approach in Japan had been to school children with disabilities entirely separately from other children, but the trend had shifted to providing them with more individualized instruction and support for enabling them to realize their full potential. She wondered what opinions were as to the most ideal education system for children with disabilities. Employment was another important element for persons with disabilities. In Japan, companies employing persons with disabilities and providing disability-friendly workplaces were eligible for government subsidies and the legal minimum percentage of such persons in a company workforce was soon to be increased. It would be interesting to know the thinking on such requirements. She had been deeply moved by her visit to a non-governmental project for children with disabilities and paid tribute to Ecuador's disability efforts and its emphasis on bringing about change in social perceptions. She asked what the best way of achieving such change might be.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, replied that even the most ideal education could not be truly inclusive without ICT access and, very importantly, physical access for persons with physical disabilities. Innovative technologies, such as special software programmes for use by visually impaired persons, must also be harnessed in order to cater for different types of disability, although developing countries were admittedly less advanced in that domain than a country such as Japan. Ecuador had only recently produced a sign-language dictionary, for example, and it should now look to increasing its current supply of trained sign-language interpreters so that areas other than education could access their services. Universities must endeavour to build technological developments into their teacher training programmes in order to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals working in the field and academic syllabuses must embody respect for every kind of diversity. In Ecuador, tax incentives were in place for companies employing above the minimum quota of workers with disabilities, which was 4 per cent, and fines were imposed on those failing to meet that quota. Education and vocational training were also free of charge for persons of all ages who had missed opportunities earlier in life, making it possible for families of persons with disabilities to acquire new breadwinners.

Ms. L. WALL (New Zealand) said that Ecuador had embarked on a journey of defining a new normal through the constitutional and policy changes it had made in recognition of persons with disabilities. The fact that the country's Vice-President had championed those initiatives and would shortly be leaving office led her to ponder the significance of political leadership in driving the change needed for children with disabilities to be treated as a priority.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, said that the efforts for change in Ecuador dated back 15 years to the emergence of a new type of leadership. The notion that a person with disabilities could serve as Vice-President had therefore developed only after years of work in cooperation with civil society to raise the profile of persons with disabilities and pave the way for their integration into the system. It was a question of taking forward the relevant laws, strategies and standards in order to build consensus, with civil society, including persons with disabilities and their families, playing a vital role in driving the essential momentum. The system had been strengthened to defend all those working for disabled persons.

Ms. D. NDOUABNADJI TARAM (Chad) said that the field visit organized to the Manuela Espejo Solidarity Mission had been an inspiration. In Chad, it was not the State but civil society and religious communities that worked to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. A major challenge was that of raising public awareness of disability issues, concerning which ignorance was rife; children born with severe deformities were regarded as “snake” children and abandoned, for instance. The situation had moved forward insofar as the need for legislation to protect persons with disabilities had been acknowledged, but the law enacted to that end remained a dead letter. Much legislative work therefore remained to be done, particularly as Chad had not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She expressed the hope that the visible support for those persons would give impetus to that ratification so that children with disabilities in Chad could enjoy their rights.

Ms. B.M. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana) said that Botswana had a disability policy in place and that progress was being made. Concessions granted to persons with disabilities included free bus travel, for example. The Office of the President was headed by a person with disabilities and, importantly, there were also parliamentarians with disabilities. Awareness education and psychosocial support was needed, however, to bring about changes of attitude in families of children with disabilities who felt too ashamed to take those children out in public. She asked whether similar problems were encountered in Ecuador and concluded with the suggestion that an electronic report of the proceedings of the panel discussion be shared with all parliaments worldwide; it would be a useful tool for their disability work.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, said that talking to families and communities was sometimes difficult in certain parts of the country, such as the Amazon, where the belief might be that disability was a divine punishment. While progressive measures and affirmative action could achieve much, families in such regions might still cite cultural or other beliefs as a reason for denying medical care and technical assistance to a family member with disabilities. Access to some communities might also be possible only through a hierarchy, while others were averse to communicating with the outside world. It was therefore not always easy to convey the message, but increased awareness of the State's efforts to provide medical and legal assistance to persons with disabilities and improve their quality of life might gradually persuade such persons and their families to come forward and seek that assistance. The ultimate aim of such efforts was to identify every last person with a disability.

Mr. B. SAVADOGO, Panellist, said that the findings of a multisectoral study carried out in Burkina Faso had revealed communication problems between persons with disabilities and their families. Perceptions of disability were among the obstacles to that communication, with families preferring to hide children with disabilities away from public view. The country-wide community census of such children, referred to earlier, was therefore a first step towards removing such obstacles and facilitating access to those children in the interest of laying plans for the development of an effective inclusive education system, which was the ultimate aim.

Ms. A. RUSTON (Australia) said that a society was judged by how it treated its most vulnerable members and, noting that the issue of disability had not even been acknowledged as part of the MDGs, congratulated the Government of Ecuador on its disability initiatives, which were always difficult and costly to undertake. In Australia, a new bill had just been enacted to provide individualized support for persons with significant or permanent disabilities under a national disability insurance scheme. A major problem of a different and tragic order concerned those among the millions of persons seeking asylum in Australia who used children with disabilities as a tool for jumping the queue. She was keen to hear the UNICEF view as to how the rights of such children could be upheld, especially given that they were effectively being used to deny the rights of others.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, said that migration scenarios of that nature were challenging and delicate matters, but that measures and safeguards for the protection of children with disabilities, irrespective of migration status, must take priority over all else in such cases. From the normative perspective, families were the first spaces of protection and the main imperative was therefore to try and ensure that children remained within that protective space. If, on the other hand, a potentially damaging situation arose, as in the case of a family exploiting its children for ulterior motives, professional child protection services should be enlisted to undertake the difficult task of assessing the intent behind the situation in order to form a comprehensive view and determine whether or not separation of the child from the family was the best way forward.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, agreeing that children with disabilities were vulnerable to exploitation, said that refugees with disabilities who came to Ecuador enjoyed equal rights and benefits as Ecuadorians, including with respect to housing, medical treatment and job opportunities.

Mrs. R. MAKRI (Greece) said that, combined with policies imposed on Greece from the outside, the indifference of the Greek Government to disability issues in the face of its debt crisis had a dramatic impact on persons with disabilities, including children, who were made to feel like second-class citizens. All countries should clearly act to prevent discrimination against children with disabilities. Bearing in mind the UNICEF commitment to the protection of children with disabilities, she wondered about the role of the international community in the event that a State implemented policies prejudicial to those rights. She endorsed the idea proposed by previous speakers of drawing up a declaration at the end of the panel.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, replied that the meeting was privileged to be graced with the presence of Mr. Torres; he was a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the body responsible for monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and was therefore well qualified to respond to that question.

Mr. X. TORRES, Panellist, confirmed that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities worked to ensure fulfilment of the commitment made by States parties under the Convention to implement the rights of persons with disabilities. The Committee members came from a range of countries and their perspectives on disability issues were indeed a reflection of that diversity. States parties were required to submit periodic reports on their implementation of the Convention, which were considered by the Committee in conjunction with shadow reports prepared by CSOs. International cooperation was an important aspect of the work of the Committee, which would draw up conclusions and recommendations on the basis of those reports and transmit them to the State party for policy-making purposes. Under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the Committee could require States parties to take more affirmative and decisive action still on the basis of individual complaints.

Ms. M. FORNAH (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS) said that good examples of disability work under way in four Francophone West African countries had been provided. She asked what good practices existed in those countries, however, with respect to the inclusion of children with disabilities in immunization, nutrition and HIV/AIDS programmes. Furthermore, what were the barriers preventing children with disabilities from accessing basic health services and how could those be overcome?

Mr. B. SAVADOGO, Panellist, said that good practices in those countries included immunization programmes and the provision in their national health policies for prenatal care and attention to diseases that caused disability. As to barriers, children with disabilities were often trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and health systems which, moreover, were not sufficiently inclusive to cater to their specific needs. The absence of facilities dedicated to the delivery of care for such children was a major problem.

Ms. S. SOTTOLI, Panellist, added that, in conjunction with partners, UNICEF worked on identifying and analysing bottlenecks and barriers in order to develop and implement strategies for their removal. Barriers preventing access to health services for children with disabilities included lack of birth registration, which was invariably necessary to benefit from such access; shortage of personnel trained to deal with a range of disabilities; financial difficulties in that health services were often not covered by social security and could also involve travel costs and loss of income for parents owing to time taken off work; stigmatization and discrimination; and lack of early child development services, including preventive screening.

Ms. I.M. FILA LEMINA (Congo) said that the model example of Ecuador's approach to children with disabilities had drawn attention to a crucial issue that was viewed differently in developed countries than on the African continent, where life for such children was extremely difficult. In many African countries, the attention of the public authorities was primarily focused on economic woes and basic infrastructural development, for instance, and children with disabilities were all but abandoned. Parliamentarians should therefore work to improve the situation of those children by ensuring that they were high on the list of budget priorities. Lack of resources also posed implementation challenges for countries, among them Congo, that had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enacted disability laws with every good intention. Another little-recognized problem was lack of solidarity among countries, as exemplified by a case in which she had been involved in her parliamentary capacity where the mother of a two-year-old child with disabilities had been refused a visa to accompany the child for treatment abroad. Such anomalies also demanded attention in the context of addressing the rights of children with disabilities.

Ms. P. NONGOU MOUNDOUNGA (Gabon) said that, in addition to the policy and legislative measures taken in her country to promote the rights of children with disabilities, considerable effort had been made to provide schooling and health care for those children. Before all else, however, parliamentarians must uphold the right to life by working for the recognition of children with disabilities as children first and foremost in order to address the question of infanticide. They must also speak for the helpless children with disabilities who were subjected to violence, and sexual violence in particular, by adopting appropriate legislation and measures to ensure its effective implementation. Gabon had a social security net in place for children with disabilities, who were also assisted by NGOs and churches. A pooling of efforts from all quarters was needed, however, in order to deliver genuine help to those children.

Ms. H. AL AHMADI (Saudi Arabia) said that the right of persons with disabilities to education, health care and special services was provided for by law in Saudi Arabia, as was the entitlement of such persons to financial allowances and concessions. Their employment by the private sector was also encouraged as a matter of policy. Laws and policies were not necessarily enough, however, to encourage persons with disabilities to participate in public life. The reasons were manifold: failure of persons with disabilities to act on their rights and the opportunities available to them owing to lack of awareness; cultural hindrances to their social integration and visibility in the public domain, which included stigmatization and poor public awareness; and the absence of vital role models, such as the admirable champions of the cause participating in the present discussion and proactively fighting to create a better life for persons with disabilities. Role models for overcoming the challenges to living a full life should therefore form part and parcel of programmes dealing with the legislative, policy and infrastructural aspects of disability.

Ms. E. TONNINI (San Marino) said that being a developed country did not necessarily go hand in hand with a well-developed sense of respect for human rights. San Marino, for example, had been among the first to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 but still had no law in place pertaining to those rights, although that situation was expected to change in 2013 with the adoption of a bill on the subject. Progress was therefore slow. While the country had a good social protection system, improvements were needed in other sectors. Echoing the excellent suggestion made by the delegate of Botswana, she too supported the establishment of a virtual IPU network through which information on disability issues could be shared and discussed by all parliamentarians, particularly those who were involved in those issues or in a position to mainstream them into their work.

Mr. R. VALAREZO (Ecuador) said that Ecuador could be rightly proud of its work to ensure legal protection and social inclusion for persons with disabilities, including children, which was thanks to the work of parliamentarians such as Ms. Kronfle in drafting the Organic Law on Disability, the efforts of Vice-President Moreno in connection with the Manuela Espejo Solidarity Mission and, of course, the tremendous support of President Correa. Another initiative worth highlighting was the Joaquín Gallegos Lara programme, which provided financial and capacity-building support for families and carers of persons with severe disabilities, in addition to free medication and prosthetic limbs, among other things. Children with disabilities must be seen for what they were and be treated with dignity and love and as equal human beings, in contrast to the shameful treatment to which they had been subjected in the past. Ecuador had not yet completed its task but it had established policies to ensure that children with disabilities enjoyed the same rights and opportunities as others. Parliamentarians worldwide could follow suit by passing legislation to protect children with disabilities against discrimination and recognize their right to specialized assistance, education and housing, as had been done in the Ecuadorian Constitution. The fact was that the whole of society and not only persons with disabilities benefited from such measures.

Ms. I. HEINDORF (World Future Council) said that role models such as the Ecuadorian Vice-President and Ugandan parliamentarians with disabilities played an important part in helping to overcome entrenched perceptions on disability by bringing disability issues into the media and public spotlight. Parliaments must therefore be accessible and include people with disabilities, as should delegations to IPU events, while the media should vitally contribute to influencing public opinion and combating stigmatization and discrimination at their roots by treating persons with disabilities as normal human beings. With respect to the establishment of inclusive education systems, she drew attention to an initiative in which she was involved, Zero Project (www.zeroproject.org), which advocated at the international level for the rights of persons with disabilities by highlighting innovative disability-related practices and policies adopted in various countries. The findings of a 56-country survey undertaken by the Project had revealed, however, that much legislative work remained to be done to ensure the right of children with disabilities to free primary education within the mainstream educational system. Other vital facilities for improving the situation of children with disabilities included early detection centres, basic access to health care and training for parents of such children.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists on behalf of all participants for their first-class contributions to a discussion of great importance. He likewise expressed gratitude for the input from Ecuador and all other participants, whom he urged to do their utmost to stand up for children with disabilities worldwide and to support each other in so doing.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

Workshop on Ensuring accountability for women's and children's health

Sitting of Tuesday 26 March

(Afternoon)

The Workshop was held as a side event of the 128th Assembly.

It was opened at 2.10 p.m. by Ms. M.N. ZZIWA, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, acting as Moderator.

Mr. M. CHUNGONG, Deputy Secretary General of the IPU, recalled that the IPU resolution entitled "Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children" requested the IPU to develop an accountability mechanism to monitor the progress of Member Parliaments in implementing the resolution. The Secretariat had developed an initial framework which placed parliaments, the IPU, the United Nations and other agencies as the key actors tasked with implementing the mechanism and proposed a global focal point for the issue and a process of annual review of progress made by parliaments. The IPU had expanded the mandate of its Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS to enable it to also be the focal point for maternal, newborn and child health; while the review process would have both internal and external elements, comprising a survey of progress by parliaments and reporting to other bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

The IPU had taken steps to implement the proposed review process and had produced an initial accountability report using information and data from a randomly-selected group of parliaments and organizations in order to provide an overview of the types of action taken by parliaments and to establish a process for future reporting on the implementation of the resolution. The participating parliaments mainly came from Africa, where maternal and child mortality rates were highest, but countries were also selected from other regions, and the group included two developed countries. The survey was also taken by non-parliamentary organizations, including the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, WHO and World Vision International. The survey comprised 40 questions related to activities on maternal, newborn and child health in the areas of representation and advocacy, oversight, legislation and budget appropriation. The questions also investigated the extent to which parliamentarians were engaged in key topics such as determinants of health, gender equality and accessibility and the quality of health services. The results of the survey showed that although there was significant political will to address the issue, more was needed. In addition, there was scope for the IPU and its Member Parliaments to promote heightened awareness of the resolution and a need for parliamentarians to further promote gender perspectives in legislation and laws that explicitly criminalized violence against women and girls and to participate more in budget oversight activities.

Dr. A. DE FRANCISCO SERPA (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health), Panellist, made a presentation on the trends and accountability mechanisms for women's and children's health. Although progress had been made in reducing maternal and child mortality rates, they were still high in many countries and sometimes varied between regions and within countries. More needed to be done to address inequalities and increase health care coverage in developing countries, for example through increasing the number of trained health care workers. The United Nations had launched the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which aimed to save 16 million lives and included indicators and goals. The IPU resolution on women's and children's health was an important step forward. There were a number of barriers to implementing health-related commitments, including health system constraints, lack of available funding and infrastructure and weak governance. Parliamentarians could play a significant role through the adoption of budgets, implementation of legislation, national and international advocacy of health-related issues and by holding governments to account on their commitments.

Dr. L. SAY (World Health Organization), Panellist, gave an overview of the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and the role of parliamentarians. The main objectives of the Commission were to determine institutional arrangements for global reporting, oversight and availability; identify ways to improve monitoring of progress; propose ways to overcome accountability-related challenges at the country level; and identify opportunities for innovation provided by information technology. The main recommendations of the Commission were related to gaining better information, enabling a better tracking of resources for women's and children's health, and better oversight of results and resources at the national and global levels. A strategic work plan had been developed to implement those recommendations. Parliaments had a pivotal role to play in accountability through improving legislation to protect and fulfil the right to access to health services, actively engaging with stakeholders and collaborating with parliamentarians from other countries and with international organizations.

Mr. S. ALI (Bangladesh), Panellist, said that his country was on track to achieve MDGs 3, 4 and 5 as it had achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education and had seen reductions in the maternal and under-five mortality rates. The Bangladesh Parliament had been engaged in many activities related to maternal, newborn and child health following the adoption of the IPU resolution. Some parliamentarians had been on exchange visits to other countries to learn about different approaches. Consultations between women parliamentarians and civil society had recently taken place in Bangladesh on gender-responsive budgeting and priorities for health budgets. During those consultations, measures had been identified to make budgets more gender-responsive, together with actions to be taken by women parliamentarians to advocate for such budgets. The IPU resolution on women's and children's health was an important tool as it provided the basis for national parliaments to address the issue and highlighted priority areas. It also highlighted the need for collaboration between parliaments from developed and developing countries. In order to facilitate implementation of the resolution, the IPU should support the participation of parliamentarians in international conferences, seminars and workshops; facilitate study exchange visits; and support collaboration between different parliaments.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), Panellist, explained that her country's National Assembly had paid particular attention to MDGs 4 and 5. A dedicated women's hospital would be constructed in the future and there was a strong women's caucus and a network of women parliamentarians on health, which were both very active. In order to ensure more dedicated attention to health issues, the Parliament had restructured the Social Services Committee into two committees a Health and an Education Committee. During the last budget negotiations, the National Assembly had taken steps to block the budget until the Government agreed to allocate more funds to the health budget. Steps had been taken to increase the number of trained health professionals that worked in rural health centres; with most centres having two doctors. In order to do so, salaries had to be increased, as it had been found that some doctors were working in the trade sector as it was more lucrative than practicing medicine. In the future, steps would also be taken to improve the equipment available in rural health centres.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada), Panellist, drew attention to the First Report of the Independent Expert Review Group on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and the initial report of the IPU on its accountability framework, both of which highlighted the critical role parliaments could play with regard to accountability. More needed to be done to address the multi-dimensional challenges at the root of poor health outcomes, such as gender inequality and poor human rights records. In order to enable parliamentarians to play an active role in those areas, parliamentary capacity-building should be considered in order to enhance the scrutiny of budgets and legislation and the use of tools such as parliamentary committees. One way that could be achieved was through fostering better connections between

parliamentarians and health experts to enable the transfer of health knowledge, data and best practices to parliamentarians and, through them, to people. During the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, it was important not to forget the achievements and outstanding areas of the MDGs.

A number of participants drew attention to activities in their countries related to women's and children's health and achievement of MDGs 4 and 5. Some of those countries had introduced free medical and health care services for women and children under the age of five, which included free screening for illnesses such as diabetes and HIV/AIDS and free birth clinics. Community-based programmes had also been implemented in some countries and efforts had been made to provide increased training to medical professionals. In a number of African countries, training had been provided to traditional birth attendants to improve their knowledge of maternal health care and enable them to complement midwifery services. In addition, parliaments had adopted legislation in those areas. For example, in Trinidad and Tobago, the length of maternity leave had been extended, and in Bahrain, legislation had been enacted that gave women the right to dedicate up to two hours of their working day to breastfeeding. Parliaments had an important oversight role to play with regard to the MDGs.

Access to health care in rural areas was of particular concern in many countries, particularly in Africa. Increased education and health care services were vital in those areas if the health-related MDGs were to be achieved by 2015. The representative of South Africa expressed concern that some countries were not reporting accurate maternal and child mortality statistics and called for that practice to be stopped. One of the main barriers to universal health care was a lack of funding and efforts were needed to address that issue. For example, in Ecuador, the Constitution contained a provision that 0.5 per cent of GDP should be added incrementally to the health budget every year.

The representatives from Poland and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) drew attention to the issue of teenage pregnancies; the importance of sex education and removing barriers to contraception could not be underestimated. Some pregnancies were the result of gender-based violence and barriers to safe abortion should also be removed in cases where abortion was illegal. Other speakers highlighted the importance of addressing the plight of pregnant women in prisons and that of pregnant refugees and pregnant women living in countries experiencing civil war. Greater national and international cooperation and collaboration were needed.

The representative from Palestine explained that the ongoing conflict between her country and Israel limited access to health care for Palestinian citizens, with some women having to travel more than four hours to reach a health care centre. Another issue that needed additional focus was child marriage; some countries had enacted legislation in that area.

The representative from Japan stressed the importance of making health-related information widely available to the public. Following the crisis at the Fukushima nuclear power plant after the earthquake in Japan in 2011, there had been widespread concern about radiation; clear information had been needed on the spread of radiation and the expected damage. As a result, an independent committee had been set up to investigate those issues and social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook had been used to disseminate information.

The panellists welcomed the comments made by delegates, particularly with regard to the importance of education, the role of midwives, teenage pregnancies, support for pregnant women in prisons, and the key role played by parliamentarians in health issues.

The MODERATOR thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and expressed appreciation to the IPU for its presentation of the report. She hoped that copies would soon be made available to members.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

Workshop on Towards a new vision for sustainable development: What place for democratic governance?

Wednesday 27 March
(Morning)

The Workshop was held as a side event of the Assembly and attracted close to 40 participants.

Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Deputy Secretary General, opened the workshop at 9.35 a.m. and acted as moderator.

The objective of the workshop was to provide a parliamentary contribution to the set of post-2015 sustainable development goals being debated by the United Nations. The workshop was meant to form part of the IPU's strategy to mobilize parliamentary input towards the design of the post-2015 development architecture. There would be a number of opportunities for parliamentarians to contribute to that process, not least through the two formal structures that had been established within the United Nations: a high-level panel of eminent persons convened by the UN Secretary-General to formulate ideas; and an Open Working Group established to develop those goals. A number of ongoing global consultations had been planned that were of relevance.

Democratic governance had been identified as a strategic area of focus for the IPU. Participants at the workshop were encouraged to consider the defining elements of democratic governance and how parliaments could promote that agenda among the stakeholders involved in formulating the new development goals. The outcomes of the workshop would also feed into discussions at the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.

Democratic governance and development: What linkages?

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, Parliamentary Adviser, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP, Panellist, said that UNDP and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had recently co-led a Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Governance, hosted by the Pan-African Parliament in South Africa. The meeting had been the culmination of several regional dialogues, technical meetings and e-discussions, and had been attended by parliamentarians, civil society representatives and global leaders on governance issues. Participants had strongly emphasized that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda must involve a paradigm shift from incrementalism to transformation, be people-centred and be flexible with regard to regional and national socio-economic and environmental circumstances.

Consensus had been reached in a number of key areas. First, democratic governance was multi-dimensional, requiring both policy coherence and strong institutions; poverty and inequality resulted from deliberate policy choices that involved poor coordination and a lack of coherence, which could only be overcome by insistence on democratic governance. Governance should be responsive and accountable as governance failures were closely linked to the challenges of global inequalities. Implementation should be measurable and an accountability and monitoring framework was crucial. Combating corruption was essential to ensuring better development outcomes. Furthermore, local governance and local development should happen as close as possible to where people needed development to occur. Civil society had a pivotal role to play in ensuring good governance and addressing youth concerns was integral to the post-2015 agenda. Governance must be gender-responsive and traditional public-private partnerships should be replaced by public-people partnerships; empowerment and participation were essential to tackling inequality and promoting social inclusion; multilateralism, as demonstrated at the United Nations and the IPU, would be important for creating and sustaining the post-2015 development framework.

He added that an inclusive, sustainable and achievable post-2015 framework was certainly attainable and that appropriate measuring tools were both vital and realistic, though at times self-reporting mechanisms had proven in the past to be inadequate. He underscored UNDP's belief that good democratic governance was essential for transformative development.

Mr. F. HOOHLO (Lesotho), Panellist, outlined seven building blocks that were necessary for democratic governance and achieving sustainable development:

- i. The principles, standards and norms relating to human rights: States must meet their human rights obligations under all international treaties to which they were party;
- ii. Democratic institutions must be responsive to the needs of the people: responsiveness was essential for attaining development goals and improving people's lives;
- iii. Inclusiveness was necessary, especially with regard to marginalized communities and vulnerable populations;
- iv. Inequality and discriminatory practices should be addressed and eliminated;
- v. Corruption had hindered the achievement of the MDGs, especially in developing countries, and needed to be eradicated in all its forms;
- vi. Governments must be accountable, including at local level, for achieving development goals, which needed to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound ("SMART") as well as enforceable;
- vii. The rule of law and human rights must be respected: there should be access to justice for all people, regardless of their status.

Ms. J. LOGIE (New Zealand), Panellist, endorsed the views expressed by the previous panellists regarding the importance of human rights protection; democratic governance; local and national engagement; addressing inequality; accountability; and the rule of law. Participation and engagement with the public could be improved if legislators employed simpler language in their discussions and laws, which should all be translated into the different languages used in the community, including Braille. She underscored the importance of ensuring that the public understood the work of parliamentarians and its relevance, such as through the provision of regular summaries of parliamentary activities to constituents. That was an important measure, as the media often did not adequately explain how different laws were relevant to people's lives. Parliamentarians should also access new channels of communication to engage with the public; in New Zealand, for example, Select Committee procedures were announced in the print media, but there were many people who could not afford to buy newspapers. Parliamentarians needed to examine their own behaviour within the political process, particularly to find ways to make young people feel more engaged. She and the other panellists had identified a number of challenges, but the next step would be to establish how they could be overcome through day-to-day political practices.

Several participants commented on the different aspects of good democratic governance raised by the panellists with all recognizing the intrinsic link between governance and development. Some speakers underscored the particular importance of local governance in ensuring development. Communities relied heavily on local governments and authorities for the provision of their day-to-day needs, including safe drinking water, sanitation and sewerage facilities, waste disposal and energy provision. It was also at the local level that most action could be taken regarding management of the environment. Decentralization should be promoted in all legislation, which needed to ensure in particular that adequate resources were available to local authorities to fulfil their responsibilities in the areas of good governance and development.

Many participants welcomed the overview provided by the panellists of the pillars or building blocks needed for democratic governance. Several underscored in particular the need to ensure accountability, transparency, participation and respect for human rights and the rule of law. Some representatives from developing countries said that their governments had already implemented measures to ensure that those pillars of good governance were realized, including through passing legislation on freedom of information, establishing parliamentary committees or other forums to promote an exchange of views and coordination and solidarity between different branches of government. In terms of participation, several speakers stressed the need to include CSOs in decision-making processes. All legislation needed to be based on the needs of the people and should be scrutinized carefully to avoid any negative impact on more vulnerable social groups, such as women, young people, or rural populations.

Corruption was singled out as a major barrier to good democratic governance, undermining several of its core pillars, including respect for the rule of law, human rights and transparency. In fact, corruption was often exacerbated by a lack of respect for or non-compliance with those pillars. It most often occurred at the point of service delivery, which was often the local governance level, and as a result had obstructed the achievement of the MDGs and eroded the confidence of development partners, owing to the high proportion of development assistance funds that could be diverted away from projects. In each parliament, members from across the political spectrum needed to work together to tackle the scourge of corruption, crucially through ensuring the proper management – including financial management – and execution of all health, education, poverty eradication and other development programmes.

A representative of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) said that the organization was ready and willing to assist any parliament in combating corruption and could provide practical support for workshops on issues such as anti-money laundering, parliamentary oversight and codes of ethics and conduct. She directed participants to GOPAC's website for more details on such workshops.

A representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction drew attention to the link between good governance, disaster risk reduction and development. For a long time, planning or development had not taken sufficient account of disaster risk reduction and, as a result, much of the world's population was now clustered in hazardous areas, with the risk of disaster increasingly compounded by climate change. Good governance should ensure a strong institutional and legal framework for development planning that accounted properly for risk reduction.

Participants also suggested practical ways in which good democratic governance could be promoted and measured. At the local government level, an effective indicator would be the proportion of the population that was served by water, electricity and other amenities and had access to health, education and other basic amenities. Websites and online forums would be a good means of promoting discussion on governance and improving participation.

One developed country representative underscored the importance of foreign affairs ministers and other parliamentarians meeting or developing relationships with developing country parliaments when formulating development strategies. Such action could help foster an exchange of views and experiences on governance. Another participant said that his country had developed an infrastructure package for export to developing countries; the package comprised strategies for financing, construction, maintenance and support for democratic governance as well as the elimination of corruption. Environmentally sound projects were promoted through the use of renewable energy. That approach did not always satisfy a desire for quick, low-cost infrastructure projects, but was designed to show that costs were ultimately lower if the initial focus was on long-term security and safety.

A democratic governance goal: How would it work?

The MODERATOR said that 243 parliamentarians at the 128th Assembly had completed a survey seeking their views on the potential for a stand-alone goal on democratic governance as part of the post-2015 development agenda. The results of that survey, which were presented in a set of slides, had shown that the vast majority of respondents strongly agreed that democratic governance was necessary for sustainable development (93%) and that it should be pursued as a stand-alone post-2015 sustainable development goal (80%), although developing countries were less likely than developed countries to be in favour of having it as a stand-alone goal (18% versus 6%, respectively). The three most important objectives of a democratic governance goal were deemed to be: coherence between social, economic and environmental policies; promoting national planning for sustainable development through participatory processes; and strengthening dialogue between citizens and political institutions. It was also widely agreed (94%) that principles of democratic governance such as participation, transparency and accountability should inform all the other sustainable development goals. Regarding those principles, respondents prioritized the following: citizen participation in decision-making at all levels; transparency in the workings of political institutions and public administration; and curbing corruption in politics and public administration. The majority strongly agreed (66%) or somewhat agreed (19%) that national and regional difference should be factored into monitoring and evaluating progress in democratic governance, although the figure was slightly lower among developed than developing countries. Lastly, respondents said they would be willing to take specific actions to support a democratic governance goal, including organizing thematic discussions within parliamentary committees, discussing such matters in town hall meetings or public hearings and inviting experts to speak in parliament.

Principles versus action: How can MPs support change?

Participants were divided into a number of smaller working groups to discuss one of three questions relating to the topic under consideration.

- **Should measurements for democratic governance take national and regional differences into consideration?**

Two groups looked at the first question and, in reporting back to the workshop, both rapporteurs underscored that there were clear differences in political, cultural, social and economic circumstances between countries and regions. Those differences should certainly be taken into account in how progress towards good governance was measured, but the precise measurements – based on the above-mentioned building blocks – and the overall goal of good governance should be universal, otherwise inequalities between countries and regions would remain. One group felt that countries could be creative in the tools they used to achieve good governance and cited the example of some African countries that had begun to use mobile courtrooms to overcome issues of a lack of access to or equal application of justice owing to an absence of necessary infrastructure, particularly in rural areas.

- **What three indicators could be used to measure progress in democratic governance?**

Two groups considered the second question. One rapporteur said that his group had identified rate of participation; level of representation according to gender, age and geographic location; and level of access to and exchange of information between governments and the people. All three were essential to good democratic governance and increases or decreases in those levels could be measured year on year, providing a suitable means of evaluating progress towards democratic governance.

The second rapporteur said that his group had prioritized the rule of law, participation and accountability as the three essential indicators that should be measured in order to ascertain progress towards good governance. Regarding the first, it was important to assess whether relevant laws had been enforced in all situations and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of each country. Respect for the rule of law could also bring down levels of corruption. Evaluating the level and quality of participation was crucial to good governance, as people needed to trust that their needs were the focus of all decision-making processes and that governments could be held accountable for ensuring that was the case.

· **What specific steps could parliaments take to press for democratic governance as a sustainable development goal?**

One group considered the third question and, in reporting back on its discussions, the rapporteur stated that the group had underscored the need for parliamentarians to engage with the executive and with civil society to ensure good democratic governance. All parliamentarians should be educated in good democratic governance in order to remove political barriers and achieve greater consensus. Both were important to meeting expectations on good governance at the regional and national levels. Parliamentarians needed to ensure that legislation promoted the various aspects relating to democratic governance, such as transparency, accountability and freedom of information. They could also establish thematic committees with oversight for democratic governance.

The group had underscored the importance of exposing the implications of poor governance, specifically its link to the non-achievement of the MDGs, and of promoting the cross-cutting benefits of good governance. Lastly, the group had concluded that parliamentarians should support civil society and NGOs in promoting democratization processes in post-conflict countries.

The workshop closed at 12.10 p.m.

SITTING
OF WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH
MORNING

The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m. with Mr. F. Cordero Cueva (Ecuador), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT informed the Assembly that together with a panel discussion on the rights of children with disabilities, field visits had been organized jointly by the IPU, UNICEF and the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador to a number of social facilities catering to the needs of children with disabilities. He called on Ms. M. Mensah-Williams to report on those visits.

Ms. M. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia), rapporteur, expressing appreciation to the Government of Ecuador and UNICEF for the opportunity to see the results of the programme to help persons with disabilities, said that the delegates had been briefed by the Office of the Vice-President of Ecuador on the programme, which provided homes, basic necessities, monthly support grants, medical and social services, as well as counselling, to persons with disabilities and training for their families. In addition, mobile units operated throughout the country, testing newborn children to see if they were suffering from any form of disability. The group had visited one girl, who suffered from a mental disability, and had seen the strong support network that she had. In addition, as part of the programme, companies were penalized for not having at least one member of staff with disabilities and there was a project in place to help persons with disabilities set up small and medium-sized enterprises and therefore support themselves. The armed forces and police of Ecuador were also helping the programme access remote and difficult areas. The Ecuadorian programme was one of the best in the world and should be held up as an example from which other countries could learn. In Ecuador, persons with disabilities were full-fledged members of society, which was not the case in all countries, particularly in Africa.

A film about the visit was shown.

The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation for the strong relationship between the IPU and UNICEF. Delegates had before them a Presidential Statement condemning sexual violence against women, which had been endorsed by the Executive Committee at its last meeting. He took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the Presidential Statement.

The Presidential Statement was unanimously adopted.

Item 9 of the agenda

Emergency item on The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan), rapporteur on the emergency item, said that the plenary debate held earlier in the week had provided an opportunity for countries to express their concerns about the current situation of the Syrian people both within and outside the country. During that debate, concerns had been raised regarding the inclusion of the word “security” in the title of the draft resolution; in response to that, she had confirmed that the focus of the text was on the humanitarian situation. A drafting committee had been established, chaired by Mr. F. Bustamante of Ecuador and comprising representatives of China, France, Islamic Republic

of Iran, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. Although further concerns had been raised about the term “security” in the title, following a careful review of each paragraph of the text, members had been satisfied that the resolution referred to the safety and security of the Syrian people and the impact of the crisis on the stability of the wider region. As a result, the resolution included language stressing the importance of respecting the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria. The draft resolution reflected the global parliamentary community’s alarm at the increasingly serious humanitarian impact of the conflict in Syria, the burden carried by the countries hosting Syrian refugees and the need for the international community to provide immediate financial and material support to those countries and relief agencies.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the word “security” be deleted from the title of the draft resolution.

Mr. M.J. AL-LAHAM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had a number of concerns about the draft resolution, particularly with regard to the title, which should not contain the word “security”, as the language originally voted on had not included security aspects. As such, that term should be deleted. In addition, the phrase “and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts” should be deleted from preambular paragraph 1 as the language did not respect national sovereignty and overstepped the scope of the draft resolution. In addition, although preambular paragraph 2 made reference to the territorial integrity of Syria, there was no mention of the aid and coordination efforts made by the Syrian Government with neighbouring countries in order to help refugees return home.

The PRESIDENT said that it was not possible to open up the discussion of the text at that time; preambular paragraph 1 contained the title of the resolution adopted in Kampala, which could not be changed. He suggested that the Assembly should vote on the draft resolution first, and then countries could explain their vote. He asked whether the Assembly was willing to delete “security” from the title of the emergency item.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom), rising to a point of order, said that the President’s proposal was not in order and could not be voted upon unless it was formally proposed by a delegation. The Assembly had already voted on the title of the emergency item and two-thirds of delegates had supported the wording as it currently appeared. The drafting committee had also considered whether to amend the title and decided that it was not necessary. The President should only put forward the recommendation of the drafting committee; and should not assume that there were other views on the issue.

The PRESIDENT said that the spirit of the Assembly had been one of dealing with substance rather than form; a well-drafted title would reflect the nature of the text and would be a summary of the overall content. He would follow the majority view of the Assembly on the issue; he had made the suggestion in order to avoid controversy and save time.

Mr. S. JANQUIN (France), endorsing the statement made by the delegate of the United Kingdom, said that the drafting committee had agreed that the term “security” in the context of the draft resolution only referred to that of the people, not the security of the State. The refugees were facing safety and security issues in terms of food, health and education, which was the limited scope of the word “security” in the emergency item.

Mrs. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that it was unacceptable for the draft resolution to have a title that had not been agreed upon by the Assembly. Therefore, she supported the suggestion made by the President to delete the word “security”. In addition, her country had reservations regarding the wording of preambular paragraph 1.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) suggested that the words “of refugees and countries receiving Syrian refugees” could be inserted after “security” in the title of the draft resolution so as to clarify the meaning of “security” in that context.

The PRESIDENT asked for the Assembly’s understanding; the rules had to be followed and it was time to move forward on the issue. He suggested that it would best not to add any language to the title; his proposal to delete “security” was based on the report of the Rapporteur, who had referred to the conflicting views on that term.

Mr. R. WALTER (United Kingdom) considered that the President was expressing an opinion even though he should remain impartial in the discussion. The draft resolution had been approved by the drafting committee and therefore the Assembly should vote on the original text.

Mr. G. SILVA (Portugal) said that the delegate of France had provided a clear explanation of the meaning of the term “security” in the title. The concept of State security should not be confused with the security or safety of individuals, which was the meaning in the draft resolution. Therefore, instead of using the word “security”, reference should be made to personal integrity.

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France), on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, rising to a point of order, said that once the text had been approved by the drafting committee, it was submitted to the Assembly for adoption. If countries had reservations, they should express them after a vote was held on the text.

The PRESIDENT acknowledged the statement by the Twelve Plus Group and suggested that the same procedure should be followed in the current case. He asked whether the Assembly could adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

Mr. M. HAJJAR (Syrian Arab Republic) stated that there were clear rules and procedures for emergency items and it was important that those were respected. The original title of the emergency item had only focused on the humanitarian aspects; including the word “security” went beyond the original scope of the item. The word “security” should be removed from the title as it had not been included at the time of the vote on the title earlier in the week.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) agreed that it was not appropriate to include the term “security” as it was ambiguous. However, despite that reservation, he supported the rest of the resolution.

Mr. H. TAJAM (Uruguay) supported the content of the resolution but had reservations regarding the use of the word “security” in the title; without the explanation provided by the delegate of France, the term was ambiguous. In addition, the concept of security was not reflected in the main body of the text, so it should not be included in the title.

Mr. O.S. REYES (El Salvador) rejected the suggestion that the President had been anything but impartial during the discussion. The reference to security could be misinterpreted by countries or groups and might enable them to impose their own agenda on the situation. His country therefore had reservations about the inclusion of the term.

Ms. L. ROJAS (Mexico) said that although she supported the resolution in general, she did not believe that the concept of security was appropriate in the text, especially since it had not been included in the title on which the Assembly had originally voted.

Mr. O. KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU (Ghana) suggested that in order to move the debate forward, a list of delegations with reservations on the term “security” could be taken. Even if the term was deleted, the concept of humanitarian impact already included the security or safety of people.

Mrs. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that it was important for the language in IPU resolutions to be clear. As such, her country had reservations on the title and preambular paragraph 1.

Ms. S. AHMED MOHAMED (Sudan) said that she was in favour of the resolution. However, she was concerned that a word had been added to the title after voting that changed its meaning.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed reservations on the inclusion of the word “security” in the title of the resolution. Inserting the phrase “of refugees” after that word would provide clarification and resolve the situation.

Ms. M. CHAVEZ COSSIO (Peru) said that the clarification provided by the delegate of France resolved the issue around the use of “security” in the title, although, if possible, the idea should be spelt out in full. However, there had been a situation in the First Standing Committee where there had been reservations on the title of a draft resolution, but it had not been possible to change it. The title of the emergency item had been changed after the vote; the Rules of the Standing Committee should thus be reviewed.

Mr. A. GOBBI (Algeria), commending the President for his neutrality and objectivity, said that the drafting committee did not have the right to add elements out of context, allowing such an action would set a serious precedent for future meetings. The emergency item was focused on humanitarian aspects and therefore any reference to security should be deleted.

Mrs. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation) expressed support for the deletion of the term “security” from the title of the resolution.

Mr. S. ITO (Japan) proposed that “human” should be inserted before the term “security” in the title in order to clarify the meaning of security in that context.

Mrs. S. HAJ HASAN (Jordan) reiterated that the title had not been changed after the vote; the word “security” had appeared at the time of voting. In addition, the resolution referred to both refugees outside of Syria and displaced persons inside the country. It could not be denied that the escalating humanitarian crisis was having an impact on the security of refugees inside refugee camps; it was important to safeguard their security and that of the people in Syria.

Mr. M.J. AL-LAHAM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the reference made by the delegate of Jordan to displaced persons within his country was a violation of the sovereignty of Syria.

The reservations expressed were noted.

Item 4 of the agenda**Enforcing the responsibility to protect: the role of parliament
in safeguarding civilians' lives**

(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda), rapporteur of the Committee, explained that, as a pilot exercise, the First Standing Committee had discussed and finalized the draft resolution in full plenary session. The Committee had considered the draft resolution and the 146 amendments proposed by 14 countries and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and had done its best to accommodate as many of the amendments as possible, while keeping the resolution concise and universally-applicable. The draft resolution reaffirmed that parliaments should ensure that governments protected their people from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity through legislation and overseeing government action to combat terrorism. It also focused on the need to protect women and children and to ensure the allocation of funds to support peace-building efforts. The draft resolution had been adopted by consensus by the Committee, although the delegation of Cuba had expressed reservations.

Mrs. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that her country did not support the resolution because the concept of the responsibility to protect was not an international standard; rather it was a means to justify intervention and the use of force. Sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States were inviolable rights. Cuba would always oppose the use of force and interventions that did not comply with the UN Charter and international law.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that although he supported the draft resolution and the general concept of the protection of civilians, he had reservations on the references to the ICC and the call to parliaments to sign the Rome Statute. The Court was an unfair body that harmed the interests of weaker countries; as such his country had not ratified the Rome Statute. An instrument that was fairer to all countries was needed to replace the Rome Statute and the ICC. He called on parliaments not to ratify the Rome Statute and expressed reservations on the content of preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraphs 10 and 11.

Ms. M. CHAVEZ COSSIO (Peru) expressed reservations on the reference to States party to the Rome Statute in operative paragraph 10. Peru was party to the Rome Statute, but it was also party to regional mechanisms such as the Inter-American Human Rights System, which could also play a role. Therefore, operative paragraph 10 should include language referring to other relevant mechanisms to enable regional bodies to play a part.

Mr. M.J. AL-LAHAM (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had reservations on the reference to the ICC and the language urging parliaments to ratify the Rome Statute, as the Court could be highly politicized at times and could issue politically-biased rulings. In addition, it was not the responsibility of parliaments to ratify international instruments; only governments could do that. Parliaments could only implement the legislation related to those instruments.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus and the reservations expressed were noted.

Item 5 of the agenda**Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development**

(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)

Ms. C. GUITTET (France), rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that following a debate in which 34 delegates had taken the floor, a drafting committee, comprising representatives of Algeria, Australia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Japan, Palestine, Serbia and Sudan, had been established. The drafting committee had been chaired by Mr. D. Adams of Australia and had examined 119 proposed amendments received from Member Parliaments and individuals. Ten amendments had also been received from the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, together with a number of sub-amendments from Japan. The drafting committee had worked in a spirit of cooperation and one third of the proposed amendments had been incorporated. The Second Standing Committee had discussed the draft resolution and, following the inclusion of two sub-amendments, the text of the resolution had been approved in its entirety. She expressed appreciation for the work of the drafting committee and the Secretariat on the topic.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda**The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy**

(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa), rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that if used properly, ICT would change the way parliamentarians learned, worked and communicated with society and would promote the sharing of information and facilitate the participation of poor and marginalized populations, thereby changing their lives for the better. Following an exchange of views in the Standing Committee, a drafting committee had been established, comprising representatives of Australia, Gabon, Ireland, Mexico, Switzerland, Uganda and Uruguay, and chaired by Ms. U. Stephens of Australia. Proposed amendments that went beyond the scope of the topic or the jurisdiction of the IPU and parliaments had been rejected. The Standing Committee had approved the draft resolution by consensus with one additional amendment proposed by Cuba. During the discussions, Members had emphasized that the media and social media should not replace face-to-face contact with constituents.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 7 of the agenda**Approval of the subject items for the 130th Assembly and the appointment of the Rapporteurs**

The PRESIDENT said that the three Standing Committees had met and endorsed the items and Rapporteurs for the 130th Assembly, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The proposed subject items for the 130th Assembly Agenda were approved, together with a list of Rapporteurs.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) expressed reservations on the procedure used to decide on the subject items to be discussed by the First Standing Committee and that followed by the Bureau of that Committee. The members of the Bureau had worked outside their scope and acted in an executive role, which ran counter to democratic values. He assumed that there were rules governing the working of the Bureaux but his delegation had been unable to find them. There had been a lack of clarity in the procedures and the IPU had failed to provide information stating that the Bureau had the right to decide on subject items on behalf of the Committee, or that the Committees had empowered the Bureaux to do so, whereby proposals were not to be submitted to the Committee during the session. In addition, there was a lack of consistency between the methods used by the three Standing Committees. For example, in the Third Standing Committee, the Bureau had chosen two proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee, but in the actual meeting, the New Zealand proposal had also been presented as they had felt very strongly about the matter. He was not opposed to that idea, but the same opportunity should be allowed in all Standing Committees. He called on the IPU to review the Rules of the Standing Committees so as to ensure transparency, consistency and clarity across all areas and present its work to the Executive Committee at the 129th IPU Assembly.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained that the IPU was in the process of reviewing the Rules of the Standing Committees in order to address that issue and give greater clarity to the role of the Bureaux and the decision-making process. He hoped that the changes would be adopted at the 129th Assembly.

Mr. P. BIERI (Switzerland) echoed the concerns raised by the delegate of United Arab Emirates with regard to the proceedings in the First Standing Committee; it seemed that decisions were not being taken in a democratic fashion.

Item 3 of the Agenda

General Debate on the overall theme of From unrelenting growth to purposeful development “buen vivir”: New approaches, new solutions

The PRESIDENT observed that there had been a high level of engagement in the General Debate, which had resulted in the Quito Communiqué. He drew attention to the main points of the text, contained in document A/128/3-DR, and took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the Quito Communiqué.

The Quito Communiqué was adopted.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT stated that the Assembly had concluded its formal business.

Mr. I. BOUTKHIL (Algeria), on behalf of the African Group, thanked the President and people of Ecuador for their excellent hospitality. Members of the African Group had actively participated in the debates and committees, including the General Debate. The conclusions reached by the Assembly and its Standing Committees on issues such as the humanitarian crisis in Syria and fair trade, sustainable development and democracy would be useful tools to enable parliamentary action at the national and international levels.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain), on behalf of the Arab Group, expressed sincere appreciation to Ecuador for its hospitality and for hosting the meeting. During the meeting, a number of important subjects had been covered, such as political, cultural and environmental aspects. Parliaments had an important role to play in all those areas.

Ms. T. UKISHIMA (Japan), on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, welcomed the broad range of topics that had been discussed during the meeting and the hospitality of the host country. She informed the Assembly that during the current session, the Asia-Pacific Group had held a meeting in which they heard reports on a number of issues, including a presentation by Mr. Chowdhury of Bangladesh on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the context of sustainable development; that was followed by an active exchange of views. The Asia-Pacific Group would endeavour to provide more space for discussion and help to find ways to address major challenges.

Mrs. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation), on behalf of the Eurasia Group, expressing appreciation for the hospitality of Ecuador and its people, said that the issues discussed during the session had no limits and promoted the interests of citizens. The IPU was the oldest inter-parliamentary organization in the world and should influence the development of approaches based on human values. She welcomed the adoption of the Presidential Statement condemning sexual violence and expressed appreciation for the work of the President of the Assembly and the efforts of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. She suggested that the IPU propose that the United Nations proclaim 2014 as the year of combating violence in all its forms. She urged parliamentarians to work together on the issue as a concerted effort was needed to eliminate violence from society.

Mr. J. MORALES (Dominican Republic), on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked Ecuador for its warm welcome and expressed hope that the outcomes of the Assembly would benefit all citizens around the world and that “buen vivir” would become a reality. In addition, he welcomed the fruitful discussions held at the meeting.

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France), on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, thanked Ecuador and the IPU for organizing the 128th Assembly. He expressed support for the second phase of implementation of the IPU Strategy, which introduced new ways of working for the Standing Committees and reforms that would enable the IPU to move forward and focus on discussions and debate on topical issues that affected society. The General Debate had presented an opportunity to discuss the meaning of “buen vivir” to different societies and cultures. During the debate, national approaches had been described and the general atmosphere had been one of tolerance. However, that spirit had not been extended to the final meeting of the First Standing Committee, where the tone of the debate had not been as positive. Although discussion of the draft resolution in plenary had enabled members to share a wide range of opinions, it had also made it difficult to draw up a clear and coherent text. He welcomed the effort of the head of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, who had taken steps to bring together the heads of all geopolitical groups to enable a frank discussion and greater cooperation and hoped that such initiatives would continue in future. Lastly, he added that the Twelve Plus Group had voted to admit Ukraine as a new member.

The PRESIDENT OF THE IPU commented that the discussions held during the 128th IPU Assembly had been fruitful and of an extremely high quality. The Assembly had brought together a large number of participants from around the world, including a record number of women, and had enabled the IPU to lay the foundations for young parliamentarians to play a more official role within the Organization. He congratulated the Members and the

various committees for their excellent work, in particular the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law. The General Debate had given rise to the Quito Communiqué, which would be an essential reference point for future discussion on sustainable development and well-being, and strong resolutions had been adopted following the deliberations of the Assembly and the Standing Committees. The concept of “buen vivir” was an inspiration for all countries and was a vital element of the Quito Communiqué. He thanked all representatives for their contributions and participation and expressed appreciation for the work of the President of the Assembly, the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, the interpreters and those working behind the scenes, who had helped to ensure a successful Assembly.

The PRESIDENT expressed appreciation for the kind comments made about his country and extended his thanks to the IPU Secretariat, interpreters and other officials who had worked to make the Assembly a success.

The Assembly was closed at 1.30 pm.

**ENFORCING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT
IN SAFEGUARDING CIVILIANS' LIVES****Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)**

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Acknowledging that, following several global initiatives, the responsibility to protect was recognized at the 2005 World Summit as a necessary and important principle to prevent, and protect populations from, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Recalling that this principle was established with a view to preventing genocides such as those that occurred in Srebrenica and Rwanda,

Also recalling that the UN Security Council considers that the international crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity constitute threats to international peace and security and that the principle of the responsibility to protect was reaffirmed in its resolution 1674 (2006), which addressed the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict,

Stressing that any decision related to the application of the responsibility to protect must be taken in a timely and decisive manner, through the UN Security Council, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and that any such action must be accompanied by the provision of adequate means to protect civilians, by giving priority to peaceful means,

Underscoring the special plight of women and children in situations of armed conflict,

Recalling that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute crimes against humanity under the provisions of UN Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security (1325, 1888 and 1960) and, in particular, resolution 1820, which recognizes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide,

Mindful of the fact that the responsibility to protect is based on three pillars: the permanent responsibility of each individual State to protect its population, whether nationals or not, from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means; the international community's commitment to assist and help to build the capacity of States to

* The delegation of Cuba expressed a reservation on the entire resolution.
The delegation of Peru expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 10, considering that "any mention of the International Criminal Court (ICC) or the Rome Statute must not be prejudicial to other international jurisdictions recognized by the State in question, in particular regional jurisdictions".
The delegations of Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations on the ninth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 10 and 11.

fulfil this obligation; and its commitment to take collective action in a timely and decisive manner when national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Underscoring the importance of combating impunity in the case of perpetrators and instigators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community and recognizing the contribution in this field of the International Criminal Court (ICC); also underscoring the need to raise awareness of the role played by the ICC, to encourage reporting of and filing of complaints against the perpetrators of such crimes with the appropriate national authorities and the ICC, and to enhance the capacity of national authorities to respond to complaints, pursue justice, and cooperate and coordinate with the ICC, while recognizing the important contribution of those involved in providing the necessary evidence and sufficient information to the ICC,

Recalling that paragraph 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document states that “the international community, through the United Nations, also has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity”; expressing its willingness in this context to take collective action, in a timely and decisive manner, through the UN Security Council, in accordance with the Charter, including Chapter VII, on a case-by-case basis and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations as appropriate, should peaceful means be inadequate and national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; stressing the need for the UN General Assembly to pursue its consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law; and undertaking, as necessary and appropriate, to help States build their capacity to protect their populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and to assist those in distress before crises and conflicts break out,

Aware of the concerns raised regarding the possibility of selective enforcement of the responsibility to protect and underscoring that the need to protect should not be seen as providing a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of a State on the basis of political and other extraneous considerations,

Reaffirming that the UN Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security and noting the role of the UN General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter,

Underscoring that prevention is a core aspect of the responsibility to protect and stressing the importance of education, the role of the media and the need to address the root causes of armed conflict,

Recognizing that, before any military intervention is authorized by the UN Security Council, it should give due consideration to all other avenues for action under Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and mindful that the responsibility to protect should be invoked only in order to prevent, or to protect populations from, genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Reaffirming the principle of the sovereign equality of all States, enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, and underscoring that the responsibility to protect is premised both on State sovereignty and on the State’s pre-existing and permanent legal obligations,

Convinced that parliaments around the world should consider ways and means to apply and implement the responsibility to protect in a timely, consistent and effective manner in order to avoid a situation where the international community is deadlocked over whether and how to act to prevent or to stop the massacre of civilians, having particular regard to UN Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security and on children and armed conflict,

Recalling that the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) adopted a resolution by consensus calling for the immediate cessation of violence and human rights violations and abuses in the Syrian Arab Republic and for support for the efforts of international and regional organizations to bring about a peaceful end to the crisis, and urging the United Nations and the League of Arab States to redouble their efforts to help bring an end to armed violence in the country and address the current humanitarian crisis, and to work urgently to address all aspects related to the problem of displaced Syrians on the border with neighbouring countries,

Convinced that parliaments should be more involved in applying the responsibility to protect and, in particular, that their role in safeguarding the lives and security of their populations entails thorough consideration and action to prevent or stop genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity,

Also convinced that mutual support between parliament, government, civil society and the judiciary may effectively help to enhance human rights protection,

Aware that restoring or maintaining peace in regions subjected to insecurity and violence requires considerable financial resources,

Convinced of the broader need for State authorities and parliaments to address the root causes of armed conflict and mass atrocities, by practising good governance and ensuring accountable public institutions, promoting and protecting human rights for all, guaranteeing the rule of law and fair, equal and impartial access to justice, professional and democratically accountable security services, inclusive economic growth and respect for diversity,

Underscoring the responsibility of the United Nations in ensuring respect for the rights of refugees in accordance with the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees,

Also underscoring that the role of parliament in the application of the responsibility to protect should be based on respect for the different legislative and executive roles and that oversight of the executive should be in line with democratic principles, in particular the protection and promotion of human rights, while noting that parliaments have their own tools and committees for addressing issues related to the responsibility to protect,

1. Invites parliaments and parliamentarians to use all the public education and awareness-raising tools at their disposal to help prevent and put an end to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, paying particular attention to the plight of women and children, and to address issues related to the root causes of armed conflict;
2. Calls on parliamentarians to use all the tools at their disposal, including social media, to denounce acts of violence against women and children and fight impunity;
3. Urges parliaments to ensure that their governments protect populations, whether or not the nationals of their countries, from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and also urges parliaments and governments to assist and

- build the capacity of States to prevent the commission of genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity and protect their populations, whether or not their own, from them and, where necessary, to engage in timely and decisive action, in accordance with the UN Charter, to prevent or put an end to such crimes;
4. Calls on parliaments to step up their oversight of government action to combat terrorism and implement UN Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which call on States to refrain from financing terrorists, facilitating their movement and aiding terrorism;
 5. Also calls on parliaments to adopt laws and policies to protect women and children, to prevent and criminalize sexual violence and to provide redress for victims in times of peace and conflict;
 6. Encourages parliaments to become acquainted with their States' obligations under international treaties and resolutions, to monitor the executive's submission of country reports as required by the relevant treaty bodies, particularly those relating to human rights, to become more involved with regional and international human rights mechanisms and to ensure that all United Nations doctrines and resolutions regarding the responsibility to protect are fully applied and respected by every country;
 7. Calls on parliaments where necessary to ensure that all international treaties to which their country is party are incorporated in domestic law, giving priority to treaties dealing with human rights and the protection of civilians, especially those applicable to the rights and protection of women and children during and after armed conflicts and other crises;
 8. Urges all parliaments to adopt measures to respect the rights of civilians caught up in armed conflicts, ensure adequate and effective judicial remedies, including efficient investigation and prosecution, treat women and child victims with dignity, and guarantee reparation to victims;
 9. Encourages parliaments to adopt programmes to help child soldiers resume a normal life;
 10. Calls on parliaments to take all the necessary measures to bring their countries' criminal and military law into line with international norms on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to ensure that the perpetrators of the most serious crimes are held to account for their acts before a national court or, where a State is unwilling or genuinely unable to take action, before the International Criminal Court, in the case of a State Party to the Rome Statute;
 11. Urges parliamentarians to use their international network to promote the universal ratification of the Rome Statute, which recognizes the competence of the International Criminal Court with regard to crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; requests parliaments to ensure that their governments sign the Rome Statute; and calls on all parliaments that have not already done so to ratify it;
 12. Also urges parliaments to promote debate on an arms trade treaty in order to put an end to the transfer of weapons in cases where there is a high risk that such weapons will be used to commit or facilitate violations of human rights or international humanitarian law or to hinder the fight against poverty;

13. Calls on all parliaments that have not yet done so to establish committees to oversee international relations and provide such committees with sufficient financial and human resources and adequate time on the parliamentary agenda to conduct their work;
14. Encourages parliaments to ensure that the protection of human rights, including those of women and children, members of minorities and indigenous peoples, is guaranteed in domestic law and implemented in practice;
15. Urges parliaments and governments to guarantee the human rights of women and further enhance their role in peace and security initiatives, honour existing international commitments to protect women's rights and incorporate women's leadership in decision-making for preventing and putting an end to mass atrocity crimes;
16. Stresses that, with regard to the responsibility to protect, parliaments should pay special attention to the human rights of women and children in crisis areas, as they often suffer the most and their misery is overlooked, with far-reaching human, social and economic consequences;
17. Calls on parliaments to encourage their governments to support the creation and effective functioning of early warning systems and decision-making and response mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels, in order to respond faster and more effectively to situations of armed conflict and internal disturbances and tensions;
18. Invites parliaments to actively bring to the attention of their governments situations of risk for civilian populations by ensuring that their governments discharge their responsibility of follow-up and prevention;
19. Calls for efforts to promote the media's role in documenting, preventing, and raising awareness about the commission of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity by guaranteeing freedom of expression; ensuring that freedom of the media is protected by the national constitution and law; demanding that all parties abide by their international obligations related to the protection and safety of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel; encouraging accurate journalism that respects the human rights of all populations; speaking out against expressions of hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence; and, where appropriate, legislating against such expressions;
20. Calls on parliaments to act resolutely upon the requests of their governments to provide sustainable assistance for the restoration of peace in post-conflict situations that give rise to mass atrocities and require such assistance, and to allocate the necessary funds to assist with the reconstruction of countries emerging from crises or conflicts and contribute to the UN peacebuilding fund as appropriate;
21. Requests parliaments to include funds in State budgets for the organization of operations to protect populations from violence and ensure their safety;
22. Calls on parliaments to ensure implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325, including by facilitating the participation of women in peace processes and negotiations, ensuring that women make up at least one third of negotiating teams, are well represented in defence and security forces and are properly trained as peacemakers and peacebuilders;

23. Urges the IPU to facilitate an exchange of good practices in the areas of parliamentary oversight of the enforcement of the responsibility to protect and parliamentary involvement in the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict and in the protection of populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity;
24. Also urges parliaments to be attentive to and scrutinize the reports of human rights organizations and the way in which governments ensure the protection of human rights;
25. Calls on parliaments to promote good governance based on the positive correlation between good governance and the advancement of peace and security;
26. Also calls on parliaments to monitor closely UN Security Council proceedings, request their governments to make the case at the Security Council for the need to act responsibly when resorting to coercive measures and ensure that once adopted resolutions are enforced in their entirety and in a transparent manner;
27. Further calls on parliaments to ensure that humanitarian agencies mainstream gender throughout their programmes and give women priority in emergency situations;
28. Urges all parliaments to defend and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy throughout the world;
29. Encourages parliaments to work together with civil society on issues of peace and security in order to better guarantee and improve protection of the human rights of citizens;
30. Calls on governments and parliaments to assume responsibility for protecting the rights of refugees and their right to international protection, and also calls on parliaments and governments to fulfil their obligations to protect refugees and asylum-seekers.

**FAIR TRADE AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING MECHANISMS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT****Resolution adopted unanimously by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)**

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Stating that fair trade serves two objectives, namely: it provides real opportunities for the development of small-scale producers and workers in developing countries; and it has a positive impact on the global trading system and private companies, encouraging them to become more justice-oriented, socially inclusive and supportive of sustainable development; all of this must be done in compliance with the standards and policies of the International Labour Organization (ILO),

Aware that fair trade has a positive impact on the income of producers and workers, in particular women, in developing countries as well as on employment in developed countries and on sustainable development,

Recalling the Partnership Agreement between the Members of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the European Community and its Member States, signed in Cotonou (Benin) on 23 June 2000 (Cotonou Agreement) and amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on 22 June 2010, in particular Article 23(i), which expresses support for the promotion of fair trade and notes that the realization of fair trade objectives is linked to sustainable development requirements and needs, and emphasizing respect for fair trade principles, particularly in the context of dialogue, transparency, respect and equality in international trade,

Also recalling the São Paulo Consensus, adopted at the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in São Paulo (Brazil) from 13 to 18 June 2004 and the decisions taken at the Rio+ 20 Summit held in Brazil in June 2012, set forth in the document *The Future We Want*, which noted that, given the social and human dimension of globalization, "development strategies have to be formulated with a view to promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all and to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions",

Noting that the European Union is currently the largest market for fair trade products, accounting for between 60 and 70 per cent of global sales,

Considering that fair trade should be based on the principles of sustainability, equity, transparency and gender equality in order to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor,

Mindful of the need to have innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development as a way of eradicating poverty, ensuring primary education for all, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and combating major pandemics,

Also mindful of the need for strong and independent judicial systems to dispense justice in a swift and effective manner as a way of ensuring sustainable development,

Aware of the need to address and combat climate change and global warming, which should be seen as the result of human activity, and of the need to increase public and private investment and international cooperation for enhancing food security in the face of climate change threats, and considering in this regard that the responsibilities and obligations of all countries at all times must be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility,

Also aware of the need for international laws governing international trade to ensure a level playing field between and among developed and developing countries,

Further aware of the need to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as a way of accelerating sustainable development,

Recalling previous IPU resolutions, in particular those adopted by the 104th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Jakarta, 2000) on "Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty" and 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",

Also recalling the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, December 2011), which pledged to "...further develop innovative financial mechanisms to mobilize private finance for shared development goals",

Referring to the ground-breaking work of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development,

Also referring to the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference, which states: "We consider that innovative financing mechanisms can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries to mobilize additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis. Such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing. While recognizing the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, we call for a scaling-up of present initiatives, where appropriate",

Confirming that developed countries' fulfilment and respect of their financing commitments and the principles of aid effectiveness are, for the time being, insufficient to achieve the MDGs and other development goals,

Underscoring that, given the magnitude of financing requirements for sustainable development, financial resources need to be raised from the full range of private, public and mixed sources, and through multiple channels and instruments, while taking measures to prevent the deviation of these resources to illicit activities,

Observing that a number of key sectors of the global economy are currently not taxed in some countries despite the negative externalities they generate,

Welcoming the significant upsurge of private philanthropic funds invested in sustainable development projects, which must not absolve States of their responsibility towards their inhabitants,

Considering the growing importance of remittances as a source of financing for the development of poor or middle-income countries, and concerned by the often exorbitant cost of sending them,

Underscoring that climate change will affect developing countries in particular and that funding measures to prevent and mitigate its effects and reduce energy poverty will contribute to achieving the MDGs,

Taking into account the role and work of the World Trade Organization (WTO),

1. Calls on parliaments to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trade initiatives that contribute to raising social and environmental standards as tools for achieving the MDGs and the implementation of a post-2015 development agenda; calls on the European Union to continue to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trading initiatives, and to implement Article 23 (i) of the Cotonou Agreement;
2. Also calls on all governments to continue to promote and support fair trade and to include fair trade as an integral component of the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be part of the post-2015 development agenda;
3. Further calls on the European Union to continue to promote and support fair trade and other independently monitored trading initiatives, and to implement Article 23 (i) of the Cotonou Agreement;
4. Invites developed countries to provide financial resources to developing countries through their development cooperation mechanisms for developing new fair trade products and ensure that consumers have access to all the information they need to make the right choices;
5. Calls for fair trade to respect fair trade standards, as certified by Fair Trade International, which include inter alia clear minimum and progressive criteria to ensure that the conditions of production and trade of all fair trade-certified products are socially and economically fair and environmentally responsible, paying particular attention to ILO standards;
6. Also calls for supporting partnerships for development between governments, local authorities, businesses and citizens, such as Fair Trade, which ensure market access for disadvantaged producers, guarantee sustainable livelihoods and encourage environmentally sustainable farming and production practices;
7. Requests that fair trade certification processes be put in place under the authority of the State and in the framework of regional organizations competent in the area of trade and the WTO;
8. Urges parliaments and governments to explore the potential of innovative sources of financing required to meet development needs and to identify possible instruments and allocation mechanisms;
9. Encourages parliaments and governments to explore the national, regional and/or international potential of the following innovative financing sources:
 - a financial transaction tax, in a variety of forms;
 - taxation of carbon emissions, in a variety of forms;
 - taxation of globalized activities, such as aviation and maritime activities;
 - public-private partnerships to fight major diseases, such as the GAVI Alliance and Rotary International's successful campaign to eradicate malaria; and
 - the use of guarantees and insurance to stimulate private financing for development, such as Advanced Market Commitments;

10. Urges parliaments to play an active role both through legislation and regulatory action to reduce taxes and fees on fair trade products;
11. Appeals to parliaments and governments to better take into account remittances when defining their development strategies and financing thereof and stresses that labour-recipient countries should not impose any undue restrictions on the money transfers of these workers to their home countries but should, on the contrary, reduce the costs given that these are a basic source of hard currency in such countries;
12. Underscores that these innovative financial flows should not place additional burdens on developing countries, that they should supplement existing official development assistance flows without reducing them, and should be compatible with a post-2015-development-agenda-centred development strategy, while being as far as possible predictable and sustainable;
13. Also underscores that transparency and public scrutiny of innovative financing mechanisms are a sine qua non for their introduction and suggests conducting case studies of existing programmes with a view to providing guidance; appeals for the harmonization of fragmented monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reduce transaction costs and facilitate independent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms so as to assess the delivery of innovative financing and its impact on development outcomes;
14. Cautions against setting up complicated structures for innovative financing that could impede transparent allocations of their proceeds to development projects, facilitate public scrutiny thereof and guarantee an effective evaluation of their contribution to development goals;
15. Appeals for consideration to be given to allocating the proceeds of innovative financing mechanisms through globally or regionally inclusive institutions;
16. Advocates for the coordination of relevant NGO activities and better use of existing programmes and experience;
17. Urges parliaments and governments of both developed and developing countries to promote international cooperation in the fight against tax evasion and step up efforts in the area of taxation, mainly in terms of tax collection and measures to combat tax evasion and unlawful capital flows to tax heavens, efforts which are crucial to achieving a sound fiscal policy and increasing domestic revenue, in particular through the recognition and protection of property rights, especially for women, land registry systems and improving the business and investment climate in developing countries;
18. Calls for the strengthening and wider implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as a means to improve revenue transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors, and invites parliaments to support and monitor EITI processes in their respective countries;
19. Invites the governments of developed countries to scale up their assistance in the area of strengthening tax authorities, the judiciary and anti-corruption agencies in developing countries;
20. Also invites the governments of developed countries to combat active corruption committed in developing countries by companies domiciled in their jurisdictions;

21. Urges developing and developed countries to scale up their efforts to combat corruption by putting in place effective and impartial judicial systems so as to increase the efficiency of public spending and investments;
22. Calls on governments and NGOs to work towards meeting the commitments under the Copenhagen Accord and other international accords dealing with climate change;
23. Encourages parliaments and governments to explore in depth the possibility of establishing innovative financing mechanisms to assist developing countries in combating climate change;
24. Calls on all governments, particularly in developing countries, to work towards the achievement of sustainable development by improving the level of education of their citizens and empowering women, children and other disadvantaged groups, and encourages parliaments and governments to explore in depth the possibility of establishing innovative financing mechanisms for education;
25. Also calls for the holding of an international parliamentary conference on fair trade to discuss ways of achieving fair trade and the role of parliaments therein;
26. Invites those States which have not yet done so to join the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development set up in 2006 and to participate in all existing financing mechanisms for sustainable development;
27. Calls on parliamentarians and the IPU to play a pivotal role in advocating for fair trade as a means of ensuring sustainable development.

THE USE OF MEDIA, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA, TO ENHANCE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 27 March 2013)

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering that dialogue between citizens and parliamentarians has the potential to foster greater respect for democracy and democratic institutions, thus countering declining voter participation and promoting greater accountability,

Taking note of the fact that traditional media, in particular those that respect professional standards of editorial independence, plurality and quality of information, continue to be a main source of information on parliament for much of the world's population,

Mindful of the fact that traditional media are facing challenges in responding to rapid technological and financial changes, which may affect their ability to provide information, including information about parliament, and noting that independent, pluralistic and quality media are fundamental for democratic processes,

Aware that increasing numbers of citizens and parliamentarians are using social media globally,

Cognizant of the possibilities offered by social media services for promoting the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms while underscoring that these same rights and freedoms, in particular the right to privacy and human dignity, may also be threatened on social networks,

Considering the potential of social media to facilitate greater citizen engagement through interaction between parliamentarians and citizens,

Bearing in mind that media, including social media, may also enhance citizen engagement by allowing people to create networks, motivate each other, engage in monitoring activities and contribute to the decision-making process,

Underscoring that parliamentary work should be explained to citizens in a comprehensible and attractive manner,

Affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of women in the democratic process,

Also affirming the need to enhance youth participation and inclusion in the democratic process,

Further affirming the need to enhance the participation and inclusion of senior citizens in the democratic process, while enhancing their knowledge and use of social media,

Underscoring the potential of social media and recent information technology to enhance parliamentarians' engagement with youth and to raise awareness of the problems, needs and aspirations of youth,

Aware of the need to promote security in a digital society, particularly with regard to traditionally unprotected groups of people, such as the elderly or children and persons with a physical, mental and/or sensory disability,

Aiming to ensure that citizen engagement efforts do not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, socio-economic status, place of residence, disability, religious belief, ethnicity or political affiliation,

Convinced of the need to overcome digital divides, particularly in developing countries, which result when some social groups and regions do not have the same access to ICT as others,

Considering that the digital divide may impede citizens' access to information provided through social media, hence the importance of guaranteeing all citizens access to information technologies as well as using traditional media to keep the public informed,

Also considering that citizens' ability to engage with parliamentarians depends partly on access to technology as well as their knowledge of parliament and parliamentary procedure,

Bearing in mind the irreplaceable nature of personal contact in the field for elected politicians,

Noting that there are difficulties in using social media to build a consensus by gathering various opinions in a balanced manner although they function well in disseminating a certain political opinion,

Underscoring the fact that fostering media and Internet literacy with regard to both traditional and new social media is an essential prerequisite for enhancing youth participation and inclusion in the political process,

Concerned that social media may also be used to send hate messages, sometimes anonymously, and allow people with malicious intentions to organize and mobilize others, which may undermine democracy and peace,

Underlining the importance of respecting laws regarding defamation and libel, with particular legislative efforts aimed at avoiding incitement to hatred,

Aware of the need to use social media responsibly, not only fully respecting prevailing legislation, but also the confidentiality, privacy and integrity aspects of the information dealt with,

Convinced of the very important role that media and press regulatory bodies can play in protecting human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the right to privacy,

Also convinced of the role that media and parliamentary press bodies can play in scaling up communication between parliament and the public,

Aware of the significant challenges that would be encountered in developing a universally enforceable code of conduct for social media users,

Encouraged that the IPU and the ASGP are working on social media guidelines for parliaments,

Convinced that parliamentarians need to share information about the potential of social media to enhance citizen engagement and representative democracy, its risks, and the technical requirements needed to realize its potential,

Mindful of the watchdog role of journalists in the political system and the need for journalists to be accountable to the public while following the codes of ethics of journalism,

Aware that journalists no longer have the monopoly on information dissemination, as users of social media generate content and information themselves,

Convinced that corruption represents a serious threat to the rule of law, democracy, human rights, equity and social justice,

Affirming that the right to freedom of expression should also be protected online, and bearing in mind that the enjoyment of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Underscoring Article 20, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, according to which "Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law",

Recalling United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 20/8 of 29 June 2012 on "The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet",

1. Recommends that parliaments develop strategies and guidelines for enhancing citizen engagement in the democratic process through the use of media, including social media;
2. Calls on the IPU to collect and make publicly available the guidelines developed by its Member Parliaments, and to develop best practices in the use of social media to enhance citizen engagement;
3. Encourages parliaments to include in those guidelines additional provisions that address the need for mutual respect among parliamentarians and between parliamentarians and the public when interacting through the media, including social media;
4. Calls on parliaments to disseminate through the media, including social media, information on parliamentary business, debates and procedures with the aim of familiarizing citizens with them and making them more comprehensible, attractive and dynamic;
5. Encourages parliaments to use media, including social media, as part of a platform to interact with citizens, while ensuring that any social media engagement would not replace offline engagement, including through traditional media;
6. Urges parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure that their citizen engagement efforts are accessible to all regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, place of residence, disability, religious belief, ethnicity or political affiliation;
7. Encourages parliaments to provide parliamentarians with the necessary information technology resources, assistance, training, equipment, technical support, access and any other forms of assistance to effectively use the media, including social media, as a way of engaging with citizens;
8. Urges parliaments to take effective measures aimed at narrowing the digital divide, especially for developing countries where the majority of the population still does not have access to information technology resources;

9. Calls on all stakeholders to foster Internet and media literacy for all citizens, in particular children and young people, for example by developing and offering special educational and training programmes;
10. Urges parliaments and parliamentarians to respect the rights to freedom of expression, information and assembly, both online and offline;
11. Underscores that a free, open and accessible Internet is both a fundamental human right and a tool for citizens to enhance engagement and democracy, and also underscores that parliamentarians must assume responsibility for ensuring that citizens have access to free and secure communications online;
12. Emphasizes that any regulation of the media must be consistent with international human rights obligations in relation to the right to freedom of expression;
13. Calls on all social media users to respect their country's laws regarding defamation and libel in accordance with international human rights law;
14. Also calls on all social media users to refrain from hate speech or incitement to violence in accordance with international human rights law;
15. Further calls on parliaments to actively support and protect journalists and social media users, including bloggers, and defenders of the freedom of speech around the world;
16. Urges parliaments and parliamentarians to protect the right to freedom of expression and speech so as to facilitate journalists' watchdog role through traditional media and social media while respecting ethical codes, thereby enhancing democracy;
17. Calls on parliaments to provide parliamentarians with information and assistance regarding legal and other issues pertaining to defamation, libel, the protection of privacy and confidentiality;
18. Invites parliaments to put in place, where necessary, regulations and procedures guaranteeing the rights of all persons using new ICT in a representative and participatory democracy;
19. Calls on parliamentarians not only to use new technologies safely, but also to promote such use by third parties and instil a culture of security in the use of social media;
20. Urges parliamentarians to work towards achieving a safer digital society, particularly with regard to the use of social networks;
21. Encourages the incorporation of social media and technologies into laws and regulations governing access to public information;
22. Also encourages parliaments and governments to adopt measures aimed at protecting press freedom, enhancing its transparency, strengthening its capacities and making it more democratic;
23. Urges parliamentarians, especially women parliamentarians, to use social media to support each other and interact with communities to enhance women's participation and inclusion in democratic processes;

24. Also urges parliamentarians to use social media to increase their engagement with youth and raise awareness of youth problems, needs and aspirations;
25. Invites parliaments to conduct a study of media coverage of parliament in their countries so as to gauge the importance of each type of media and each medium;
26. Urges the governments of countries that do not already have one to put in place an independent watchdog body to monitor the proper functioning of the freedom of expression and communication of the media and to prevent abuses and human rights violations that might result from the activity of communications professionals;
27. Encourages parliaments to diversify their means of communication by creating their own media bodies and by facilitating public access thereto;
28. Also encourages parliaments and parliamentarians to establish and respect codes of ethics for communications and to recognize the need for discussions and mutual agreements on how political or other debates should be conducted.

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING THE SECURITY AND
HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE CRISIS IN SYRIA AND IN BRINGING
PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME
THEIR INTERNATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY
TOWARDS SYRIAN REFUGEES AND TO SUPPORT THE
NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE THEM**

**Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)**

The 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolution on "Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts" adopted by consensus by the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012),

Stressing the importance of respecting the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria, the principles of the UN Charter, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the objectives of the IPU as set forth in Article 1 of its Statutes,

Expressing its deep concern over the situation in Syria and its impact on civilians in general and on women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities in particular,

Considering the psychological trauma from which Syrian refugees are suffering, in particular after losing many of their family members and property,

Conscious of the growing need to take in refugees in neighbouring countries, both in refugee camps and elsewhere, which entails higher costs,

Cognizant of the increasing economic, security, social, health and educational pressures on recipient countries, the majority of which already have scarce resources,

Recalling the pledge made by donor countries at their most recent conference in Kuwait to provide support in the amount of US\$ 1.5 billion to the relief agencies involved in assisting Syrian refugees in the region; and noting that the amount actually received does not exceed US\$ 200 million according to a statement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note of the significant difference between the international assistance that should be provided in the light of the burden borne by recipient countries and the funds actually received,

* Reservations with regard to the use of the word "security" in the title of the resolution were expressed by the delegations of Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay. In addition, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations on several parts of the resolution which it felt violated the sovereignty of Syria, and the delegation of Cuba expressed a reservation on the first preambular paragraph.

Acknowledging with deep appreciation the efforts of neighbouring countries, including Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, to keep their borders open and provide refuge for those fleeing the violence, despite the difficult organizational and security problems associated with this task,

1. Calls on all parliamentarians and IPU Member Parliaments to bring pressure to bear on their governments to provide whatever financial and material support they can to these refugees;
2. Urges the donor countries which met at the most recent conference in Kuwait to fulfil their obligation to provide financial support of US\$ 1.5 billion;
3. Calls on all countries to provide refugees in recipient countries with shelter and accommodation to protect them against the cold in winter and the heat in summer;
4. Appeals to relief agencies to provide sanitation facilities, all necessary medical care (consultation, hospital care, obstetric care and medical equipment) and sufficient quantities of foodstuffs for Syrian refugees, most of whom are women, children, elderly persons or persons with disabilities, and to try to provide schooling for the children in the camps;
5. Urges countries to provide financial support to recipient countries to ease the pressure on their financial resources, which are already scarce in many of them, including Jordan;
6. Calls on Syria's neighbours to ensure, with the support of relief agencies, that refugees on their territories are accommodated in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;
7. Also calls on the United Nations to assist recipient countries in preventing the cross-border circulation of weapons so as to guarantee the safety of refugees;
8. Expresses its concern that, given current circumstances surrounding the influx of refugees, some recipient countries may be forced to close their borders, which will further complicate the humanitarian situation in the region;
9. Urges all parties in Syria to put an end to all forms of violence immediately, fully and unconditionally; and calls on all relevant regional and international parties to find ways of helping Syria to reach a peaceful solution to its internal conflict, while safeguarding its territorial integrity and sovereignty, as well as the safety, security and human rights of its citizens.

QUITO COMMUNIQUE**Adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)**

On the occasion of the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, members of parliament came together for a discussion on the theme From unrelenting growth to purposeful development "Buen vivir": New approaches, new solutions. The theme was chosen as a contribution to the global reflection on the post-2015 development agenda and the future Sustainable Development Goals that will apply to both developed and developing countries. The following is a summary of the discussion held during the plenary debate of the Assembly, which the IPU is requested to share with the United Nations. IPU Members may also wish to submit this communiqué to their respective parliaments.

Sustainable development is now at a crossroads. In a finite world, the perennial cycle of increasing consumption and production that is at the heart of the current economic model is no longer sustainable. Growth alone is not the answer to the social, economic and environmental challenges of our time; in fact it is becoming part of the problem. A different approach that focuses on well-being in all its dimensions is required if we are to evolve as a global community able to fulfil core human values of peace, solidarity and harmony with nature.

While growth is a necessary condition for development, and indeed has helped countless generations climb out of poverty, more attention now needs to be paid to the nature of growth and to the distribution of its benefits. Strong growth does not necessarily lead to increased human development and happiness. Inversely, with the right social policy balance it is possible to improve overall well-being even at low levels of economic growth. Job creation and the possibility for people to earn a decent living must be central to policies that support growth and well-being. In developing countries, material growth is essential if we are to eradicate extreme poverty and provide everyone with the necessities of life. Here too, environmental and social sustainability must be part of economic policy from the very start. This will be particularly important in view of population growth and the resultant urban explosion.

Ultimately, well-being consists of human factors that do not necessarily depend on unrestrained material consumption and production. Education, health, culture, leisure time, the practice of religion, the enjoyment of all human rights, emotional fulfilment, as well as a sense of belonging to a community, are all dimensions of human happiness that can be advanced at little cost to the environment and with huge social dividends. Supporting more of these goods should be another focus of a new model of growth and development. While the private sector must continue to lead in job creation, more jobs will be needed in the social sector and in infrastructure development, which benefits communities and minimizes the impact on the environment. Youth unemployment in particular must be given priority.

For well-being policies to succeed, it is imperative that gender inequalities are eradicated so as to realize women's full potential as citizens and economic actors. Women, half of the global population, remain by far the most disadvantaged group in all spheres of life. In many countries, discriminatory laws and cultural norms deprive women of economic opportunities, with less access to credit and lower wages. In most countries, barriers still exist, preventing women from entering political office or corporate boardrooms. Violence against women remains pervasive and further underscores women's vulnerability in most of our societies.

The transition to well-being policies will not be easy and the course has yet to be fully charted. Bold experimentation will be required. Decision-makers must work to reduce the vast inequalities of conditions and opportunities that exist today both within and between countries. Incentives and regulation must be put in place for market forces to work towards well-being. As a number of countries at various levels of development have shown, it is possible today for all governments to adopt indicators to help better target economic, social and environmental policies for human welfare. Measuring national well-being beyond mere GDP will be critical in redefining growth, not only in terms of material production and consumption, but also in terms of social and environmental progress.

The green economy, with its reliance *inter alia* on technological efficiency and environmentally friendly products, points us in the right direction but only if it is part of a broader policy framework. This will require fiscal incentives and policies to shift the composition of growth towards less resource-intensive production and consumption. A revised growth model will also need to rely more on distributive policies to spread wealth and opportunity more evenly in order to make economies more viable and strengthen well-being. Indeed, nothing undermines well-being more than a feeling of exclusion and deprivation in contrast to the excessive wealth of others.

Well-being policies will need to strive for a better balance between private interests and the common good, between competition and cooperation, and between private and public investments to produce goods that all can enjoy and that the planet can afford to support. In short, the pursuit of well-being as the ultimate purpose of development, and of human progress, will require a new social contract premised on a vision of the planet and of people as assets to be nurtured. The guiding principle of “Buen vivir” should be paired with “Ubuntu”, the African dictum that the success of one depends on the success of the whole community.

To achieve this vision of development, greater global cooperation will be required. Developed countries bear a greater responsibility for global sustainable development and the eradication of extreme poverty. More pro-active efforts to place developed countries’ economies on a sustainable path will be needed. More efforts will also be required to facilitate green technology transfers to developing countries, including technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change and other environmental emergencies. Development cooperation must be increased and made more accountable to both donor and recipient countries. It should also aim more directly to support well-being.

Re-thinking the growth-centric economic model will also require a different kind of globalization: based more on solidarity and cooperation than on unfettered competition. The international economic, financial and trade architecture tends to reinforce the wrong growth model and remains tilted in favour of entrenched interests. There must be policies to reduce the excessive power, both economic and political, of transnational corporations and financial conglomerates. The increasing concentration of land ownership in a few hands undermines the livelihood of the rural poor. Since a more equitable land distribution leads to higher growth and improved human development, this problem needs to be addressed.

By definition, well-being policies require all citizens, and particularly vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and the poor, to participate in decision-making. Being able to participate in the decisions that affect our lives and the social and environmental context around us is in itself a key dimension of well-being. Inversely, well-being is also necessary for citizens to participate effectively in the management of public affairs. Participation and its attendants of transparency and accountability are in turn key pillars of democracy and of the way democracy applies to the functioning of government at all levels - global, national and local - and in response to citizens’ needs.

Participation, transparency and accountability constitute the core of democratic governance, which is an end in itself and an enabler of sustainable development. There can be no true prosperity without respect for the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Democratic governance should therefore be a stand-alone goal among the new Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a dimension of other goals that will be part of the future development framework. This is further supported by the results of a survey of hundreds of members carried out during the Assembly.

To help steer sustainable development on a new course, a rebalancing of the role of the market and that of government is called for. Effective ways to help reconcile market needs with social imperatives include the development of private-public partnerships, community-based enterprises and other forms of cooperative models. Government intervention to guarantee the rights of the very poor and to safeguard the natural resource base will also be needed. The interdependent challenges of sustainable development require a concerted approach that only governments can initiate and help implement.

To this end, it will be more important than ever for parliaments to assert their legitimate place in the decision-making process at the national and international levels. The institution of parliament is pivotal to the entire architecture of democratic governance and needs to be strengthened virtually everywhere in the world, with greater oversight capacities and legislative authority. More specifically, stronger parliaments will have to play a central role in the implementation of the future Sustainable Development Goals. This will include ensuring that development policies and plans are drawn up through participatory and inclusive processes, and with regular progress reports submitted to parliament for review.

This debate should continue in national parliaments as a way of engaging them in the global consultations foreseen in the Rio outcome document, aptly called *The Future We Want*.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**Endorsed by the 128th IPU Assembly
(Quito, 27 March 2013)**

On behalf of the members of parliament attending the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I express our deep concern at widespread acts of sexual violence against women and, in particular, rape in all its manifestations and contexts.

We strongly condemn sexual violence. It is one of the most frequent forms of violence inflicted upon women, be it in the public or private sphere. We call for urgent and effective action to guarantee women their right to physical and psychological integrity and a life free of fear and violence.

We express our outrage at these heinous acts of violence and join public calls for an end to impunity.

We urge all parliaments to scrutinize existing laws to ensure that these crimes are defined for what they are - a violation of an individual's physical integrity and sexual autonomy, committed by any person regardless of their relationship to the victims, in any setting. We must criminalize such acts of sexual violence, enhance prevention by tackling their root causes, toughen punishment of perpetrators and provide women with adequate protection.

Through our oversight function and political control, we must ensure the enforcement of laws and the allocation of appropriate resources. We will request our governments to report to us regularly on measures taken to raise public awareness. We will ask for statistical data so as to evaluate the incidence of acts of sexual violence and the effectiveness of measures in place.

We will also demand that our governments ensure that all those involved in law enforcement are adequately prepared, trained and held accountable. We must ensure that the response to rape and sexual violence is sensitive to women's needs and that the victims are not subject to punishment, abandonment or stigmatization.

We firmly declare that such acts are intolerable and commit ourselves to championing the cause of ending sexual violence against women.

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Morocco
for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

**"SHOULD THE DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE NOT BE
CONSIDERED AS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY? THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN:
1) PASSING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION OF WORLD
CULTURAL HERITAGE; AND 2) DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW PROVISIONS
THAT CRIMINALIZE SERIOUS ATTACKS ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY"**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes 516 Total of affirmative and negative votes . 819
Negative votes..... 303 Two-thirds majority 546
Abstentions..... 266

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			absent	Ethiopia	12	6		Palestine	11		
Algeria	15			Finland		12		Panama			absent
Andorra		10		France		17		Peru		14	
Angola	12			Gabon	11			Philippines			absent
Argentina	16			Germany		19		Poland		15	
Armenia	11			Ghana			absent	Portugal			13
Australia			14	Greece			absent	Qatar	8		
Austria		12		Guatemala	5		5	Republic of Korea	17		
Azerbaijan			absent	Guinea-Bissau			absent	Romania			absent
Bahrain			absent	Haiti			10	Russian Federation			20
Bangladesh			absent	Hungary			absent	Rwanda			absent
Belgium	6		6	Iceland			absent	San Marino		6	4
Benin	12			India			absent	Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Indonesia	22			Saudi Arabia	14		
Botswana	11			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Serbia	9		3
Brazil			absent	Ireland			11	Singapore			absent
Burkina Faso	13			Japan			20	South Africa			16
Burundi	12			Jordan		12		Spain			15
Cambodia	13			Kuwait	11			Sri Lanka			absent
Cameroon			absent	Lao People's Dem. Republic	12			Sudan	15		
Canada		15		Latvia			11	Suriname			absent
Chad	13			Lesotho	11			Sweden		12	
Chile			13	Lithuania			absent	Switzerland	6	6	
China	23			Maldives			absent	Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Colombia			absent	Mali		10		Thailand			18
Congo	11			Mexico		20		Timor-Leste			11
Costa Rica	11			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			absent	Togo			absent
Côte d'Ivoire	10			Mongolia			absent	Trinidad & Tobago	8		3
Croatia			absent	Morocco	15			Turkey			18
Cuba		13		Mozambique	13			Uganda	13		
Czech Republic		13		Namibia	11			Ukraine			absent
DR of the Congo			absent	Netherlands		13		United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark			absent	New Zealand			11	United Kingdom		18	
Djibouti			absent	Nicaragua			10	United Republic of Tanzania	5	10	
Dominican Rep.		12		Niger			absent	Uruguay	11		
Ecuador		13		Nigeria			absent	Viet Nam	9		9
Egypt	18			Norway		12		Zambia			13
El Salvador			12	Oman	11			Zimbabwe			absent
Equatorial Guinea	10										
Estonia			Absent								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Syrian Arab Republic for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled

"THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS"

Results

Affirmative votes	346	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	758
Negative votes.....	412	Two-thirds majority	505
Abstentions.....	327		

Country	Yes	No	Abst	Country	Yes	No	Abst	Country	Yes	No	Abst
Afghanistan			absent	Ethiopia	10	8		Palestine	11		
Algeria	15			Finland		12		Panama			absent
Andorra		10		France		17		Peru	14		
Angola	12			Gabon		11		Philippines			absent
Argentina			16	Germany		19		Poland		15	
Armenia	11			Ghana			absent	Portugal		13	
Australia		14		Greece			absent	Qatar			8
Austria		12		Guatemala	10			Republic of Korea	5		12
Azerbaijan			absent	Guinea-Bissau			absent	Romania			absent
Bahrain			absent	Haiti			10	Russian Federation	20		
Bangladesh			absent	Hungary			absent	Rwanda			absent
Belgium		12		Iceland			absent	San Marino		5	5
Benin		12		India			absent	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Indonesia			22	Saudi Arabia		14	
Botswana		11		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Serbia			12
Brazil			absent	Ireland		11		Singapore			absent
Burkina Faso			13	Japan			20	South Africa	16		
Burundi			12	Jordan			12	Spain		15	
Cambodia		13		Kuwait			11	Sri Lanka			absent
Cameroon			absent	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Sudan			15
Canada		15		Latvia			11	Suriname			absent
Chad			13	Lesotho				Sweden		12	
Chile			13	Lithuania	11			Switzerland		12	
China	23			Maldives			absent	Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Colombia			absent	Mali	10			Thailand	18		
Congo			11	Mexico	6	14		Timor-Leste		11	
Costa Rica			11	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			absent	Togo			absent
Côte d'Ivoire			10	Mongolia			absent	Trinidad & Tobago		11	
Croatia			absent	Morocco			15	Turkey		18	
Cuba	13			Mozambique				Uganda			13
Czech Republic		13		Namibia	11			Ukraine			absent
DR of the Congo			absent	Netherlands		13		United Arab Emirates			11
Denmark			absent	New Zealand		11		United Kingdom		18	
Djibouti			absent	Nicaragua	10			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Dominican Rep.	12			Niger			absent	Uruguay			11
Ecuador	13			Nigeria			absent	Viet Nam			18
Egypt		18		Norway		12		Zambia	13		
El Salvador	12			Oman	11			Zimbabwe			absent
Equatorial Guinea		10									
Estonia			absent								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Jordan
for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

**"THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING THE SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF
THE CRISIS IN SYRIA AND IN BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO
ASSUME THEIR INTERNATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS SYRIAN
REFUGEES AND TO SUPPORT THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVE THEM"**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes	672	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	821
Negative votes.....	149	Two-thirds majority	547
Abstentions.....	264		

Country	Yes	No	Abst	Country	Yes	No	Abst	Country	Yes	No	Abst
Afghanistan			absent	Ethiopia	13	5		Palestine	11		
Algeria	15			Finland	12			Panama			absent
Andorra	10			France	17			Peru		14	
Angola			12	Gabon		11		Philippines			absent
Argentina			16	Germany	19			Poland	15		
Armenia	11			Ghana			absent	Portugal	13		
Australia	14			Greece			absent	Qatar	8		
Austria	12			Guatemala	5		5	Republic of Korea	17		
Azerbaijan			absent	Guinea-Bissau			absent	Romania			absent
Bahrain			absent	Haiti			10	Russian Federation			20
Bangladesh			absent	Hungary			absent	Rwanda			absent
Belgium	12			Iceland			absent	San Marino	10		
Benin		12		India			absent	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Indonesia	22			Saudi Arabia	14		
Botswana	11			Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Serbia	12		
Brazil			absent	Ireland	11			Singapore			absent
Burkina Faso			13	Japan	20			South Africa			16
Burundi	12			Jordan	12			Spain	15		
Cambodia		13		Kuwait	11			Sri Lanka			absent
Cameroon			absent	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Sudan	15		
Canada	15			Latvia	11			Suriname			absent
Chad	13			Lesotho			11	Sweden	12		
Chile	13			Lithuania			absent	Switzerland	12		
China			23	Maldives			absent	Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Colombia			absent	Mali	10			Thailand			18
Congo	11			Mexico	20			Timor-Leste	11		
Costa Rica			11	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			absent	Togo			absent
Côte d'Ivoire	10			Mongolia			absent	Trinidad & Tobago	11		
Croatia			absent	Morocco			15	Turkey	18		
Cuba		13		Mozambique			13	Uganda	13		
Czech Republic	13			Namibia			11	Ukraine			absent
DR of the Congo			absent	Netherlands	13			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark			absent	New Zealand	11			United Kingdom	18		
Djibouti			absent	Nicaragua		10		United Republic of Tanzania	10	5	
Dominican Rep.		12		Niger			absent	Uruguay			11
Ecuador		13		Nigeria			absent	Viet Nam	6		12
Egypt	18			Norway	12			Zambia			13
El Salvador			12	Oman	11			Zimbabwe			absent
Equatorial Guinea		10									
Estonia			absent								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Mr./M. Fernando Cordero Cueva

President of the National Assembly of Ecuador
President of the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Assemblée nationale de l'Équateur
Président de la 128^{ème} Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Abdulwahad Radi

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Anders B. Johnsson

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS – MEMBRES**AFGHANISTAN**

AKBARY, Mohammad Noor (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Chairman of the International Affairs Commission / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires internationales
GAILANI, Sayed Ishaq (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
GUL AFGHAN, Rafiullah Gul (Mr./M.)	Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Elders Deuxième Vice-Président du Conseil des Anciens
AURTAQ, Hashim (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
ASASS, Mohammad Dawood (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Membre du Conseil des Anciens
NADIRI, Farkhunda Zahra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
GHUSI, Shahnaz (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Elders Membre du Conseil des Anciens
MAHDI, Muhaiuddin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
DARZABI, Abdul Satar (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
HASHIMI, Sayed Hafizullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Elders Secrétaire général du Conseil des Anciens
GHALIB, Rahimullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
AKIFI, Shah Sultan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Elders Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil des Anciens
AHMADZAI, Shirshah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Director, Relations with International Organizations and NGOs, House of Elders / Directeur des relations avec les organisations internationales et les ONG, Conseil des Anciens
HUSSAINI, Samiullah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives / Directeur des relations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

GOBBI, Adem (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the Council of the Nation Vice-Président du Conseil de la Nation
BOUCHOUAREB, Abdesselam (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National People's Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (RND)
BOUTKHIL, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation Membre du Conseil de la Nation (RND)
BENAROUS, Zahia (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the Council of the Nation Membre du Conseil de la Nation
ATEK MEFTALI, Yamina (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of the National People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN)

DJELLOUT, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN) ¹
AMRANI, Hafnaoui (Mr./M.) Former President of the ASGP Ex-Président de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Council of the Nation Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Nation
BENTARZI, Nabila (Miss/Mlle)	Administrative Adviser, Council of the Nation Administrateur Conseiller au Conseil de la Nation

ANDORRA – ANDORRE

MATEU, Vicenc (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	President of the General Council Président du Conseil général (DA)
GONZALEZ, Mariona (Ms./Mme)	Member of the General Council Membre du Conseil général (PS)
MATEU, Meritxell (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the General Council Membre du Conseil général (DA) ²
RODRÍGUEZ, Arantxa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS, Fernando (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
CERQUEIRA, Carolina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
MONTEIRO, Roberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
JÚNIOR, Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
MENDES, Francisco (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA) ³
MAGALHES, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Legal Advisor to the Speaker Conseiller juridique du Président
ESCÓRCIO, Rui Alberto (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol Directeur du protocole
DIAS, Manuel Francisco (Mr./M.) Private Physician to the Speaker Médecin particulier du Président	
SABALO CAMUATI, Trajano (Mr./M.) Head of Security to the Speaker Chef de la sécurité du Président	
DOS REIS E ALMEIDA, Pedro Bastos (Mr./M.)	Head, Protocol Division Chef de la Division du protocole
GARCIA, Santos (Mr./M.)	Head, Media Division Chef de la Division des médias
QUICOLO, Salvador José (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
TUSAMBA KINKELA NTEKA, Alice (Ms./Mme)	

¹ (FLN: National Liberation Front
(RND: National Democratic Rally

² (DA: Democrats for Andorra
(PS: Social Democratic Party

³ (MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola

/ Front de libération nationale)

/ Rassemblement national démocratique)

/ Démocrates pour Andorre)

/ Parti social-démocrate)

/ Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)

Interpreter / Interprète

BRITO, Domingas (Ms./Mme)	Head of Division / Chef de division
LAURINDO TORCADO, Flora Suzette (Ms./Mme)	Head of Services / Chef des services
DE JESUS BENEDITO CUSTÓDIO, Manuel (Mr./M.)	Head of Services / Chef des services
DOMINGOS, Dilizia Solange (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentary Staff / Secrétariat
DO C.N. CUNULJI, Estáquio (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
LUCAMBA, Matias Federico (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
DO ROSARIO NETO, Aires Assis (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

ARGENTINA – ARGENTINE

BOUDOU, Amado (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President of the Senate / Président du Sénat
FILMUS, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Sénateur, Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (FV-PJ)
ESCUADERO, Sonia Margarita (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Senator / Sénatrice (PJ)
FELLNER, Liliana (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (FV)
GIUSTINIANI, Rubén (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PS)
BRAWER, Mara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PJ)
ATANASOF, Alfredo Néstor (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (FP)
HIGONET, María de los Angeles (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (PJ)
LATORRE, Roxana (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Senator / Sénatrice (AF)
PERIÉ, Julia (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PJ) ⁴
SEARA, Luis (Mr./M.)	Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies Directeur des relations internationales à la Chambre des Députés
ESTRADA, Juan Hector (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Parliamentary Secretary, Senate Secrétaire parlementaire, Sénat
VACA NARVAJA, Gustavo Sabino (Mr./M.)	Director General, International Relations, Senate Directeur général des relations internationales au Sénat
URRIOLABEITIA, Gonzalo (Mr./M.)	Director, Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directeurs des affaires parlementaires au Ministère des affaires étrangères
ZORZOLI, Roberto (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Relations General Directorate's Office, Senate / Chef du Bureau de la Direction générale des relations internationales du Sénat

⁴ (FV: Victory Front / Front de la victoire)
(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
(FP: Federal Peronist / Péroniste fédéral)
(AF: Alianza Santa Fe Federal)

ROMANO, Héctor Eduardo (Mr./M.)	Head of the Secretariat of the President of the Senate Chef du Secrétariat du Président du Sénat
POGGI, Sergio Germán (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	Head of the Press Service to the President of the Senate Chef de la presse auprès du Président du Sénat
ETCHEVERRY, Gonzalo Adrian (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the President of the Senate Secrétaire particulier du Président du Sénat
IÑIGO CARRERA, Ana Lía (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Coordinator to the President of the Senate Coordinatrice du protocole du Président du Sénat
RIVERO, Vanesa Clelia (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
SAMPAOLI, Denise Alicia (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	
GONZÁLEZ, Gabriel (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	Head of Security to the President of the Senate Chef de la sécurité du Président du Sénat
BARRIOS, Gabriel (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
CARUSO, Carlos Alejandro (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
SALDAÑA, Fabian (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
VILLANO, Erika (Ms./Mme) Press / Presse	
SALTO, Claudia (Ms./Mme) Press / Presse	
MONTES ONGANÍA, Ramón (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
STAMPONE, Franco (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	

ARMENIA – ARMENIE

BISHARYAN, Heghine (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ROLF)
ATSEMYAN, Karine (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK) ⁵
GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Senior Specialist of the External Relations Department Chargée principale des relations extérieures

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

BURKE, Anna (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the House of Representatives Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants (ALP)
ADAMS, Dick (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ALP)
SECKER, Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LP)
RUSTON, Anne (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (LP)
STEPHENS, Ursula (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (ALP)
JENKINS, Harry (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ALP) ⁶

⁵ (ROLF: "Rule of Law" Faction
(HHK: Republican Party of Armenia

/ Parti "L'Etat de droit")
/ Parti républicain arménien)

RADCLIFFE, Jeanette (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

FRANKLYN, Lindy (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / Conseillère

SURTEES, Claressa (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

SILHAVY, Heidrun (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)
NEUGEBAUER, Fritz (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the National Council Vice-Président du Conseil national (ÖVP)
GRAF, Martin (Mr./M.)	Third President of the National Council Troisième Président du Conseil national (FPÖ)
MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (G)
BAYR, Petra (Ms./Mme) Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Membre du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/SIDA et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ) ⁷
WINTONIAK, Alexis (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Parliamentary Administration / Secrétaire général adjoint de l'administration parlementaire
BRENNER, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)	Head of the EU and International Services Chef des Services européen et international
LANDERTSHAMMER, Sophie (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	International Relations Division Division des relations internationales

AZERBAIJAN – AZERBAIDJAN

ALASGAROV, Valeh (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
GAFAROVA, Sahiba (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SEYIDOV, Samad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
FEYZIYEV, Javanshir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
MURADOV, Fuad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AGHAYEV, Babek (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	
MAMMADOV, Vugar (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	

⁶ (ALP: Australian Labour Party / Parti travailliste australien)
(LP: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

⁷ (SPÖ: Social Democratic Party / Parti social démocrate)
(ÖVP: People's Party / Parti populaire)
(FPÖ: Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté)
(G: Greens / Les Verts)

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Premier Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif
AL-MUBARAK, Aysha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights / Membre du Conseil consultatif, Présidente de la Commission des droits de l'homme
NASSIF, Jameela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative and Legal Affairs / Membre du Conseil des Représentants, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires législatives et juridiques
HUSAIN, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des Représentants
ABDULLA, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des Représentants
ALKOOHEJI, Isa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des Représentants
ALJEEB, Fouzia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, Parliamentary Relations and Information Directrice des relations parlementaires et de l'information
ALHADDAD, Abdulla (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	
ALQATTAF, Aameera (Ms./Mme)	Staff Member / Secrétariat

BANGLADESH

ALI, Shawkat (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Vice-Président du Parlement (AL)
AHMED, Tofail (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament (AL), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Industries / Membre du Parlement (AL), Président de la Commission permanente sur les industries
FEROZ, A.S.M. (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Whip Membre du Parlement, Chef de file (AL)
CHOWDHURY, Noor E. Alam (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Whip Membre du Parlement, Chef de file (AL)
YASMIN, Sagufta (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Whip Membre du Parlement, Chef de file (AL)
CHOWDHURY, Saber Hossain (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AL)
CHOWDHURY, A.B.M. Fazle Karim (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Housing and Public Works Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission permanente du logement et des travaux publics (AL)
SATTAR, Abdus (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication / Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission permanente des postes et des télécommunications (AL) ⁸
AFROZE, Meher (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry of Women and Children Affairs / Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission permanente des affaires féminines et de l'enfance
HAQUE, Enamul (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement

⁸ (AL: Bangladesh Awami League
(BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party

/ Ligue Awami du Bangladesh
/ Parti nationaliste du Bangladesh)

MONDOL, Anisul Islam (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
RAHMAN, Md. Mahfuzur (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group / Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary / Secrétaire
MASUM, M. (Mr./M.)	Senior Assistant Secretary Secrétaire principal adjoint
HASAN, Choudhury Kamrul (Mr./M.)	Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker Secrétaire particulier adjoint du Président
RAHMAN, B.M. Aatur (Mr./M.)	Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker Secrétaire particulier adjoint du Président

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

de DONNEA, François-Xavier (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives, State Minister, President of the Committee on Foreign Relations / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Ministre d'Etat, Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (MR)
VAN EETVELDE, Miranda (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (N-VA)
MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Senator, Co-Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs, Chairman of the Working Group "IT and Freedoms" Sénateur, Co-Président du Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes, Président du Groupe de travail "Informatique et libertés" (PS)
VAN DER MAELEN, Dirk (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (sp.a)
MATZ, Vanessa (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (cdH)
DE PADT, Guido (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (Open vld) ⁹
HONDEQUIN, Hugo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
VAN DER HULST, Marc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Director, European Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department, Senate / Directeur du Service des affaires européennes et des relations interparlementaires du Sénat
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation	Deputy Director, House of Representatives Premier Conseiller de direction à la Chambre des Représentants

BENIN

NAGO, Mathurin (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (FCBE)
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⁹ (PS: Socialist Party (French) / Parti socialiste (francophone))
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle Alliance flamande)
(MR: Liberal Party (French) / Parti libéral (francophone))
(sp.a: Flemish Socialist Party / Parti socialiste Flamand)
(cdH: Democratic Humanist Centre (French) / Centre démocrate humaniste (francophone))
(Open vld: / Libéraux flamands)

QUENUM, Epiphane (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Education, Culture, Employment and Social Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, de l'emploi et des affaires sociales (RB)
SANI GLELE, Yibatou (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)
GONROUDOBOU, Orou Dèkè (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FCBE) ¹⁰
KOTO SOUNON, René (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Deputy Administrative Secretary General Secrétaire général administratif adjoint
GUIDI, Kouassi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
BONOU, Lucien (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

RAMIREZ NAVA, Agripina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)
CONDORI LÓPEZ, Efraín (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (MAS) ¹¹

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KALABIĆ, Drago (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Parliamentary Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire (SNSD)
CEMALOVIĆ, Nermina (Ms./Mme)	Speaker of the House of Representatives Président de la Chambre des Représentants (SDP BiH)
FRANJIČEVIĆ, Mato (Mr./M.)	Member of the Parliamentary Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée parlementaire (HDZ) ¹²
MIJAČEVIĆ, Marina (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	

BOTSWANA

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile Mogogi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SALESHANDO, Dumelang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BCP)
MOLATLHEGI, Kagiso Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP) ¹³
DITHAPO, Barbara Ntheeleng (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire générale
KEEKAE, Lesedi (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Senior Clerk Assistant / Assistant Greffier principal

¹⁰ (FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin / Forces Cauris pour un Bénin Emergent)
(RB: Rebirth of Benin / Renaissance du Bénin)
(PRD: Democratic Renewal Party / Parti du renouveau démocratique)

¹¹ (MAS: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)

¹² (SNSD: Party of Independent Social Democrats / Parti social-démocrate indépendant)
(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

¹³ (BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

BRAZIL – BRESIL

LEMOS, Ana Amélia (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénatrice (PP)
PETECÃO, Sérgio (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PSD)
FILHO, Marçal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PMDB)
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM) ¹⁴
GUEDES, Carlos Eduardo (Mr./M.)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministère des affaires étrangères
VENTURA TEIXERA, Rogerio (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	
ARAÚJO, Silvia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	

BURKINA FASO

OUATTARA, Soungalo Appolinaire (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale
DIENDERE, Fatoumata (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee Membre du Comité exécutif	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)
OUEDRAOGO, Salfó Théodore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADJ)
SAMBARE, Palguim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CFR)
ABGAS, Armand (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC)
LANKOANDE, Folga Ildevert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADF-RDA)
DRABO-OUEDRAOGO, Zénabou (Ms./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)
TRAORE, Mélégué (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP) ¹⁵
NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
KERE, Dieudonné (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Director of International Cooperation, National Assembly Directeur de la coopération internationale de l'Assemblée nationale
TAPSOBA, Brahima (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / Directeur du protocole
YAGUIBOU, Issa (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

¹⁴ (PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party

(PP: Progressive Party

(PSD: Social Democratic Party

(PTB: Brazilian Labour Party

¹⁵ (CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress

(ADJ: Alliance for democracy and justice

(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces

(UPC: Union for Progress and Change

(ADF/RDA: Alliance for democracy and Federation /
African Democratic Rally

/ Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)

/ Parti progressiste)

/ Parti social-démocrate)

/ Parti travailliste brésilien)

/ Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès)

/ Alliance pour la démocratie et la justice)

/ Convention des forces républicaines)

/ Union pour le progrès et le changement)

/ Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération /
Rassemblement démocratique africain)

BURUNDI

KABURA, François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (UPRONA)
BERAHINO, Glorioso (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD-FDD)
NDIHOKUBWAYO, Norbert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FN) ¹⁶
BARINAKANDI, Juvénal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

CHHEANG, Vun (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias
YANG, Sem (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairperson of the First Commission of the Senate Sénateur, Président de la première Commission du Sénat
TROEUNG, Thavy (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
KROUCH, Sam An (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Protocol and International Relations Department of the Senate / Directeur du Département du protocole et des relations internationales du Sénat
OU DAM, Khlang (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation Assistant de la délégation	Deputy Director of the International Relations Department, National Assembly / Directeur adjoint du Département des relations internationales de l'Assemblée nationale
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation Assistant de la délégation	Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office Chef adjoint du Bureau des relations multilatérales
VONG, Chen (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
ABDOULAYE, Bougue (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)
EKINDI, Jean-Jacques (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PM)
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)

¹⁶ (UPRONA: Union for National Progress
(CNDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy
(FDD: Front for the Defense of Democracy
(FN: Sahwanya Frodebu-Nyakuri)

/ Union pour le progrès national)
/ Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie)
/ Forces pour la défense de la démocratie)

HAMADOU, Sali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC) ¹⁷
YÉNÉ OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Director, General Administration Service Directeur de l'administration générale
BOUBA, Simala (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Officer, Speaker's Bureau Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président
MAKONGO DOOH, Alexandre (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	

CANADA

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénatrice (CPC)
OLIVER, Donald H. (Mr./M.)	Speaker pro tempore of the Senate Président intérimaire du Sénat (CPC)
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (LPC)
CALKINS, Blaine (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)
CHARLTON, Chris (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP)
DAVIES, Libby (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP) ¹⁸
BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.) President of the ASGP / Président de l'ASGP	Deputy Clerk, House of Commons Sous-Greffier, Chambre des Communes
GRAVEL, Line (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Association Secretary Secrétaire d'association
FORGE, Frédéric (Mr./M.) Advisor to the Group / Conseiller du Groupe	Analyst, Library of Parliament Analyste, Bibliothèque du Parlement

CHAD – TCHAD

KADAM, Moussa (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group, Leader of the delegation Rapporteur du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Group Chairman / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président du Groupe parlementaire (MPS)
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des finances (RDP)
NDOUABNADJI TARAM, Delphine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FAR-PF)
NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP/JS)
GATTA NGOTTE, Gali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFD/PR)
ISSAKHA HAROUN, Fatouma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS) ¹⁹

¹⁷ (RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
(PM: Progressive Movement

¹⁸ (CPC: Conservative Party of Canada
(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada
(NDP: New Democratic Party

/ Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)
/ Mouvement progressiste)
/ Parti conservateur du Canada)
/ Parti libéral du Canada)
/ Nouveau parti démocratique)

GALI, Massa Harou (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP
MBAÏAMMADJI, Béain Joël (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

Director, Administrative and Legislative Affairs
Directeur des affaires administratives et législatives

CHILE – CHILI

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.)
Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation
Vice-Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

Senator / Sénateur (PS)

COLOMA, J. Antonio (Mr./M.)
President of the Group / Président du Groupe

Senator / Sénateur (UDI)

CRISTI, María Angélica (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions
Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)

LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.)
Vice-President of GRULAC
Vice-Président du GRULAC

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)

WALKER, Patricio (Mr./M.)
MONSALVE, Manuel (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PDC)
Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)

CERONI, Guillermo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)

GARCÍA, René Manuel (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (RN)

VENEGAS, Mario (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)²⁰

LABBE, Mario (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

OSES, Juan (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate
Commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat

PEILLARD GARCÍA, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies
Directrice des relations internationales à la Chambre des Députés

HERNÁNDEZ, Ricardo (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

CHINA – CHINE

CHANGZHI CHEN (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress / Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

SIXI CHEN (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

CHUNYING XIN (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

¹⁹ (MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut)
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress / Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)
(FAR: Front of Action Forces for the Republic / Front des forces d'action pour la République)
²⁰ (PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)
(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / Union démocrate indépendante)
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)
(RN: National Renewal / Rénovation nationale)

GOMA, Léandre (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Legal Adviser to the First Secretary of the Senat
Conseiller juridique de la première Secrétaire du Sénat

OKOELE, Gaspard (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Attaché, Inter Parliamentary Relations, National Assembly
Attaché aux relations interparlementaires, Assemblée nationale

COSTA RICA

GÓMEZ FRANCESCHI, Agnés (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PLN)

FONSECA SOLANO, Julia (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PLN)

MONESTEL CONTRERAS, Martín (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PASE)²³

AYALES ESNA, Antonio (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Executive Director / Directeur exécutif

COTE D'IVOIRE

THIAM, Augustin Houphouët Abdoulaye (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR)²⁴

KONATE, Fakhy N'Fa Kaba (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure Yaovi (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Administrator / Administrateur

CROATIA – CROATIE

ĐUROVIĆ, Dražen (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (HDSSB)²⁵

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Vice-President of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire

FERRER GÓMEZ, Yolanda (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire

HEVIA GONZÁLEZ, Aixa (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire

MALMIERCA CASTAÑO, Alejandro (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

RODRÍGUEZ HERNÁNDEZ, Jorge (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Cuba to Ecuador
Ambassadeur de Cuba en Equateur

CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

KUBATA, Jan (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ODS)

²³ (PLN: National Liberation Party

/ Parti de libération nationale)

(PASE: Accessibility Without Exclusion

/ Parti de l'accès sans exclusion)

²⁴ (RDR: Rally of Republicans

/ Rassemblement des Républicains)

²⁵ (HDSSB: Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja / Alliance démocratique de Slavonie et Baranja)

LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.) Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus Membre du Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires européennes (TOP09-S)
PARKANOVÁ, Vlasta (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairperson of the Steering Committee / Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Présidente du Bureau restreint (TOP09-S)
VIDÍM, Jan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairman of the Defence Committee / Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Président de la Commission de la défense (ODS)
HORSKÁ, Miluše (Ms./Mme)	Vice-President of the Senate Vice-Présidente du Sénat
GUZIANA, Petr (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (ČSSD) ²⁶
KYNŠTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés
UKLEIN, Jiri (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
KRBEC, Jiri (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of the International Relations Department of the Senate Chef du Département des relations internationales du Sénat
KRUPOVA, Veronika (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO, Edouard (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Vice-President of the Senate Premier Vice-Président du Sénat (Ind)
BOKONA, Wipa François (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)
SHEOKITUNDU, Léonard (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PPRD)
KALAMBA WAFUANA, Emery (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (Ind)
EKOMBE, Mpetshi Toussaint (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDC)
MONDOLE, Eso-Libanza Léon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDC)
MBUKU-LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.) Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC) ²⁷
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (Mr./M.) Administrative Joint Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Adviser and Coordinator, Senate Research Office Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat
KATAKO KOMBE, Josué (Mr./M.)	Head of Office / Chef de Cabinet
MILAMBO, Mbombo Freddy (Mr./M.)	Financial Adviser / Conseiller économique et financier

²⁶ (ODS: Civic Democratic Party
(TOP09-S: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09
(ČSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party

/ Parti démocratique civique)
/ Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09)
/ Parti social-démocrate tchèque)

²⁷ (Ind: Independent
(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy
(PDC: Democratic Christian Party
(CDC: Convention of Christian Democrats
(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal

/ Indépendant)
/ Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie)
/ Parti démocrate chrétien)
/ Convention des démocrates chrétiens)
/ Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

LORENTZEN, Kristian Pihl (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (LP)
CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (DPP)
STOEJBERG, Inger (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (LP)
LIND, Annette (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (SD)
REISSMANN, Mette (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (SD)
ELLEMAN, Karen (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (LP)
BARFOED, Lars (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (CPP)
FAROOQ, Nadeem (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (SLP) ²⁸
LARSEN, Carsten (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Counselor / Conseillère
FABER, Charlotte (Ms./Mme)	Higher Executive Officer / Cadre supérieur

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)
GONZALEZ, Altagracia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)
MORALES, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)
RAMIREZ, Gertrude (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)
VASQUEZ, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)
SANDÓVAL, Leoncio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD) ²⁹
PYJOLS, Adalgiza (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

CASSINELLI, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
BUSTAMANTE, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
FERNANDEZ, Scheznarda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSC)
MONCAYO, Paco (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMIN)

²⁸ (LP: Liberal Party
(DPP: Danish Peoples' Party
(SD: Social Democratic Party
(LA: Liberal Alliance
(CPP: Conservative People's Party
(SLP: Social Liberal Party
²⁹ (PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party
(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party

/ Parti libéral)
/ Parti populaire danois)
/ Parti social-démocrate)
/ Alliance libérale)
/ Parti populaire conservateur)
/ Parti social libéral)
/ Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)
/ Parti de la libération dominicaine)

GODOY, Gina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
KRONFLE, María Cristina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MdG – PSC)
VARGAS, Wladimir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRIAN)
PABÓN, Paola (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
GUDIÑO, Zobeida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
HERNÁNDEZ, Virgilio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
VELASCO, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)
VALAREZO, Rocío (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MAR) ³⁰

EGYPT – EGYPTE

AL-SEHRY, Tareq (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the Shoura Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la Choura
FATEH EL-BAB, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shoura Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on African Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée de la Choura, Président de la Commission des affaires africaines
EMIL YAQUB, Nilli (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Shoura Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on African Affairs Membre de l'Assemblée de la Choura, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires africaines
EL DALY, Hamed Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shoura Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée de la Choura
ABDEL-WAHAB, Ashraf (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol / Chef du protocole

EL SALVADOR

REYES, Othon Sigfrido (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President of the Legislative Assembly Président de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)
VAQUERANO RIVAS, Donato Eugenio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (ARENA)
CLAROS REYES, Richar Geston (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (GANÁ)
ÁGREDA CHACHAGUA, Félix (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (ARENA)
DIAZ, Nery (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (FLMN) ³¹
PINEDA NAVAS, Oscar Armando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

³⁰ (AP: Alianza País)
(PSC: Social Christian Party / Parti social-chrétien)
(MMIN: Municipalist Movement for National Integrity / Mouvement municipaliste pour l'intégrité nationale)
(MdG: Madera de Guerrero)
(PRIAN: Institutional Renewal Party of National Action / Parti rénovateur institutionnel de l'action nationale)
(MAR: Movimiento Autónomico Regional)

³¹ (FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí)
(ARENA: National Republican Alliance / Alliance républicaine nationaliste)
(GANÁ: Grand Alliance for National Unity / Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale)

ROSALES, Iván (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de du Groupe

Head of the Department of International Relations and
Parliamentary Diplomacy / Chef du Département des
relations internationales et de la diplomatie parlementaire

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

DOUGAN MALABO, Angel Serafin Seriche (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of People's Representatives
Président de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple
(PDGE)³²

EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

ESTONIA - ESTONIE

KÕIV, Tõnis (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Riigikogu / Membre du Riigikogu (ERP)

NOOL, Erki (Mr./M.)

Member of the Riigikogu, Chairman of the Environment
Committee / Membre du Riigikogu, Président de la
Commission de l'environnement (IRL)

TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Riigikogu / Membre du Riigikogu (ECeP)

ÕUNAPUU, Jaan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Riigikogu / Membre du Riigikogu (SDE)³³

ALAJÕE, Maria (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Riigikogu
Secrétaire générale du Riigikogu

OTSEPP, Riina (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department
Chef adjoint du Département des relations extérieures

ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE

BUAYALEW, Yohannes (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the Federation, Chairman of the
Standing Committee on Constitutional and Regional Affairs
Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération, Président de la
Commission permanente des affaires constitutionnelles et
régionales (EPRDF)

DEMESSIE, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the Federation
Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)

WOLDESSILAS, Asmelash (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple
(EPRDF)

ADAMU, Worku (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the Federation
Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)

ESHETE, Ayelech (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of People's Representatives,
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women,
Children and Youth Affairs / Membre de la Chambre des
Représentants du Peuple, Présidente de la Commission
permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux enfants
et à la jeunesse (EPRDF)

³² (PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea

/ Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale)

³³ (ERP: Reform Party
(IRL: Pro Patria and Res Publica Union
(SDE: Estonian Social Democratic Party
(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party

/ Parti de la réforme)
(IRL: Union Pro Patria et Res Publica)
(SDE: Parti social-démocrate d'Estonie)
(ECeP: Parti estonien du centre)

TESEMA, Tekle (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of People's Representatives, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Security and Defence Affairs / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la sécurité étrangère et de la défense (EPRDF) ³⁴
LEMMA, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Peoples' Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple

FINLAND – FINLANDE

LOHELA, Maria (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (PS)
HEMMILÄ, Pertti (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta, Chair of the Parliamentary Auditors Membre de l'Eduskunta, Président des audits parlementaires (KOK)
KOMI, Katri (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (KESK)
KARHU, Saara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (SDP)
AHVENJÄRVI, Sauli (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (KD)
RUOHONEN-LERNER, Pirkko (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (PS) ³⁵
TIITINEN, Seppo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary, International Affairs Secrétaire aux affaires étrangères
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Mrs./Mme) Assistant Secretary of the Group Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe	Assistant to the International Affairs Assistante aux affaires internationales

FRANCE

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Finance Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des finances (PS)
MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group Vice-Président du Groupe	Member of the National Assembly / Député (UMP)
DEL PICCHIA, Robert Denis (Mr./M.) President of the Twelve Plus Group Président du Groupe des Douze Plus	Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (UMP)
DURRIEU, Josette (Ms./Mme)	Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (PS)
MAUREY, Hervé (Mr./M.)	Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Infrastructures, Equipment and Land-Use Planning / Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission du développement durable, des infrastructures, de l'équipement et de l'aménagement du territoire (UDI)

³⁴ (EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

³⁵ (PS: True Finns / Finlandais authentiques)
(KOK: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)
(KESK: Centre Party / Parti du centre)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(KD: Christian Democrats / Chrétiens-démocrates)

JANQUIN, Serge (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the National Assembly / Député (PS)
GUITTET, Chantal (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly / Députée (PS) ³⁶
DELGAMP, Alain (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
RIVAILLE, Danièle (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Questure (Finance) of the National Assembly / Secrétaire générale de la Questure de l'Assemblée nationale
PROVANSAL, Robert (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Questure of the Senate Secrétaire général de la Questure du Sénat
MEFFRE, Françoise (Ms./Mme)	Director, International and Defence Affairs, National Assembly / Directrice du Service des affaires internationales et de la défense de l'Assemblée nationale
DRAIN, Michel (Mr./M.) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Deputy Director, National Assembly Directeur adjoint à l'Assemblée nationale
BOURASSÉ, Philippe (Mr./M.) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Deputy Director, Senate / Directeur adjoint au Sénat
LE NAHENE, Agathe (Miss/Mlle) Joint Secretary of the ASGP Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP	Administrator, National Assembly Administratrice à l'Assemblée nationale
CORNET, Anne-Céline (Ms./Mme) Twelve Plus Group Secretariat Secrétariat du Groupe des Douze Plus	Deputy Administrator, Senate Administratrice adjointe au Sénat
VÉLASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the ASGP Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP	Services Secretary, National Assembly Secrétaire des Services à l'Assemblée nationale
HOUEL, Vincent (Mr./M.) Logistics Officer / Responsable de la logistique	Administrative Secretary at the National Assembly Secrétaire administratif à l'Assemblée nationale
GABON	
SYLONG, Jean Richard (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
OWONO NGUEMA, François (Mr./M.)	Fifth Vice-President of the Senate Cinquième Vice-Président du Sénat (PDG)
MOULENGUI-MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex Officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Senator / Sénatrice (PDG)
OYIBA, Jean-Pierre (Mr./M.)	Fifth Secretary of the Bureau of the National Assembly Cinquième Secrétaire du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
NONGOU MOUNDOUNGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
MBOUMBOU MIYAKOU, Edgard Anicet (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)

³⁶ (PS: Socialist Party
(UMP: People's Movement Union
(UDI: Union for Independent Democrats

/ Parti socialiste)
/ Union pour un mouvement populaire)
/ Union des démocrates indépendants)

ZIBI ABEGHE, Bertrand (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
OGOULA, Philomène (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG) ³⁷
NGADI, Benjamin (Mr./M.)	Cabinet Director, National Assembly Directeur de Cabinet à l'Assemblée nationale
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administrative du Groupe	Director, International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Senate / Directrice des relations internationales et interparlementaires du Sénat
BOULE, Dieudonné (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker Aide de camp du Président	

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

ERNSTBERGER, Petra (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (SPD)
SILBERHORN, Thomas (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (23/03) Membre du Conseil directeur (23/03)	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (CDU/CSU)
KRÜGER-LEISSNER, Angelika (Ms./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (SPD)
KURTH, Patrick (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (26 & 27/03) Membre du Conseil directeur (26 & 27/03)	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (FDP)
WINKLER, Josef Philip (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council, Substitute Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre suppléant de la Commission sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (Bündnis 90/Grüne) ³⁸
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP Vice-Président de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Bundestag Secrétaire général adjoint du Bundestag
RETTLER, Ute (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Bundesrat Secrétaire générale adjointe du Bundesrat
MÜGGENBURG, Hardo (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag
SARENIO, Susanne (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation Assistante de la délégation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag

³⁷ (PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party
(UPNR: Union for the new Republic

³⁸ (SPD: Social Democratic Party
(CDU: Christian Democratic Union
(CSU: Christian Social Union
(FDP: Free Democratic Party
(Bündnis 90/Grüne: Green Party

/ Parti démocratique gabonais)
/ Union pour la nouvelle République)
/ Parti social démocrate)
/ Union chrétienne démocrate)
/ Union chrétienne sociale)
/ Parti libéral démocrate)
/ Les Verts)

DIEHL, Ole (Mr./M.)
Officer / Officier

Federal Foreign Office
Bureau fédéral des affaires étrangères

GHANA

ADJAHO, Edward Korbly Doe (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of Parliament / Présidente du Parlement (NDC)

KUNBUOR, Benjamin (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Majority Leader
Membre du Parlement, Chef de la majorité (NDC)

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Minority Leader
Membre du Parlement, Chef de la minorité (NPP)

GBEDIAME, Gershon (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Majority Chief Whip
Membre du Parlement, Chef de file de la majorité (NDC)

AFFUL, Yaw (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (NPP) ³⁹

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Clerk of Parliament / Secrétaire général

BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Principal Assistant Clerk / Adjointe du Greffier principal

ACHEAMPONG, Richard (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

GREECE – GRECE

DERMENTZOPOULOS, Alexandros (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)

PAPADIMOULIS, Dimitrios (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)

MAKRI, Rachil (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Membre du Parlement hellénique (AE) ⁴⁰

KARTSAKLI, Katerina (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Head of the Department for the IPU and other International
Organizations / Chef du Département de l'UIP et autres
organisations internationales

GUATEMALA

BOUSSINOT, Christian (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic, Vice-President of the
Junta / Membre du Congrès de la République, Vice-Président
de la junte directive (PT) ⁴¹

GUINEA-BISSAU – GUINEE-BISSAU

DJALÓ, Ibraima Sori (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the People's National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)

DJÁ, Baciro (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)

N'DEQUI, Matilde (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)

³⁹ (NDC: National Democratic Congress
(NPP: New Patriotic Party

/ Congrès démocratique national)
(NPP: Nouveau parti patriotique)

⁴⁰ (ND: New Democracy
(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left
(PASOK: Panhellenic Socialist Movement
(AE: Independent Greeks

/ Nouvelle démocratie)
(SYRIZA: Coalition radicale de gauche)
(PASOK: Mouvement socialiste panhellénique)
(AE: Parti des Grecs indépendants)

⁴¹ (PT: Partido Todos)

CRATO SÓ, Isabel (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS) ⁴²
SILVA, Orlando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
DIAS, Fernando Jorge (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Director of Cabinet / Directeur de Cabinet
NANQUI, Satcho (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
HAITI	
DESRAS, Simon Dieuseul (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President of the Senate / Président du Sénat (L)
RICHE, Andris (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate Vice-Président du Sénat (A)
BENOIT, Steven Irvenson (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (A) ⁴³
JOSEPH, Jean Ariel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
EXANTUS, Rachelle (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Vice-President of the Senate Secrétaire du Vice-Président du Sénat
RAYMOND, Marie Jeannette (Ms./Mme)	Executive Secretary, Senate Secrétaire exécutive au Sénat
PAUL, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

LATORCAI, János (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (KDNP)
GRUBER, Attila (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)
BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)
BRAUN, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)
MANDUR, László (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP)
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (Jobbik)
SZILÁGYI, Péter (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP) ⁴⁴
SOMFAI ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Senior Councillor of the Office for Foreign Relations Conseillère principale au Bureau des relations extérieures
BOTÁR, Ágnes (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	

⁴² (PRS: Party for Social Renovation
(PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea
and Cape Verde

/ Parti de la rénovation sociale)
/ Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée
et du Cap-Vert)

⁴³ (L: LAVNI)
(A: Alternatív)

⁴⁴ (KDNP: Christian Democratic People's Party
(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party
(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary
(LMP: Politics Can Be Different

/ Parti chrétien-démocrate du peuple)
/ Union civique hongroise)
/ Parti socialiste hongrois)
/ Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)
/ Faire de la politique autrement)

KORITÁR VARGA, P'al (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Hungary to Ecuador
Ambassadeur de la Hongrie en Equateur

ICELAND – ISLANDE

BACKMAN, Thuridur (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef
de la délégation

Vice-President of the Althingi
Vice-Présidente de l'Althingi (LG)

RUNARSSON, Sigmundur E. (Mr./M.)

Member of the Althingi / Membre de l'Althingi (SDA)

OLOF, Nordal (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Althingi / Membre de l'Althingi (IP)⁴⁵

KRISTJANSSON, Karl (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme)

Adviser on International Affairs

Secretary to the delegation

Conseillère des affaires étrangères

Secrétaire de la délégation

INDIA – INDE

MUNDA, Kariya (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha / Vice-Président du Lok Sabha

Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

SUKLABAIDYA, Lalit Mohan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Lok Sabha (INC)

BHAGAT, Sudarshan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Lok Sabha (BJP)

HAQUE, Sheikh Saidul (Mr./M.)

Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Lok Sabha (CPI-M)

SADHO, Vijaylaxmi (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Rajya Sabha / Membre du Rajya Sabha (INC)

KUMARI, Putul (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Lok Sabha (Ind)⁴⁶

SHERIFF, Shumsher K. (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, Rajya Sabha

Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secrétaire général du Rajya Sabha

SHEKAR, S. Bal (Mr./M.)

Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire supplémentaire, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha

Secrétaire de la délégation

RAO, Reddy Nagabhushan (Mr./M.)

Principal Secretary to the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Secrétaire principal du Vice-Président du Lok Sabha

GOYAL, Deepak (Mr./M.)

Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha

LALKITHANG (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat

Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha

RAMANA, L.V. (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat

Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha

PANDEY, Kailash Chander (Mr./M.)

Private Secretary to the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président du Lok Sabha

CHAND, Gian (Mr./M.)

Assistant Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Directeur adjoint au Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha

BIST, Umesh (Mr./M.)

Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat

Chargé de liaison, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha

⁴⁵ (LG: Left-Green Movement
(SDA: Social Democratic Alliance
(IP: Independence Party

/ Mouvement des Verts de la gauche)
/ Parti de l'Alliance sociale-démocrate)
/ Parti de l'Indépendance)

⁴⁶ (INC: Indian National Congress
(CPI: Communist Party of India
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party
(M: Kerala Congress
(Ind: Independent

/ Parti du Congrès national indien)
/ Parti communiste indien)
/ Parti Bharatiya Janata)
/ Congrès du Kerala)
/ Indépendant)

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

WIBOWO, Pramono Anung (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)
HIDAYAT, Surahman (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Coopération interparlementaire (PKS)
ISMAN, Hayono (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Coopération interparlementaire (PD)
CAKRA WIJAYA, Andi Anzhar (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire (PAN)
ALI ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Ms./Mme) President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)
YAHYA, Tantowi (Mr./M.) Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health / Membre du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/SIDA et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)
HAFID, Meutya Viada (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)
MAHARANI, Puan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)
NURSANTY, Evita (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)
NUR WAHID, Muhammad Hidayat (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)
KERTOPATI, Susaningtyas N.H. (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Hanura) ⁴⁷
DHARSONO, Poppy (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Senator / Sénatrice
DJUNED, Achmad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
NUGROHO, Bambang Susetio (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Head of Bureau / Chef de Cabinet
SUTHARSA, Tatang (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
PURBA, Robert Juheng (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement

⁴⁷ (PD: Democrat Party
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party - Struggle
(PAN: National Mandate Party
(PG: Golkar
(Hanura: People's Conscience Party

/ Parti démocrate)
/ Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)
/ Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)
/ Parti du mandat national)
/ Parti de la conscience du peuple)

RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
THOMY, Achmad Agus (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Deputy Speaker Secrétaire du Vice-Président
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
INDAHRI, Yulia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Parliamentary Researcher Chercheuse parlementaire
RUBINI, Nida (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
CHANDRA, Purnomo Ahmad (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministère des affaires étrangères
NURHAYATI, Juriani ((Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseiller	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministère des affaires étrangères
ANGGORO, Heriyono Adi (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Parliamentary Expert Staff / Expert parlementaire
TANSIL, Yuliana (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
ARMANIAS, Iwan (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
HADI, Sholihul (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
DASRIL, Rhama Deny (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
HIDAYAT, Rachmat (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

HOSSEINI SADR, Moayed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Secretary General Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran, Secrétaire général
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
NAJAF NEJAD, Meghdad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
MIR MORADZEHI, Hedayat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
NEMATI, Behrouz (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
ALII, Halimeh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
SHAIKHOESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General, Chief of the Speaker's Bureau, Director General, International Department / Secrétaire général, Chef du Cabinet du Président, Directeur général du Département international
GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Senior Expert of the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat of the Islamic Consultative Assembly / Expert principal du Secrétariat interparlementaire de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
ASHJA ZADEH, Mohamad A. (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	

IRAQ

HAMOUDI, Humam Baqir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Council of Representatives, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee / Membre du Conseil des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations étrangères (INA)
ABDUL-JABBAR, Rafia (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des représentants (INA)
AL-JUMAILI, Salman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
MAJID, Ayad Namik (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
RADHI, Mustafa Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Foreign Affairs Committee Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères
NAJEEB, Hoshiar (Mr./M.)	Public Relations Officer / Chargé des relations publiques
MAHMOOD, Nabeel (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	

IRELAND – IRLANDE

BURKE, Patrick (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of Seanad Éireann Président de Seanad Éireann
COFFEY, Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (FG)
TUFFY, Joanna (Ms./Mme)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (L)
TROY, Robert (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (FF) ⁴⁸
DOODY, Bridget (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Chef des affaires interparlementaires

JAPAN – JAPON

UESUGI, Mitsuhiro (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)
TSUMURA, Keisuke (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)
ITO, Shintaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)
UKISHIMA, Tomoko (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NK)
SAKAGUCHI, Naoto (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (JRP)
ODACHI, Motoyuki (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (DPJ)
ONO, Jiro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (YP) ⁴⁹
SANO, Keiko (Ms./Mme)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Directrice de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants

⁴⁸ (FG: Fine Gael)
(L: Labour Party)
(FF: Fianna Fáil)

⁴⁹ (LDP: Liberal Democratic Party)
(DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan)
(JRP: Japan Restoration Party)
(NK: New Komeito)
(YP: Your Party)

/ Parti travailliste)

/ Parti libéral démocrate)

/ Parti démocrate japonais)

/ Parti pour la restauration du Japon)

/ Nouveau Komei)

/ Votre parti)

ARAI, Kosumo (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives Directrice adjointe de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
SUGIYAMA, Jin (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
IGARI, Hiroaki (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
SHIMIZU, Ken (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / Directeur de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
SUZUKI, Yuko (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors Directrice adjointe de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
NITTA, Mayuko (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / Secrétaire de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
LUMPKIN, Tomoko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
GALE, Terumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
GRAHAM, Ikumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
SHIMIZU, Kazuko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
ESAKA, Yumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
KONO, Junko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
SEYMOUR, Reiko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
YOKOYAMA, Yuji (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
SATO, Joji (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
KODAKI, Toru (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Japan to Ecuador Ambassadeur du Japon en Equateur	
ISHIKAWA, Teruyuki (Mr./M.) Embassy of Japan to Ecuador Ambassade du Japon en Equateur	
KUMAKURA, Takayuki (Mr./M.) Embassy of Japan to Ecuador Ambassade du Japon en Equateur	

MATSUMOTO, Yoshitaka (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Japan to Ecuador
Ambassade du Japon en Equateur
KATSUTA, Yumi (Ms./Mme)
Embassy of Japan to Ecuador
Ambassade du Japon en Equateur
FUJINO, Rie (Ms./Mme)
Embassy of Japan to Ecuador
Ambassade du Japon en Equateur
TSUNODA, Takenori (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Japan to Ecuador
Ambassade du Japon en Equateur
IZQUIERDO, Julio (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Japan to Ecuador
Ambassade du Japon en Equateur

JORDAN – JORDANIE

MAJALI, Amjad (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
HADID, Mohd Jawad (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur
HAJ HASAN, Samar (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice
DMOUR, Muwaffaq (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
ABU ABTAH, Fatmeh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
AL RUDAINI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
ALMASHAKBEH, Adnan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Head of the Public Relations Department, Senate Chef du Département des relations publiques du Sénat
AL HAMMOURI, Yahya (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-RASHEED, Ali (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-OMAIR, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-SANE, Yaqoub (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ASHOUR, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
MAYOOF, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
NEJADAH, Mubarek (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ALMUBARAK, Masouma (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ALHASHEM, Safa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-KANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

AL-SALAMAH, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-WAHEEB, Tawfiq Soud (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALI KHAMIS, Mona (Ms./Mme)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALDEGAISHAV, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALABDULJADER, Naser (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALANEZI, Meshal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALDIHANI, Theyab (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-DEGASHEM, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
BARGAS, Ayed (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL SUBAIE, Meslet (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALDUWAISAN, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL HARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALAIMI, Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALENEZI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
SHISHTER, Mona (Ms./Mme)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL BAQSHI, Munir (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALENEZI, Waeel (Mr./M.)	
Press / Presse	

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

PHOMVIHANE, Xaysomphone (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
BOUPHA, Bounngong (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, Présidente du Groupe des femmes parlementaires
THEPHACHANH, Viengthavisone (Mr./M.)	Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department Directeur général du Département des affaires étrangères
SAMMAVONG, Khamsamai (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary to the Vice-President Secrétaire du Vice-Président

LATVIA – LETTONIE

MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Saeima Membre du Saeima (CC)
OZOLINS, Janis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Saeima, Vice-Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee / Membre du Saeima, Vice-Président de la Commission du budget et des finances (RP)
VEJONIS, Raimonds (Mr./M.)	Member of the Saeima, President of the Baltic Assembly Membre du Saeima, Président de l'Assemblée baltique (ZZS) ⁵⁰

⁵⁰ (CC: Concord Centre
(RP: Reform Party
(ZZS: Union of Greens and Farmers

/ Centre concorde)
/ Parti de la réforme)
/ Union des Verts et des paysans)

PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau
Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires

LESOTHO

MOTSAMAI, Ntlohi (Ms./Mme)
Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the
delegation / Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la
délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DC)

LETHUNYA, Ntseeng (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ABC)

PHEKO, Thabang (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)

HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate, Chairman of the MDGs Committee
Sénateur, Président de la Commission des OMD (ABC) ⁵¹

MAEMA, Fine (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Clerk of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

MANAMOLELA (Mr./M.)

Assistant Deputy Clerk, Senate
Assistant du Secrétaire général adjoint au Sénat

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

GAPSYS, Vytautas (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas
Premier Vice-Président du Seimas

SUMSKIENE, Laura (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Adviser, International Relations Department
Conseillère du Département des relations internationales

MALDIVES

SHAHID, Abdulla (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the People's Majlis
Président du Majlis des Citoyens

ABDULLA, Eva (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens

ADAM, Rozaina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens

MAHLOOF, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens

RASHEED, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens

NASHIZ, Mohamad (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens

MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

RASHEED, Hussain Evan (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

JAUHAREE; Moosa (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

⁵¹ (DC: Democratic Congress
(ABC: All Basotho Convention
(LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy

/ Congrès démocratique)
/ Convention des Basotho)
/ Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho)

MALI

DOUMBIA, Kalifa (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation
TRAORE, Peindare (Ms./Mme)

Fifth Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Cinquième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ACM)
Member of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire parlementaire

DIANESSY, Ibrahima (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, First Parliamentary Secretary / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Premier Secrétaire parlementaire (URD)⁵²

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

CUEVAS, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on International Affairs
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires internationales (PAN)

ORTIZ, Graciela (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Study
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission de l'étude législative (PRI)

POZOS, Raúl (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PRI)

ROJAS, Laura (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Organisms / Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères et des organismes internationaux (PAN)

PADIERNA, Dolores (Ms./Mme)

Senator / Sénatrice (PRD)

MONREAL, David (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Jurisdictional Affairs / Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires juridictionnelles (PT)

TREVIÑO, Javier (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)

GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme)

Senator, LXII Legislature of the Mexican Congress, Chairperson of the Committee on External Relations, North America
Sénatrice, LXII Législature du Congrès mexicain, Présidente de la Commission des Relations extérieures, Amérique du Nord

RIVADENEYRA, Alfredo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)

BLANCO, Silvano (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)⁵³

ENRIQUEZ BALDAZO, Areli (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director, International Affairs
Directrice des affaires internationales

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)
MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)

PANUELO, David W. (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Congress, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations / Membre du Congrès, Président de la Commission des opérations judiciaires et gouvernementales

URUSEMAL, Joseph (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress / Membre du Congrès

⁵² (CNID: Democratic Initiative National Congress of Mali
(ACM: Alliance pour la Consolidation de la Majorité

/ Congrès national d'initiative démocratique du Mali)

(URD: Republic and Democracy Union

/ Alliance for the Consolidation of the Majority)

(URD: Republic and Democracy Union

/ Union pour la République et la démocratie)

⁵³ (PAN: National Action Party

/ Parti de l'Action nationale)

(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party

/ Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party

/ Parti de la révolution démocratique)

(PT: Labour Party

/ Parti travailliste)

WELLY, Paliknoa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress / Membre du Congrès
NOWAKOWSKI, John Gregory (Mr./M.)	Staff Attorney / Avocat-conseil
NARRUHN, Lynn (Ms./Mme)	Press and Protocol Officer Chargée de la presse et du protocole

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

SANGAJAV, Bayartsogt (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-Chairman of the State Great Hural Vice-Président du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
DEMBEREL, Damdin, (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPRP)
GAVAA, Batkhoo (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
SANDAG, Byambatsogt (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Great Hural Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)
LUVSAN, Erdenechimeg (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the State Great Hural Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
GANTUMUR, Uyanga (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the State Great Hural Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPRP-MNDP) ⁵⁴
BYAMBADORJ, Boldbaatar (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the State Great Hural Secrétaire général du Grand Khoural de l'Etat
TSERENDORJ, Narantungalag (Mr./M.)	Head of the Foreign Relations and Cooperation Department of the Secretariat, State Great Hural Chef du Département des affaires étrangères et de la coopération du Secrétariat du Grand Khoural de l'Etat
GENDEN, Bayasgalan (Mrs./Mme)	Senior Officer, Foreign Relations and Cooperation Department / Fonctionnaire principale au Département des affaires étrangères et de la coopération
DAMJIN, Tulga (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	

MOROCCO – MAROC

GHELLAB, Karim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the House of Representatives Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)
BIADILLAH, Mohamed Cheikh (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the House of Councillors Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (MP)
OMARI, Abdelaziz (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PJD)
TAGHOUANE, Bouamor (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)
LAZREK, Noureddine (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)
BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)
EL MAMI, Ali Ahmed Brahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)
ELABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAM)

⁵⁴ (DP: Democratic Party
(MPP: Mongolian People's Party
(MPRP-MNDP: Justice Coalition

/ Parti démocrate)
/ Parti populaire mongole)
/ Coalition pour la justice)

TOUZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM) ⁵⁵
ELKHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
ALAOUI BELGHITI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Conseiller du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
EL JAFFALI, Mounir (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Adviser, House of Representatives Conseiller diplomatique à la Chambre des Représentants
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of External Relations Division, House of Councillors Chef de la Division des relations extérieures de la Chambre des Conseillers
MOUNJID, Mohcine (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat

MOZAMBIQUE

KATUPHA, José Mateus (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)
CINQUENTA NAULA, Mário (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (RENAMO) ⁵⁶
CORREIA, Armando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
BONIFÁCIO, César João (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Director, Standing Committees Division Directeur de la Division des commissions permanentes

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

GURIRAB, Theo-Ben (Dr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret (Mrs./Mme)	Vice-Chairperson of the National Council Vice-Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)
AMWEELO, Moses (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group Vice-Président du Groupe	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
JANKOWSKI, Maureen (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
SIBALATANI, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)
KANKOSHI, Henock Tangeni (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)
NAMBILI, Ndapewoshali (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)
LUCKS, Heiko (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP) ⁵⁷

⁵⁵ (PI: Istiqlal
(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party
(PJD: Justice and Development Party
(MP: Popular Movement
(RNI: National Rally of Independents
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces
⁵⁶ (FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance
⁵⁷ (SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress

/ Parti de l'Istiqlal
/ Parti authenticité et modernité)
/ Parti de la justice et du développement)
/ Mouvement populaire)
/ Rassemblement national des Indépendants)
/ Union socialiste de forces populaires)
/ Front de libération du Mozambique)
/ Résistance nationale du Mozambique)
/ Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)
/ Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)

ISAAK, Willem H. (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe
MKUSA, Emilia (Mrs./Mme)

Senior Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Fonctionnaire parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale

Director, General Services
Directrice des Services généraux

SHALI, Auguste (Mrs./Mme)
Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire du Groupe

Parliamentary Clerk, Committee Services, National Council
Greffière parlementaire, Service des Commissions du Conseil national

KATSHENYE, Fanuel (Mr./M.)

Editor / Rédacteur

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

PUTTERS, Kim (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Senate of the States General
Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux (PvdA)

DIJKHOFF, Klaas (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (VVD)

FRANKEN, Hans (Mr./M.)
Substitute Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / Membre suppléant du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the Senate of the States General
Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux (CDA)

WOLBERT, Agnes (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (PvdA)

HUIJBREGTS-SCHIEDON, Helmi (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate of the States General
Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux (VVD) ⁵⁸

BIESHEUVEL-VERMEIJDEN, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire générale de la Chambre des Représentants

HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Senate of the States General
Secrétaire général du Sénat des Etats généraux

NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Office
Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires

NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

HENARE, Tau (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Maori Affairs / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des affaires maori (NP)

WALL, Louisa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NZLP)

LOGIE, Jan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (G) ⁵⁹

TAYLOR, Averil (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Parliamentary Officer / Secrétariat

NICARAGUA

⁵⁸ (PvdA: Labour Party
(VVD: Liberal Party
(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal
⁵⁹ (NP: National Party
(NZLP: Labour Party
(G: Green Party

/ Parti travailliste)
/ Parti libéral)
/ Rassemblement chrétien-démocrate)
/ Parti national)
/ Parti travailliste)
/ Les verts)

PALACIOS BENAVIDES, Alba Azucena (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation
CABRALES ARÁUZ, Ramón Eduardo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

NIGER

HAMA, Amadou (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MODEN/FA)

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Ms./Mme)
Vice-President of the Group
Vice-Présidente du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)

MAÏZOUNBOU, Laoual Amadou (Mr./M.)
Treasurer of the Group / Trésorier du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD)

IBRO, Aoua (Ms./Mme)
Deputy Treasurer of the Group
Trésorière adjointe du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)

NOUHOU, Daoudou (Mr./M.)
Rapporteur of the Group
Rapporteur du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MODEN/FA)⁶⁰

KANGA, Issa (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP; Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

ALIO, Issa (Mr./M.)
Secretary / Secrétaire

Director, Cooperation / Directeur de la coopération

NASSIBIDO, Mamoundou (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Administrator
Administrateur parlementaire

ADOURKARIMOU, Soumailo (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp

NIGERIA

MARK, David (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

President of the Senate / Président du Sénat (PDP)

IHEDIOHA, Chukwuemeka Nkem (Mr./M.)
Deputy Leader of the delegation
Chef adjoint de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

USMAN, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires parlementaires (PDP)

ESUENE, Helen (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development / Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires féminines et du développement de la jeunesse (PDP)

UZAMERE, Ehigie Edobor (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Local and Foreign Debts / Sénateur, Président de la Commission de la dette locale et étrangère (ACN)

BARATA, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and National Orientation / Sénateur, Président de la Commission de la culture, du tourisme et de l'orientation nationale (PDP)

⁶⁰ MODEN FA: Niger Democratic Movement for an African Federation
(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism
(MNSD: National Movement for the Development Society

/ Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine)
(Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme)
(Mouvement national pour la société du développement)

REYENIEJU, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires (PDP)
BINTA, Bello Fatima (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnana (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)
GARBA, Alhassan Ado (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ANPP)
SOLOMON, Ganiyu (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Senator / Sénateur (ACN)
SANI, Idris Mohammed (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP) ⁶¹
EFETURI, Ben (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of the Senate / Secrétaire général du Sénat
OGUGUA, Akunwafor Cordelia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives Secrétaire générale adjointe de la Chambre des Représentants
LASISI, Bukoye (Mr./M.)	Director, Finance Accounts / Directeur des finances
AUDU, Rabi (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	
ISAH, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Director / Directeur des affaires étrangères
GARBA, Lawal (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Deputy Director / Directeur adjoint
ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Clerk of the National Assembly Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
OKOH, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk, Senate Greffier de commission au Sénat
BADAMASI, Abubakar (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk, House of Representatives Greffier de commission à la Chambre des Représentants
OBASI, Ijeoma (Mrs./Mme)	Legislative Officer / Chargée des affaires législatives
MUMEH, Paul (Mr./M.)	Chief Press Secretary / Attaché de presse
NDIWE, Arthur (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol, Senate / Directeur du protocole au Sénat
MARK, Igoche (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the President of the Senate Assistant particulier du Président du Sénat
ONYENSO, Catherine (Mrs./Mme)	Personal Secretary to the President of the Senate Secrétaire particulière du Président du Sénat
NWOSU, Emeka (Mr./M.)	Special Adviser / Conseiller spécial
EMERENINI, Sam (Mr./M.)	Chief Detail / Attaché en chef
NWACHKWU, Osondo (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant / Assistant spécial
MIRI, Abel (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

⁶¹ (PDP: People's Democratic Party
(ACN: Action Congress of Nigeria
(ANPP: All Nigeria People's Party

/ Parti démocratique populaire)
/ Congrès du Nigéria pour l'action)
/ Parti des peuples du Nigéria)

NORWAY – NORVEGE

VAKSDAL, Øyvind (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (PP)
WICKHOLM, Truls (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (LP)
GUNDERSEN, Gunnar (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (CP)
HAGEN, Aksel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (SLP)
HENRIKSEN, Kari (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (SLP) ⁶²
DAHL HOTVEDT, Bjørnar (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation Conseiller de la délégation	
HØGE, Anne Laila (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Senior Executive Officer / Administratrice principale

OMAN

AL KA'ABI, Salim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL FARSI, Fawziya Nasser (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Majles Addawla Membre du Majles Addawla
AL LAWATI, Suad Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles Addawla Membre du Majles Addawla
AL RASHDI, Zayid Khalifa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL QANOBI, Mohamed Rashi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL MASHANI, Said Masoud (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	

PALESTINE

AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
AL-WAZIR, Intisar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
AL-SALHI, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
BARHAM, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien

⁶² (PP: Progress Party
(LP: Labour Party
(CP: Conservative Party
(SLP: Socialist Left Party

/ Parti progressiste)
/ Parti travailliste)
/ Parti conservateur)
/ Parti socialiste de gauche)

QASEM, Belal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
AL-DEIK, Bashar (Mr./M.)	Administrative Assistant / Assistant administratif
HAMED, Omar (Mr./M.)	Director, Media Department Directeur du Département des médias

PANAMA

SALERNO, Noriel (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on External Relations / Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Vice-Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (CD)
CASTAÑEDA, Dana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Governance, Justice and Constitutional Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la gouvernance, de la justice et des affaires constitutionnelles (CD)
VEGA, Francisco Eloy (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PRD)
DELGADO, Hernán (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Municipal Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Président de la Commission des affaires municipales (CD)
DE ICAZA, Aristides (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Communication and Transport Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des transports et communications (CD)
MILLER, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, Regulations, Parliamentary Ethics and Judicial Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des compétences, de l'éthique parlementaire et des affaires judiciaires (CD) ⁶³

PERU – PEROU

SIMON MUNARO, Yehude (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (AGC)
TEVES QUISPE, Julia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (Gana Peru)
NAYAP KININ, Eduardo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (Gana Peru)
CHAVEZ COSSIO, Martha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (F2011) ⁶⁴

PHILIPPINES

TAÑADA, Lorenzo III (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (LP)
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⁶³ (CD: Democratic Change
(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party

⁶⁴ (AGC: Alliance for Major Change
(Gana Peru: Peru Wins Alliance
(F2011: Force 2011 Alliance

/ Changement démocratique)
/ Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)
/ Alliance pour un grand changement)
/ Alliance "Gagne Pérou")
/ Alliance "Force 2011")

AYSON, Esperanza (Ms./Mme)
Adviser, Acting Secretary of the Group
Conseillère, Secrétaire du Groupe ad intérim
NAVARRO, Demetrio Jr, (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP
MISOLAS, Julian Jr. (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director-General, Office of International Relations
and Protocol, Senate / Directrice générale adjointe, Bureau
des relations internationales et du protocole du Sénat
Director, Plenary Affairs Bureau, Senate
Directeur du Bureau des affaires plénières du Sénat
Legislative Liaison Specialist, Department of Tourism
Spécialiste législatif de liaison du Département du tourisme

PUYAT-REYES, Maria Consuelo (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador of the Philippines to Chile
Ambassadeur des Philippines au Chili

BUSTAMANTE LUNA, Santiago (Mr./M.)
Consul of the Philippines to Ecuador
Consul des Philippines en Equateur

CANTADA, Therese (Ms./Mme)
Vice-Consul of the Philippines to Ecuador
Vice-Consul des Philippines en Equateur

GALLEGOS DE ROMAGOSA, Lucia (Ms./Mme)
Consulate of the Philippines to Ecuador
Consulat des Philippines en Equateur

POLAND – POLOGNE

BUKIEWICZ, Bozenna (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PO)

NOWICKA, Wanda (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the Sejm / Vice-Présidente du Sejm

MAZUREK, Beata (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PiS)

KALISZ, Ryszard (Mr./M.)

Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (SLD)

STEFANIUK, Franciszek (Mr./M.)

Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PSL)

RACZKOWSKI, Damian (Mr./M.)

Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PO)

ZIOLKOWSKI, Marek (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PO)

WOJTCZAK, Michal Jozef (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PO)⁶⁵

POLKOWSKA, Ewa (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire générale du Sénat

KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / Conseillère

Director, Analysis and Documentation Office, Chancellery of
the Senate / Directrice du Bureau de l'analyse et de la
documentation, Chancellerie du Sénat

GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group and
to the delegation / Secrétaire administratif
du Groupe et de la délégation

PORTUGAL

SILVA, Guilherme (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

ROSA, José (Mr./M.)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

CARDOSO, Paula (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

⁶⁵ (PO: Civic Platform
(PiS: Law and Justice
(SLD: Democratic Left Alliance
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party

/ Plate-forme civique)
/ Droit et justice)
/ Alliance de la gauche démocratique)
/ Parti paysan polonais)

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)
JESUS, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)
ALMEIDA, João (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (CDS) ⁶⁶
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	
PAIXÃO, Nuno (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Adviser, International Relations Conseiller aux relations internationales

QATAR

AL-KUWARI, Issa Bin Rabeea (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the Advisory Council Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif
AL-MEADADI, Rashid Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council Membre du Conseil consultatif
AL-JEHANI, Nasser Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council Membre du Conseil consultatif
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Secretariat of the Majlis Al-Shura / Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction du Secrétariat du Majlis Al-Choura
AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer Hemaïd (Mr./M.)	Assistant Head of the Public Relations and Media Section Chef adjoint de la Section des relations publiques et des médias
AL-DELAIMI, Ahmad Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Data Entry Administrative Section Section de saisie de données

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

LEE, Jae-Oh (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)
YOO, Ki-June (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)
HAN, Jeoung-Ae (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DUP)
BAE, Jae-Jeung (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DUP) ⁶⁷
CHUNG, Jin-Suk (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
KIM, Jong-Won (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Chief of Staff to the Secretary General Chef du Secrétariat du Secrétaire général
SONG, Soo-Hwan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, Planning and Budget Department Directeur du Département de la planification et du budget
KANG, Dae-Hun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department Directeur du Département des conférences interparlementaires
HWANG, Young-Jun (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général

⁶⁶ (PSD: Social Democratic Party
(PS: Socialist Party
(CDS: Democratic and Social Centre
⁶⁷ (SP: Saenuri Party
(DUP: Democratic United Party

/ Parti social démocratique)
/ Parti socialiste)
/ Centre démocratique et social)
/ Parti Saenuri)
/ Parti démocratique unifié)

SUNG, Jae-Yeol (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / Directeur adjoint du Département des conférences interparlementaires
KIM, You-Jeong (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
IM, So-Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
CHA, Yeun-Kyeng (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Interpreter Membre de l'ASGP, Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
WOO, Jee Hyun (Ms./Mme) Coordinator / Coordinatrice	Programme Officer / Chargée de programme
HWANG, Dong-Chun (Mr./M.) Coordinator / Coordinateur	Programme Officer / Chargé de programme

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

STAN, Ioan (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)
PALĂR, Ionel (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Investigation of Abuses, Corrupt Practices and for Petitions / Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission des requêtes et d'enquête sur les abus et la corruption (NLP)
OPREA, Dumitru (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (DLP)
DUMITRU, Ioana-Jenica (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PP-DD) ⁶⁸
GEORGIAN, Daniela Rodica (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Parliamentary Counsellor, General Division for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies / Conseillère parlementaire à la Division générale des affaires étrangères de la Chambre des Députés

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

KIRICHUK, Stepan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation, Chairman of the Committee on the Federal Structure, Regional Policies, Local Self-Governance and Affairs of the North / Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Président de la Commission de la structure fédérale, de la politique régionale, de l'autogouvernance locale et des affaires de la région septentrionale
BABAKOV, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma Membre de la Douma d'Etat (United Russia)
PETRENKO, Valentina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
EMELYANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma / Membre de la Douma d'Etat
TIMOFEEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Duma / Membre de la Douma d'Etat (United Russia)

⁶⁸ (SDP: Social Democratic Party
(NLP: National Liberal Party
(DLP: Democratic-Liberal Party
(PP-DD: People's Party – Dan Diaconescu

/ Parti social démocrate)
/ Parti libéral national)
/ Parti libéral national)
/ Parti du peuple – Dan Diaconescu)

GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma, Chairman of the Committee on Property / Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Président de la Commission de la propriété (KPRF) ⁶⁹
VOROBJEV, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma / Membre de la Douma d'Etat
ZOBNIN, Evgeniy (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma / Membre de la Douma d'Etat
SVINAREV, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Council of the Federation Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Fédération
KARTSEV, Nikolay (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Division Head, International Department, Council of the Federation / Chef du Département international, Conseil de la Fédération
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Senior Consultant, International Department, State Duma Consultant principal, Département international de la Douma d'Etat
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Mrs./Mme)	Chief Adviser, International Department, Council of the Federation Conseillère en chef au Département international du Conseil de la Fédération
SHCHERBAKOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	
STRUTINSKIY, Alexander (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
LAKEEV, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
TRIBUNSKIY, Alexander (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	

RWANDA

MUSHINZIMANA, Apollinaire (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés
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SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN

TERENZI, Gianfranco (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)
TOMASSONI, Mirco (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PSD)
TONNINI, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (RETE) ⁷⁰
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE – SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

MARTINHO DE BARROS PINTO, Alcino (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ADI)
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⁶⁹ (United Russia

(KPRF: Communist Party

⁷⁰ (PDCS: Christian Democratic Party

(PSD: Party of Socialists and Democrats

(RETE: RETE Citizens' Movement

/ Russie unifiée)

/ Parti communiste)

/ Parti démocrate-chrétien)

/ Parti des socialistes et des démocrates)

/ Mouvement RETE)

SANTIAGO DAS NEVES, Delfin (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PCD)
DOS RAMOS, Guilherme Octaviano (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP/PSD)
SEBASTIÃO SANTANA MONTEIRO D'ALVA, Filomena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP/PSD) ⁷¹
VIANA XAVIER DA TRINIDADE, Ludmila (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentary Technician / Technicienne parlementaire
ROSA DE MAGALHÃES, Armando (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Shura Council Président du Conseil de la Choura
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
AL AHMADI, Hanan (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALANSARI, Lubna (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALGHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALAMER, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ALSUGAIR, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	General Manager of Public Relations Directeur général des relations publiques
ALIBRAHIM, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / Directeur du protocole
ALMANSOUR, Khalid Mohammed (Mr./M.)	General Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department / Directeur général du Département des relations interparlementaires
ALNASSER, Nasser (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General's Office Manager Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Secretary General's Office Secrétaire au Bureau du Secrétaire général
ALSAEED, Mohammed Nasser (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Relations Officer Chargé des relations parlementaires
HOBROM, Akram (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	Manager, Translation Services Directeur du Service de la traduction
ALHUDAITHY, Bader (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
AL HARBI, Yousif (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker / Secrétaire du Président
ALSHAIBANI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Press Editor / Rédacteur en chef
ALFAHAD, Sultan (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

⁷¹ (ADI: Independent Democratic Action
(PCD: Democratic Convergence Party
(MLSTP: Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement
(PSD: Social Democratic Party

/ Alliance démocratique indépendante)
/ Parti démocratique de convergence)
/ Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe)
/ Parti social démocratique)

SERBIA – SERBIE

OBRADOVIĆ, Marija (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Culture and Information Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la culture et de l'information (SNS)
KOLUNDŽIJA, Nada (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DS)
MARINKOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SDPS) ⁷²
LJUBIČIĆ, Jana (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire générale
FILIPOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Adviser, Department for Foreign Affairs Conseiller au Département des affaires étrangères

SIERRA LEONE

HASSAN, Sheriff (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
KOWA, Emma (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (SLPP) ⁷³

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

HAWAZI, Daipi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (PAP)
BAEY, Yam Keng (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (PAP)
LEE, Geck Hoon (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (PAP) ⁷⁴
PALANIAPPAN, A. (Mr./M.)	Manager, Official Reports Directeur des rapports officiels

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

SISULU, Max Vuyisile (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
KUBAYI, Mmamoloko Tryphosa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
SCHNEEMAN, Gregory (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
NTWANAMBI, Nosipho (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)
KALYAN, Santosh Vinita (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (DA)
GOQWANA, Monwabisi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (ANC)
RAMATLAKANE, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (COPE)
NOMALUNGELO, Gina (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (ANC) ⁷⁵

⁷² (SNS: Serbian Progressive Party
(DS: Democratic Party
(SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia
⁷³ (SLPP: Sierra Leone People's Party
⁷⁴ (PAP: People's Action Party
(WP: Workers' Party
⁷⁵ (ANC: African National Congress
(DA: Democratic Alliance
(COPE: Congress of the People

/ Parti progressiste serbe)
/ Parti démocratique)
/ Parti social démocratique de Serbie)
/ Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone)
/ Parti d'action populaire)
/ Parti des travailleurs)
/ Congrès national africain)
/ Alliance démocratique)
/ Congrès du People)

SOMGQEZA, Kaya (Mr./M.)	Division Manager, International Relations and Protocol Directeur de la Division des relations internationales et du protocole
PAULSE, Cheryl Ann (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Acting Team Leader, Multilateral Chef d'équipe par intérim, multilatérales
KHUZWAYO, June (Mrs./Mme)	International Relations Assistant Assistante aux relations internationales
MOLLOY TITUS, Rosalynd (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant / Assistante particulière
SAIT-WILLIAMS, Lynette (Ms./Mme)	Researcher / Chercheuse
LEBEKO, Peter (Mr./M.)	Executive Director, Speaker's Office Directeur exécutif du Bureau du Président

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

GIL LÁZARO, Ignacio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the Congress of Deputies Vice-Président du Congrès des Députés (PP)
MOSCOSO, Juan (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group Vice-Président du Groupe	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)
SANZ, Antolín (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PP)
BURGOS, Tomas (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PP)
TORME, Ana (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (PP)
GARCÍA-TIZON, Arturo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)
MONTESERÍN, María Virtudes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)
PIGEM, Mercé (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (CiU) ⁷⁶
ALBA, Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Congress of Deputies Secrétaire général du Congrès des Députés
ALVAREZ, Ana (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire générale adjointe du Sénat
BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	
JUAREZ, M. Rosa (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administrative du Groupe	

SRI LANKA

RAJAPAKSA, Chamal Jayantha (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of Parliament / Président du Parlement (UPFA)
DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management / Membre du Parlement, Ministre de la gestion de l'irrigation et des ressources hydriques (UPFA)
SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister of Plantation Industries Membre du Parlement, Ministre du Secteur des plantations (UPFA)
KARIYAWASAM, Akila Viraj (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UNP)

⁷⁶ (PP: People's Party
(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party
(CiU: Convergence and Union

/ Parti populaire)
/ Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)
/ Convergence et union)

GAMAGE, Anoma (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UNP) ⁷⁷
DASANAYAKE, Waruna Bandara (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary and Treasurer of the Group Co-Secrétaire et trésorier du Groupe	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
WIJESUNDERA, Yamune Gedera P.K. (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the Speaker Secrétaire particulier du Président
SILVA, Shavendra (Mr./M.) Adviser, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Chile Conseiller, Ambassadeur du Sri Lanka au Chili	

SUDAN – SOUDAN

AHMED MOHAMED, Samia (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
EL HASSAN AL AMIN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
EL SIDDIG, Al Nour (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
OSMAN GAKNOUN, Marwa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ABDALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.)	Adviser / Conseiller
FADUL ABDEL GADIR, Thana (Mrs./Mme)	Administrative Secretary / Secrétaire administrative
OSMAN, Ali (Mr./M.)	Assistant Administrative Secretary Secrétaire administratif adjoint

SURINAME

SIMONS, Jennifer (Mrs./Mme)	Speaker of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MC/NDP)
PANKA, Ricardo W. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MC/NDP)
TJIN-A-TSOI, Arthur (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NF/NPS)
BEE, Marinus (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AC/ABOP) ⁷⁸
DE WINDT, Ruth Lucia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Assemblée nationale

SWEDEN – SUEDE

ERTSBORN, Jan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Third Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag Troisième Vice-Président du Riksdag (fp)
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⁷⁷ (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance
(UNP: United National Party

/ Alliance de la liberté populaire unifiée)
(Parti national uni)

⁷⁸ (NDP: National Democratic Party
(NF: New Front for Democracy and Development
(AC: A combination

/ Parti démocratique national)
(Nouveau Front pour la démocratie et le développement)

/ Coalition-A)

AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (m)
ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Member of the Governing Council / Membre du Comité exécutif, Président du Sous-Comité des finances, Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (s)
KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms./Mme) Substitute Member of the Committee to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law, Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council / Membre suppléant du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Membre du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (m)
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (s)
NILSSON, Ulf (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the Riksdag Membre du Riksdag (fp)
PETERSSON, Helène (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (s)
LAVESSON, Olof (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (m) ⁷⁹
MÅRTENSSON, Claes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation	Adviser, International Department Conseillère au Département international
HÖGHAMMAR, Ludwig (Mr./M.)	Adviser, International Department Conseiller au Département international
TUNVED, Ann-Charlott (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Committee on Finance Secrétaire de la Commission des finances
DE LA REGUERA, Erik (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

BIERI, Peter (Mr./M.) President of the Groupe, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Council of States Membre du Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)
VEILLON, Pierre-François (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee Membre du Comité exécutif	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (PLR)
JANIAK, Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States Membre du Conseil des Etats (SP/PS)

⁷⁹ (m: Moderate Party
(s: Social Democratic Party
(fp: Liberal Party

/ Parti modéré)
/ Parti social-démocrate)
/ Parti libéral)

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SP/PS)
MEIER-SCHATZ, Lucrezia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC) ⁸⁰
LANZ, Christoph (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP / Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Federal Assembly Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée fédérale
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Deputy Head, International Relations Division Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Substitute Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire suppléant de la délégation	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

AL-LAHAM, Mhd. Jihad (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the People's Assembly Président de l'Assemblée du Peuple
SAADEH, Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
SAKKOUR, Bade'a (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Public Freedom and Human Rights Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission de la liberté publique et des droits de l'homme
SHAMDEAN, Najin Eddean (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires constitutionnelles et législatives
KHALED, Khalil (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
YAZJI, Beshar (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
MALANDI, Ayman (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
HAJJAR, Maher (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
NASR, Arkan (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Population Activity Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission de l'environnement et les activités du peuple
ALWAWI, Mhd. Nasser (Mr./M.)	Director of Public Relations Directeur des relations publiques
DIYAB, Abdul Athim (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

⁸⁰ (CVP/PDC: Christian Democrat People's Party
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party
(SP/PS: Social Democratic Party

/ Parti démocrate-chrétien)
/ Union démocratique du centre)
/ Parti socialiste)

THAILAND – THAILANDE

PHALUSUK, Phiraphan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, First Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Premier Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (PT)
BOONTONG, Tassana (Ms./Mme) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Senate Membre du Sénat
KLAMPAIBOON, Ong-art (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DP)
NAVARATNA, Nitipoom (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
RATTANAPIAN, Vichuda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Membre du Sénat
SIRIKOMUT, Kusumalavatee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
SUJAREE, Niramit (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PT)
TANBANJONG, Phairoj (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PT) ⁸¹
KUNPALIN, Poowanida (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
NAKWATCHARACHAI, Suwichag (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
VANIGHBANDHU, Sompol (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Advisor on Legal Affairs Conseiller des affaires juridiques
PONSANA, Sasipenrat (Miss/Mlle) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
SUNYATHITISERI, Nukul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
WATCHARAPORN, Wijitra (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
CHAOVALITTAWIL, Taweekiat (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Director, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Directrice du Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
MANUNPICHU, Somsak (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat
CHAOVALITTAWIL, Saithip (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Director, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Directrice du Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire assistante de la délégation	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Directrice de la Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants

⁸¹ (PT: Pheu Thai Party
(DP: Democratic Party

/ Parti Pheu Thai)
/ Parti démocratique)

KOTTHEN, Panya (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
SAEWONG, Saensak (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
WIBOONPANUVEJ, Tana (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation	Foreign Relations Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargée des relations étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
RAKSAPOLMUANG, Pathomporn (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Foreign Relations Officer, Foreign Languages Chargée des relations étrangères, Section des langues étrangères
THONGPRASOM, Andhika (Ms./Mme)	Supervisor, International Relations Group Superviseur du Groupe des relations internationales
NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)	Director of the Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations / Directeur de la Division de l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires
SUNGTO, Neeranan (Miss/Mlle)	Foreign Relations Officer, Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations / Chargée des relations étrangères de la Division de l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires
MUANGRAT, Ruethaichanok (Miss/Mlle)	Foreign Relations Officer, Bureau of Foreign Languages, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargée des relations étrangères, Bureau des langues étrangères, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
RATANAWIROJ, Tatiya (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Officer / Chargée des relations étrangères
UMAVIJANI, Thaniya (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Officer / Chargée des relations étrangères

TIMOR-LESTE

XIMENES, David (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)
NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)
CORREIA, Brigida Antonia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)
SOARES, Izilda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)

REIS, Maria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)
MARCAL, Leonel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN) ⁸²
VAZ, Rui (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Legal Advisor, Parliament Conseiller juridique au Parlement
AMARAL, João Rui (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
SILVA, Célio (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général
LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conseiller juridique au Ministère des affaires étrangères
DOS REIS, Vitorino (Mr./M.) Protocol / Protocole	Public Relations / Relations publiques

TOGO

BAMNANTE, Komikpim (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Law and General Administration Legislation / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des lois constitutionnelles et de la légalisation de l'administration générale (Unir)
AHOLOU, Kokou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFC) ⁸³

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – TRINITE-ET-TOBAGO

HAMEL-SMITH, Timothy (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénateur
BAPTISTE-McKNIGHT, Corinne (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice
BECKLES, Penelope (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice
INDARSINGH, Rudranath (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
SKERRETTE, Candice (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	

TURKEY – TURQUIE

DAĞCI CIĞLIK, Fazilet (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, First Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Première Vice- Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
YILDIRIM, Murat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
BAYAZIT KACAR, Sevde (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
GÜNEŞ, Hurşit (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (CHP)

⁸² (FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)
(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)

⁸³ (UFC: Union of Forces for Change / Union des forces de changement)

KORKMAZ, Süleyman (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (MHP)
SERTER, Fatma Nur (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (CHP)
ERSOY, Mehmet (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP) ⁸⁴
NEZIROGLU, Irfan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
AKDEMIR, Buket (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
AGAÇ, Isa Yusuf (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
USLU, Yesim (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général

UGANDA - OUGANDA

KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of Parliament / Présidente du Parlement (NRM)
BINTU, Jalia (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (NRM)
AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme) Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UPC)
OKUMU, Ronald Reagan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (FDC)
MAGANDA, Julius (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (Ind) ⁸⁵
BALYEJJUSA, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk to Parliament / Secrétaire générale
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Services Greffier adjoint, Services législatifs
KASIRYE, Ignatius (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, International Collaboration Directeur adjoint de la collaboration internationale
MUKYASI, Alice (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Principal Clerk Assistant Greffière principale adjointe
ODEKE, Peter (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
MUTESI, Ruth (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
BAMUWAMYE, James (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
KASULE, Ali Kabuye (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

⁸⁴ (AKP: Justice and Development Party
(CHP: Republican People's Party
(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party
⁸⁵ (NRM: National Resistance Movement
(UPC: Uganda People's Congress
(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change
(Ind: Independent

/ Parti de la justice et du développement)
/ Parti populaire républicain)
/ Parti d'action nationaliste)
/ Mouvement de la Résistance nationale)
/ Congrès populaire de l'Ouganda)
/ Forum pour un changement démocratique)
/ Indépendant)

UKRAINE

SLIUZ, Tetiana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada Membre du Verkhovna Rada (B) ⁸⁶
MARTYNIUK, Leontiy (Mr./M.)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada Membre du Verkhovna Rada
PALAHUSYNETS, Rostyslav (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Deputy Head, Division of Inter-Parliamentary Relations Chef adjoint de la Division des relations interparlementaires

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

AL QUBAISI, Amal Abdulla (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Deputy Chairperson of the Federal National Council Première Vice-Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération
AL SHURAIQI, Rashed Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération
AL MANSOORI, Ahmed Obaid (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération
ALTENAJI, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération
AL-NUAIMI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération
AL SHAMSI, Abdulrahman Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Assistant Secretary General of the Federal National Council Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil national de la Fédération
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol / Chef du protocole
AL BLOUSHI, Hamda (Mr./M.)	Head of Research and Parliamentary Studies Chef de la recherche et des études parlementaires
AL SHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Researcher / Chercheur parlementaire
AL AQILI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Researcher / Chercheur parlementaire
AL ZAROUNI, Eisa (Ms./Mme)	Executive Media / Chargée des médias
AL MARRI, Bader (Mr./M.)	Public Relations Officer / Chargé des relations publiques
EL NAEIMY, Yasser Farouk (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
ABU SOLTAN, Zoheir (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Commons, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Vice- Chairman of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly Membre de la Chambre des Communes, Vice-Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, Vice- Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire irlandaise britannique (C)
ROSINDELL, Andrew (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)
JUDD, Frank (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)

⁸⁶ (B: Nationwide Ukrainian Bloc « Batkivschchyna » / Bloc national ukrainien « Batkivschchyna »)

HOOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)	Member of the House of Lords Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)
DAVIES of STAMFORD, Quentin (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)
Rt. Hon. DHOLAKIA OBE DL, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems) ⁸⁷
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.)	Director / Directeur
REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director / Directrice adjointe
LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Ms./Mme)	International Project Manager Chef de projets internationaux
PITTS, Barbara (Ms./Mme)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office Adviser / Conseillère au Bureau des affaires étrangères et du Commonwealth
EVANS, Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Principal Clerk, Table Office, House of Commons Greffier principal, Service de l'ordre du jour de la Chambre des Communes
OLLARD, Edward (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk Assistant, House of Lords Greffier adjoint à la Chambre des Lords
MARK, Steven (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary of the ASGP / Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP	
STURT, Jenny (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / Secrétariat de l'ASGP	
MULLEE, Patrick (Mr./M.) British Embassy to Ecuador Ambassade britannique en Equateur	
HAMILTON, Tina (Ms./Mme) British Embassy to Ecuador Ambassade britannique en Equateur	
CLARKE, Emily (Ms./Mme) British Embassy to Ecuador Ambassade britannique en Equateur	
VALLEJO, Joaquín (Mr./M.) British Embassy to Ecuador Ambassade britannique en Equateur	

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

MAKINDA, Anne (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)
MOHAMMED, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Finance and Trade Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission de la finance et du commerce (CUF)

⁸⁷ (C: Conservative Party
(L: Labour Party
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats

/ Parti conservateur)
/ Parti travailliste)
/ Démocrates libéraux)

LYIMO, Susan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Spokesperson of the Committee on Education and Vocational Training Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Porte-parole de la Commission de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle (CHADEMA)
KAFULILA, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCCR-Mageuzi)
KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM) ⁸⁸
KASHILILAH, Thomas (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk / Secrétaire général
ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Director/Adviser, Speaker's Office Directeur/Conseiller au Bureau de la Présidente
EGIDIO, Deogratias (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Information and Protocol Directeur Assistant de l'information et du protocole
WARBURG, James (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Assistant Director, Table Office Directeur adjoint du Service de l'ordre du jour
MWAKASEGE, Alphonse Martin (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Speaker Conseiller de la Présidente

URUGUAY

XAVIER, Monica (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation (22/03) Chef de la délégation (22/03)	Senator / Sénatrice (FA)
TAJAM, Héctor (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation (23-27/03) / Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation (23-27/03)	Senator / Sénateur (FA)
PENADÉS, Gustavo (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (22-25/03) Membre du Conseil directeur (22-25/03)	Senator / Sénateur (PN)
MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr./M.) Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, Member of the Governing Council / Membre du Groupe consultatif de la Commission UIP des Affaires des Nations Unies, Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)
BIANCHI, Daniel (Mr./M.) Member of the Governing Council (26-27/03) Membre du Conseil directeur (26-27/03)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PC) ⁸⁹
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and of GRULAC Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC	Head of the International Relations Department Directeur du Département des relations internationales
GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Group, GRULAC Secretariat Conseillère du Groupe, Secrétariat du GRULAC	International Relations Department Département des relations internationales

⁸⁸ (CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania
(CUF: Civic United Front
(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development
(NCCR-Mageuzi: National Convention for Construction and Reform - Mageuzi

⁸⁹ (FA: Frente Amplio (Broad Front)
(PN: National Party
(PC: Colorado Party

/ Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)
(Front civique unifié)
(Parti de la démocratie et du développement)
(Convention nationale pour la construction et la réforme - Mageuzi)
(Front élargi)
(Parti national)
(Parti Colorado)

DELGADO, Enrique (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Uruguay to Ecuador
Ambassadeur de l'Uruguay en Equateur

VIET NAM

NGUYEN THI KIM NGAN (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Vice-President of the National Assembly
Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale

TRAN VAN HANG (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign
Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président
de la Commission des affaires étrangères (CPV)

NGUYEN HANH PHUC (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Office of
the National Assembly / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale,
Président du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale

VU HAI HA (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV) ⁹⁰

NGUYEN HUU QUANG (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

NGUYEN THI THUY NGAN (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the Vice-President
Secrétaire du Vice-Président

DAO DUY TRUNG (Mr./M.)

Head, Inter-Parliamentary Division, Foreign Affairs
Department / Chef de la Division interparlementaire
du Département des affaires étrangères

TRAN KIM CHI (Ms./Mme)

Foreign Affairs Executive
Fonctionnaire aux affaires étrangères

DO DINH TSUONG (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Executive
Fonctionnaire aux affaires étrangères

NGUYEN VAN HUNG (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

MONDE, Greyford (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Minister for
Agriculture and Co-operatives / Membre de l'Assemblée
nationale, Vice-Ministre de l'agriculture et des coopératives
(UPND)

CHITOTELA, Ronald (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Minister for
Labour and Social Services / Membre de l'Assemblée
nationale, Vice-Ministre du travail et des services sociaux (PF)

KALIMA, Victoria (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)

MWIIMBU, Jacob (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)

CHISANGA, Sydney (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD) ⁹¹

MWINGA, Katai Doris (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

Clerk of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale

⁹⁰ (CPV: Communist Party

/ Parti communiste)

⁹¹ (UPND: United Party for National Development

/ Parti uni pour le développement national)

(PF: Patriotic Front

/ Front patriotique)

(MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy

/ Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste)

MANDA, Iréné (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Assistant Principal Clerk for Public and International Relations Chargée principale adjointe des relations publiques et internationales
NGULUBE, Roy (Mr./M.)	Executive Assistant to the Speaker Assistant exécutif du Président
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
CHELU, John (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

ZIMBABWE

MADZONGWE, Edna (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President of the Senate Présidente du Sénat (ZANU/PF)
MOYO, Lovemore (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the House of Assembly Président de l'Assemblée (MDC)
GAULE, Believe (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (MDC)
MADZIMURE, Willias (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée (MDC)
MUCHENJE, Virginia (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (ZANU-PF)
ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of Parliament Secrétaire général
ZITHA, Xolani (Mr./M.)	Manager, Speaker's Office Directeur du Bureau du Président
MAKONI, Dadirayi (Ms./Mme)	Director, President of the Senate's Office Directrice du Bureau de la Présidente du Sénat
CHINYEMBA, Gift (Mr./M.)	Security Aide to the Speaker of the House of Assembly Agent de sécurité du Président de l'Assemblée
SIBANDA, Robert (Mr./M.)	Security Aide to the President of the Senate Agent de sécurité de la Présidente du Sénat

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ANDEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ANDIN**

VELÉZ NUÑEZ, Rubén (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member / Membre
ARBOLEDA, Oscar (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
ZAMBRANO, Patricio (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
MACHUCA MORELA, Cuda Dania (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre

**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

HASSAN SIEDHAMED EDREAS, Samia (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Deputy Speaker / Première Vice-Présidente
ESSAD, Nouredine (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker / Vice-Président
AAMIR SULTAN AL-RIYAMI, Rahila (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
AHMAD MUFTAH, Hala (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	

**CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT CENTREAMERICAIN**

BUDIER, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
ARNAUD, Edme (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
AMAYA, Irma (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE (ALEA)**

ZZIWA, Nantong Margaret (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker / Présidente
KIZIGHA, Angela (Ms./Mme)	Member, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade Membre, Présidente de la Commission du commerce
OMBASA KIANGOI, Joseph (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
NSABIMANA, Yves (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk / Secrétaire général
MUSIIME, Enock (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker Assistante particulière de la Présidente
BARINDA, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / Secrétaire

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
COMITE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE
ET MONETAIRE OUEST-AFRICAINE (UEMOA)**

DRAMANI, Dama (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President / Président
AKA AMANAN, Véronique (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN**

CASTILLO, Elias (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President, Member of the Parliament of Panama Président, Membre du Parlement panaméen
CORDERO CUEVA, Fernando (Mr./M.)	President of the National Assembly of Ecuador Président de l'Assemblée nationale de l'Equateur
GAVIDIA, Walter (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Member of the Parliament of Venezuela / Secrétaire des relations interparlementaires, Membre du Parlement du Venezuela
GONZÁLEZ, Nancy Susana (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
SOLORZANO, Delsa (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
APARICIO, Victorino (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Secretariat of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Assistant au Secrétariat des affaires interparlementaires
UBIEDA MARTÍNEZ, Alejandro (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Adviser / Conseiller parlementaire

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

EKWEREMADU, Ike (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker / Président
OSEI-MENSAH, Simon (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker / Vice-Président
SALL, Ibrahima (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
FORNAH, Mabinty (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
LAFIAGI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
AYITOU, Bruno (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
RODRIGUES, Lucio Belecante (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
TOUGARA, Aminata (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
DANSOKO, Cheick A. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
TRAORE, Alfred M'Pe (Mr./M.)	Director, Parliamentary Affairs Directeur des affaires parlementaires
ABALO, Koffi (Mr./M.)	Chief Protocol Officer / Chef du protocole
ANIH, Martin (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker / Assistant du Président
ANIOMA, Franck (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker / Assistant du Président

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICA (CEMAC)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE**

MAVOUNGOU BOUYOU, Vincent (Mr./M.)	President / Président
ABBA SIDICK, Amine (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr./M.)	Administrative Secretary / Secrétaire administratif
MEDOVA EBOUE, Didier Marcellin (Mr./M.)	Director, President's Cabinet Directeur du Cabinet du Président

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.)	Vice-Chairman, Member of the British Parliament Vice-Président, Membre du Parlement britannique
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III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

**UNITED NATIONS (UN)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)**

DOUSTE-BLAZY, Philippe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Innovative Financing for Development, President of UNITAID / Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies, Conseiller spécial du Secrétaire général chargé des financements innovants pour le développement, Président d'UNITAID

CASINI, Gherardo (Mr./M.), Head, UN DESA Office in Rome / Chef du Bureau ONU DAES à Rome

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)**

NUÑEZ, César Antonio (Mr./M.), Regional Director for Latin America / Directeur régional pour l'Amérique latine

VASCONEZ, Juan (Mr./M.), Country Coordinator / Coordinateur régional

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

GRYNSPAN, Rebeca (Ms./Mme), Associate Administrator / Administratrice associée

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group / Conseiller parlementaire, Groupe de la gouvernance démocratique

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION**

PARRA VERGARA, Jorge (Mr./M.), Representative, Ecuador Office/ Représentant du Bureau de l'Equateur

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

PEÑA CRUZ, Pedro Pablo (Mr./M.), Representative, Regional Office in Ecuador / Représentant du Bureau régional en Equateur

**UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM CAMPAIGN (UNMC)
CAMPAGNE DU MILLENAIRE DES NATIONS UNIES**

FARÉ, Maria (Ms./Mme), Representative / Représentante

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

SEQUEIRA, Jorge (Mr./M.), Director, Regional Bureau for Education in Santiago, Acting Director, Regional Office in Quito / Directeur du Bureau régional pour l'éducation à Santiago, Directeur ad interim du Bureau régional de Quito

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES**

MURILLO, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.), Senior Legal Officer / Chargé des affaires légales

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

PONET, David (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Specialist / Spécialiste parlementaire
SOTTOLI, Susana (Ms./Mme), Associate Director of Programmes / Directrice associée de programmes, UNICEF

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UNISDR)
STRATEGIE INTERNATIONALE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA PREVENTION DES
CATASTROPHES (ONU-SIPC)**

MENA, Ricardo (Mr./M.), Head, Regional Office for the Americas, Panama / Chef du Bureau régional pour les Amériques à Panama

THORLUND, Ana Cristina (Ms./Mme), Programme Officer / Chargée de programme

**UN WOMEN
ONU FEMMES**

AGUIRREZABAL, Irune (Ms./Mme), Regional Advisor on Political Participation for the Americas and Caribbean
Conseillère régionale pour la participation politique dans les Amériques et les Caraïbes

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

DE FRANCISCO SERPA, Andrés (Mr./M.), Deputy Director / Directeur adjoint

SAY, Lale (Ms./Mme), Coordinator, Department of Reproductive Health and Research
Coordinatrice au Département Santé reproductive et recherche

**COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)
ORGANISATION DU TRAITE D'INTERDICTION COMPLETE DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES (OTICE)**

RIBEIRO, Bernardo (Mr./M.), External Relations Officer / Chargée des relations extérieures

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**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

NEJAD HOSSEINIAN, Mohammad Hadi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ZAMANI NIA, Amir Hossein (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / Sous-Secrétaire général
AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr./M.), Adviser / Conseiller

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)**

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général
CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / Directeur

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE (UIPA)**

BOUCHKOUJ, Nouredine (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général
MOKAYES, Ahmad (Mr./M.), Director of Inter-Parliamentary Relations / Directeur des relations interparlementaires

**BALTIC ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE BALTE**

VEJONIS, Raimonds (Mr./M.), President / Président

**CONFEDERATION OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
CONFEDERATION PARLEMENTAIRE DES AMERIQUES**

RUÍZ SANDOVAL, Cristina (Ms./Mme), Member of the Mexican Parliament / membre du Parlement mexicain
REAL SALINAS, Dora Elena (Ms./Mme), Member of the Mexican Parliament / membre du Parlement mexicain

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EURASEC)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EURASIENNE**

TINIKEYEV (Mr./M.), Head of Commission / Chef de commission
ZVEREV, Petr (Mr./M.), Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutif

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
(IPU-IGAD)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'AUTORITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (UIP-IGAD)**

BOURHAN, Daoud Ahmed (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General, Member of the ASGP / Secrétaire général, Membre de l'ASGP

**ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
(OSCE PA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION EN
EUROPE**

SOARES, João (Mr./M.), Member of the Portuguese Parliament / Membre du Parlement portugais

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

YILMAZ, Enver (Mr./M.), Vice-President / Vice-Président
BAYTEKIN, Hasan (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)**

PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN**

KANTENGUA, Juliana (Ms./Mme), Member / Membre

KHUMALO, Marwick (Mr./M.), Member / Membre

NWEBO, Osy (Mr./M.), Director of Bureau / Directeur du Bureau

EL-DIEB, Ahmed (Mr./M.), Senior Protocol Officer / Chargé principal du protocole

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURQUE**

AMIRASLANOV, Ahliman (Mr./M.), Member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan / Membre du Parlement d'Azerbaïdjan

HASANOV, Ramil (Mr./M.), Member / Membre

SARIASLAN, Kürşad Melih (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General, Member of the ASGP / Secrétaire général adjoint, Membre de l'ASGP

HASANOV, Emin (Mr./M.), Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation

AGHAYEV, Alasgar (Mr./M.), Adviser / Conseiller

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

BORTSOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.), Committee Deputy Chairman / Vice-Président de commission

SHUMYANTSEV, Alexander (Mr./M.), Secretary to the delegation, / Secrétaire de la délégation

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'ORGANISATION DE LA CONFERENCE ISLAMIQUE (UPCI)**

EROL KLIC, Mahmud (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

* * * * *

**GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)
CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES - GENEVE**

FLURI, Philipp (Mr./M.), Deputy Director / Directeur adjoint

**THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA
LE FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME**

ROBINSON, Svend (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Parliamentary Relations and Special Initiatives / Conseiller spécial des relations parlementaires et des initiatives spéciales

**THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION (OMPCC)**

BAXTER AMADE, Vicki (Ms./Mme), Representative / Représentante

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

ZAHND, Patrick (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser, Regional Office, Mexico City / Conseiller juridique continental, Bureau régional, Mexico

NEGRO, Giorgio Maria (Mr./M.), Head of Mission, Ecuador / Chef de mission en Equateur

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIETES DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE (FICR)**

FISCHER, David (Mr./M.), Representative / Représentant

PARLAMERICAS

MACHUCA MOSCOSO, Linda (Ms./Mme), Representative / Représentante

GRILLÓN, Alberto (Mr./M.), Representative / Représentant

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

DE FRANCISCO SERPA, Andres (Mr./M.), Deputy Director / Directeur adjoint

PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL

HUBER, Andrea (Ms./Mme), Policy Director / Directrice politique

MACALESHER, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme), Death Penalty Project Manager / Directrice du projet sur la peine de mort

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE**

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Adviser / Conseillère

WEIDENBACH, Sophie (Ms./Mme), Adviser / Conseillère

**WORLD SCOUT PARLIAMENTARY UNION (WSPU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE MONDIALE DU SCOUTISME (UPMS)**

CHUNG, Ui-Hwa (Mr./M.), President / Président

YOUN, Kan Suk (Mr./M.), Member / Membre

YI, Wan Young (Mr./M.), Member / Membre

**PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL
OF PARLIAMENTS (ASGP) AND WHOSE NAMES DO NOT ALREADY APPEAR UNDER A
NATIONAL DELEGATION, AN OBSERVER OR ANY OTHER BODY**

**PARTICIPANTS AUX TRAVAUX DE L'ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES GENERAUX DES
PARLEMENTS (ASGP) DONT LE NOM NE FIGURE PAS DEJA AU TITRE D'UNE
DELEGATION NATIONALE, D'UN OBSERVATEUR OU D'UNE AUTRE ENTITE**

NEPAL

BHATTARAI, Manohar Prasad (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP
SHARMA, Mukunda (Mr./M.)

Secretary General / Secrétaire général
Joint Secretary / Co-Secrétaire

PAKISTAN

NIAZI, Karamat Hussain (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

**ADVISERS FOLLOWING THE WORK OF THE 128th ASSEMBLY
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**CONSEILLERS SUIVANT LES TRAVAUX DE LA 128^{ème} ASSEMBLEE
DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

BULGARIA - BULGARIE

SLAVCHOV, Ivan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP
ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Ms./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 128th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION
DE LA 128^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

**Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on the theme
"The IHL dimension of the Responsibility to Protect"**
**Séance publique du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire sur le
thème "La dimension DIH de la Responsabilité de protéger"**

PARK, Tina (Ms./Mme), Executive Director, Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS
REUNIONS-DEBAT**

Panel discussion on the theme "The legalization of drugs: can it help curb organized crime ?"
**Réunion-débat sur le thème " La légalisation des drogues : peut-elle concourir à la lutte contre la
criminalité organisée ?**

CALZADA, Julio (Mr./M.), Secretary General of the National Drugs Bureau (Uruguay) / Secrétaire général du Conseil national des drogues (Uruguay)

DE LA REGUERA, Erik (Mr./M.), Journalist / Journaliste

**Panel discussion on the theme "Addressing the rights of children with disabilities »
Réunion-débat sur le thème "Promouvoir les droits des enfants vivant avec un handicap"**

TORRES, Xavier (Mr./M.), Deputy Director, National Council for Disability Equality (Ecuador) / Directeur adjoint du Conseil national de l'égalité pour les personnes handicapées (Equateur)

SAVADOGO, Boukary (Mr./M.), Director, National Solidarity, Burkina Faso / Directeur de Solidarité nationale au Burkina Faso

SOTTOLI, Susana (Ms./Mme), Associate Director of Programmes / Directrice associée de programmes, UNICEF

HEINDORF Ingrid (Ms./Mme), Human Rights Officer and Coordinator of the Geneva Office, World Future Council

WORKSHOPS

ATELIERS

Workshop on the theme: "Ensuring accountability for women's and children's health"

Atelier sur le thème: "Responsabilisation pour la santé des femmes et des enfants"

SAY, Lale (Ms./Mme), Coordinator, Department of the Reproductive Health and Research
Coordinatrice au Département Santé reproductive et recherche

LAUNCH OF SPANISH VERSION OF THE IPU-PNND HANDBOOK "PROMOTING NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT"

LANCEMENT DE LA VERSION ESPAGNOLE DU GUIDE "PROMOUVOIR LA NON-PROLIFERATION ET LE DESARMEMENT NUCLEAIRES" PUBLIE PAR L'UIP ET PNND

UBEDA RIVERA, Gioconda (Ms./Mme), Secretary General of OPANAL / Secrétaire générale d'OPANAL

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator, PNND / Coordinateur global de PNND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

BUREAU DU PRESIDENT DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

EL KHETTAR, Hassan (Mr./M.)

Head of the Office of the President
Chef du Bureau du Président