



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 130th IPU Assembly

Geneva 16-20 March 2014

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Introduction

The 130th IPU Assembly from 16 to 20 March 2014 took place in Geneva at the *Centre International de Conférences Genève*.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: (Delegations from the Parliaments of 145 countries): Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Office (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), World Trade Organization (WTO); (ii) International Organization for Migration (IOM); (iii) African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD), Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA), Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC); (iv) Socialist International; (v) Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), World Future Council and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

Of the 1,349 delegates who attended the Assembly, 705 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 47 presiding officers, 34 deputy presiding officers and 214 women (30.4%).

Opening of the 130th Assembly

SITTING OF MONDAY, 17 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

A commemorative video, “Reflections on the IPU”, was screened, in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU’s work and achievements over its 125-year history.

The PRESIDENT, welcoming delegates to the 130th Assembly, said that it was no ordinary meeting, marking as it did the 125th anniversary of the organization, with a debate on the theme *The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy*. He recalled that the IPU had been founded in 1889 by Englishman Sir William Randal Cremer and Frenchman Frédéric Passy, both parliamentarians who believed that the key to global peace and stability lay in an established legal order consisting in international treaties obliging signatories, in the event of conflict, to favour arbitration over war. By thus promoting the concepts of peace and international arbitration, the IPU had laid the groundwork for the present form of institutionalized multilateral cooperation, perhaps unaware at the time of the great reach and scope of its action or the depth of its vision.

It was the IPU’s advocacy for the establishment of similar intergovernmental institutions that had led to the creation of the United Nations; since then, the IPU had done much to promote the idea that peace and stability were achievable through dialogue and negotiation resulting in cooperation. Not least on that score, it had counted six Nobel Peace Prize laureates among its leading Members before the outbreak of World War I. As the world’s oldest multilateral organization, the IPU had achieved many proud successes since its inception, when its membership had comprised but a handful of European parliaments. It currently counted 164 Member Parliaments from across the world, the only parliamentary forum with such a global reach, and multilateralism was now an entrenched concept, as evidenced by the proliferation of international organizations, the bulk of them located in Geneva.

The IPU’s previous conferences and present assemblies had always helped bring parties in conflict together around the negotiating table, with the IPU acting as a neutral facilitator of back-door or parliamentary diplomacy. In inter-war periods and in times of conflict, the IPU consistently called for a peaceful solution to all disputes through dialogue and negotiation. It also firmly believed in the value of peacebuilding and national reconciliation in post-conflict situations, with parliaments at the heart of such efforts, as in Tunisia, where parliament had played a key role in the country’s emergence from crisis.

The vision of the IPU’s founding fathers over 100 years earlier remained as valid and true as ever. Among the many important lessons of history was that lasting peace and security were attainable only through inclusive and participatory processes, embodied in an elected and representative parliament. From the French Revolution to the Arab Spring, another valuable lesson was that there was nothing stronger than people power. Wherever oppression, theft of national assets, corruption, impunity and disregard for human rights were rife, public sentiment spilled over and people took to the streets to protest and call for change. Those people must be able to express their concerns, hopes and needs, including through their elected representatives. Albeit far from perfect, democracy was by broad consensus the best of the many political systems tested worldwide and successful democracies were invariably home-grown versions adapted to national realities. The ultimate truth, however, was that there could be no democracy without parliament and no parliament without democracy.

The IPU had oftentimes served as a laboratory of political experiments for its Member Parliaments, working tirelessly to disseminate parliamentary culture and knowledge and to build the capacities of parliamentarians fully to discharge their core functions of law-making, oversight and representation. It had encouraged parliaments to adapt to changing times and to bridge democracy and accessibility deficits. It had also called for parliaments to be brought closer to the people, to overcome their weaknesses to become better institutions, to increase the number of women members and to take into account the needs and opinions of those members.

The international city of Geneva was a fitting venue for celebrating the IPU's accomplishments and the present watershed moment in its history. The long road ahead to yet further achievements must nonetheless be borne in mind; with weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, still in existence, the world was hardly a safer place than 125 years earlier. In addition to the aspiration for a nuclear-free world, the Standing Committees would be examining such other challenges as risk-resilient development, linked to demographic trends and natural constraints, and the rights of children, especially unaccompanied migrant children, including in times of war and conflict. As to the emergency item proposals received, notably on the situations in the Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, they indicated trying times for multilateralism and democracy. It would be a dereliction of duty for parliamentarians, as elected representatives, not to take a stance and react to any situation where the popular will was betrayed or mercilessly crushed. He therefore called on Members to make the 130th Assembly a memorable occasion, both as a celebration of the IPU's 125 years of achievement and as a sharp reminder of the work still to be done, and wished them fruitful deliberations.

In that context, he expressed particular pleasure in welcoming to the Assembly Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva; it was only proper to mark the present occasion with partners at the United Nations, not least in view of the developing and immensely valued strategic relationship between the two organizations, which had contributed to bringing the parliamentary voice to the international stage and to bridging the democracy gap in international relations.

Mr. M. MØLLER (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva), congratulating the IPU on the milestone of its 125th anniversary, said that parliaments played a critical role in promoting a better world for all, translating into action as they did the needs of their constituents. They faced the challenge, however, of addressing the lack of trust in traditional governance structures that continued to manifest itself through protests across the world demanding responsive government and institutions and accountable leaders. Parliaments were also important partners for the United Nations in the core areas on which the IPU likewise focused its work: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

With respect to the first of those areas, the key components of disarmament and non-proliferation were the foundations for a safe and secure world but were all too often underused. Far from being a utopian dream, a world free of nuclear dangers was possible and indeed an imperative and a shared obligation, given the threat of weapons of mass destruction to humankind. Parliamentarians were in a key position to contribute to overcoming the political and institutional challenges preventing the disarmament agenda from advancing, owing to the unacceptable failure of the Conference on Disarmament, over the past 17 years, to agree on a programme of work. As Acting Secretary-General of the Conference, he therefore urged them to make that contribution and strengthen the relevant legal framework by promptly ratifying disarmament agreements, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the newly adopted landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and by enhancing advocacy for disarmament and non-proliferation. The upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague was likewise particularly relevant to such parliamentary endeavours.

Concerning the second area, joint efforts must be intensified to counter the daily threats worldwide to the fundamental rights of all human beings, which were a birthright to be fully respected. He had witnessed first-hand over the past 20 years the extraordinary evolution of the United Nations human rights machinery and the mainstreaming of human rights into all global activities, mirrored by a greater national emphasis on human rights often driven by ever-more active parliaments. Parliamentarians played a critical role, by virtue of their legislative functions, in the protection and promotion of human rights across the board. He therefore welcomed the IPU's active engagement with the United Nations family on human rights, central to which was the growing cooperation between the IPU and the Human Rights Council, most notably in the Universal Periodic Review process. Parliamentarians were encouraged to expand that dimension further still by keeping abreast of reports on the human rights situation in their countries and monitoring implementation of the recommendations emerging from the process.

As to the third area, parliamentarians were similarly integral to the current process of developing a single and cohesive post-2015 development agenda imbued with the key principles of human rights, equality and fairness, with sustainable development at its core. Their input would involve identifying priorities, monitoring progress, mobilizing development resources, enhancing accountability through legislative oversight and giving voice to the most vulnerable through proper representation.

The United Nations and parliaments had a shared commitment to serve the peoples of the world, and were united in the responsibility to honour the confidence placed in them by delivering results, a less than easy task on which their legitimacy was nonetheless predicated. Working together better equipped them to live up to that obligation. The relationship between the two was also a two-way street in that effectiveness was in their mutual interest. Just as a parliamentary dimension had been injected into the work of the United Nations over the past decade, thanks to the IPU's hard work and engagement, joint efforts must be made to inject the United Nations dimension into the work of parliaments, which were able to explain to citizens and decision-makers the beneficial impact of United Nations work on lives and to ensure support for such work, including in times of competing priorities. The United Nations also shared the IPU's interest in promoting inclusive, accountable governance at all levels, good governance and democracy being fundamental to progress for all.

The United Nations Secretary-General would soon issue the latest report on interaction between the United Nations, the IPU and parliaments, which had come far in the past 20 years, and the General Assembly was set to adopt a new resolution on the same subject. A tireless advocate of engagement with the United Nations, a clear voice in support of parliamentarians on the international stage and a firm believer in the value of dialogue and exchange, the IPU Secretary General had been a driving force behind that expanding relationship during his 16 years of achievements at the helm of the IPU. He was indeed a true friend and a stalwart of parliamentary democracy. Building on the foundation he had laid with his team, the United Nations looked forward to taking the relationship between the two organizations even further and to strengthening their strategic partnership, which would surely contribute significantly to peace and democracy worldwide. He wished participants all the best for an inspired Assembly.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Møller for his excellent message to the Assembly and for taking time from his schedule to join the opening session.

Tribute to Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, outgoing Secretary General of the IPU

The PRESIDENT expressed gratitude to Mr. Anders Johnsson, outgoing Secretary General of the IPU, for his 23 years of faithful service since his appointment as Deputy Secretary General in 1991. He had been elected to the post of Secretary General seven years later, in 1998, and had set a record by serving four consecutive four-year terms of office. During his 16 years at the head of the Secretariat, the IPU had changed in myriad ways and made remarkable progress.

In terms of numbers, following an increase from 111 in 1991 to 137 in 1998, the number of Member Parliaments today stood at 164, representing a growth of almost 50 per cent over the entire 23-year period of Mr. Johnsson's service and near attainment of the goal of universal representation set in the IPU Strategy 2012–2017. Attendance at IPU Assemblies had likewise risen from 85 delegations and 736 participants in 1991 in Pyongyang – the year in which Mr. Johnsson had first participated – to 118 delegations and 1,198 participants in 2013 in Quito, representing an increase of 60 per cent. The IPU had also organized 17 specialized meetings in 2012, an eight-fold increase over the two meetings organized in 1992.

In terms of quality, substantial reform measures had been introduced under the Secretary General's watch, including most recently the IPU Strategy 2012–2017, the introduction of a new communications service and the adoption of a new visual identity incorporating a new logo. As to the IPU's acquisition of the House of Parliaments, the Secretary General had played an instrumental role in choosing the site, preparing the project, raising the additional funds needed and monitoring the renovation work.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Johnsson had proved his competence, sincerity and dedication to his work at the IPU, which had been a central part of his life and which he had selflessly served as an outstanding leader who inspired respect and esteem. In so doing, he had benefited the causes of democracy, peace, cooperation between peoples, gender equality, development and justice. It was a privilege and an honour to present to him, on behalf of the entire IPU, a token of appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the tremendous legacy he had bequeathed to the IPU.

A painting of the stone and stained-glass House of Parliaments was presented as a gift to the Secretary General.

Ms. M.N. NASHA (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the African Group, paid tribute to the Secretary General for his long years of service to the IPU. During that time, he had performed a sterling job of steering the IPU through a maze of challenges, driving forward the agenda of conflict prevention, management and resolution, strengthening emerging democracies and ensuring that parliamentary democracy flourished worldwide. He was also to be credited for his perseverance and insistence in driving home to parliaments, through countless instructive letters and e-mails, the message that gender sensitivity and equality were no longer optional. With tremendous dedication and passion, he had changed mindsets and perceptions towards embracing inclusive democracy. She wished him all the very best in his future endeavours.

Mr. M. AL-GHANIM (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, saluted the diligent and valuable efforts long exerted by the Secretary General for the benefit of the IPU. His proven competence and responsibility while serving as Deputy Secretary General had inspired Members to elect him as Secretary General, in 1998, and his sincere commitment thereafter to expanding IPU activities had so boosted that initial confidence as to see him elected for a further three consecutive terms. Much of his career had thus been devoted to initiatives in such areas as parliamentary diplomacy, international cooperation, human rights and strengthening of democracy, including through technical and other assistance to parliaments. He would leave a lasting imprint on the organization he had so faithfully served and with which he would ever be associated in the minds of its Members. The Arab Group wished him a full and active life in the company of his family in the years to come.

Ms. B. BOUPHA (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, expressed sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the Secretary General for his immense contribution to the IPU throughout his 16 years in office. Since taking up the post in 1998, he had dedicated tireless efforts and energy to developing the organization and promoting its international role. He had also effectively guided and led the implementation of various IPU programmes and projects for strengthening cooperation among Member Parliaments and enhancing exchanges between parliamentarians. His significant efforts and outstanding leadership at the IPU were well recognized and would continue to provide the foundation for the further development of IPU activities. She joined others in wishing him the best of fortune and success in his future life.

Ms. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, said that the dedicated efforts of the Secretary General throughout his tenure to promote justice and peace were highly appreciated, as was his contribution to the development of parliamentary diplomacy. His success in overcoming the difficulties of implementing IPU activities in the face of the many crises occurring in a turbulent world was laudable. He had, moreover, won the gratitude of women in particular for his championing of gender equality and indeed merited honorary status at the IPU for his many memorable achievements. She wished him every happiness in his new life.

Mr. D. VIVAS (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, attested to the self-sacrifice and commitment of the Secretary General in striving to strengthen parliaments worldwide and develop the role of the institution he represented. He had brought a business-like approach to the advancement of peace and democracy and his solidarity with and balanced support for the IPU membership was well recognized and appreciated. He had successfully worked to enhance the IPU's visibility and image at the international level and to build an ever closer relationship with the United Nations, evidenced inter alia through such initiatives as the establishment of the Committee on United Nations Affairs as a Standing Committee. He would be missed.

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, endorsed the expressions of praise for the Secretary General, whose knowledge and demeanour were as remarkable today as when he had first assumed the post over 15 years earlier. Any agreement of his to disagree had always been respectful, in keeping with IPU principles, and it was thanks to his endeavours that the IPU now had a higher profile and engaged in a much wider range of activities than previously. He had proved his skills as a teacher, advocate and negotiator and his efforts on behalf of women parliamentarians warranted special applause. In short, he had set the bar very high for his successors. The Twelve Plus Group conveyed its best wishes to him and his family for the future.

Dr. T.-B. GURIRAB (Namibia), speaking as a former President of the IPU, recalled his professional encounters with the Secretary General: first, at the IPU Assembly hosted in Windhoek by his own country's Parliament, in 1998, at which Mr. Johnsson had first been elected to the post; secondly, at United Nations headquarters, where, as President of the General Assembly, he had worked with Mr. Johnsson to mobilize support for incorporating into the Millennium Declaration a reference to strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU, which was now a firm reality; and thirdly, at the IPU during his time as President of the organization. He was therefore well placed to confirm the accuracy of the tributes paid to the Secretary General, who indeed had an evangelical zeal to serve humanity, a firm belief in multilateralism and a strong commitment to boosting the number of women parliamentarians, which had yielded tangible results genuinely worthy of congratulation. The hope was that, with his generosity of heart, intellectual power and admirable hard work, he would continue to serve the IPU even as he spent more time with his family.

The SECRETARY GENERAL expressed gratitude for the words of congratulation and support, by which he was overwhelmed. Those words also signalled recognition of the extremely competent and hard-working IPU staff and applause for their exceptional dedication to delivering high-standard results and more. His task at the IPU would have been equally impossible without the support of his wife and children, with whom he would now certainly spend more time while nonetheless continuing to remain active, albeit to a lesser degree.

His attention had been initially drawn to the IPU by its intriguing potential as an organization representing all political currents worldwide and, since entering its ranks in 1991, he had seen it stake a claim on the international scene and play a vital role in driving forward democracy and democratic governance at all levels. It had been a privilege to work with so many extraordinary politicians worthy of high esteem, both men and women. Indeed, there could be no democracy without women's participation and he therefore urged robust efforts to increase that participation further still, adding a strong appeal for parliamentarians to seize the crucial window of opportunity currently open to them for contributing to the post-2015 development framework.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on

The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy

Throughout the entire General Debate, delegations joined in paying tribute to the Secretary General, with some also presenting gifts as an additional token of appreciation.

Mr. M. AL MUR (United Arab Emirates), opening the debate, said that the successes of the IPU as it celebrated its 125th anniversary attested to the will of people's representatives to work together for the ultimate goal of international peace and security. The substantial progress achieved by parliaments and the IPU in anchoring democracy and human rights was, however, threatened by the serious challenges of worsening poverty, hunger, unemployment, marginalization and instability triggered by global developments. It was therefore vital for parliaments to provide effective input for the new strategic objectives following on from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at tackling such challenges.

Past failures in implementing resolutions and recommendations on matters of universal concern signified the need to enhance IPU effectiveness and the efforts of regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, to identify appropriate solutions to global crises on the basis of international law. A strategic partnership between the IPU and the United Nations would therefore be a useful tool for building international diplomacy in the interest of spreading democracy and peace worldwide. Indeed, it was time for the United Nations community to take on board the views expressed by the representatives of its peoples.

Democracy and peace could not exist, however, alongside double standards and selectivity. United Nations resolutions must therefore be built on the principles of impartiality, fairness and objectivity and a collective commitment to uphold the rule of law, eschew use of force and respect all cultures equally. His own country's foreign policy was founded on the values of tolerance and openness to other cultures as the basis for stability, development and peace rooted in dialogue, mutual respect for sovereignty, good-neighbourliness and the peaceful negotiated settlement of disputes, including through international arbitration. It was also engaged in international activities in such areas as climate change, global disease and human rights.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda) said that, in the 125 years of the IPU's existence, the world had witnessed situations ranging from world war, conventional, chemical and nuclear warfare, rebellion, insurgency and terrorism to brutality, exploitation and the return of slavery in the form of human trafficking, an unwanted consequence of the movement of people facilitated by globalization, aviation and the maritime industry. Intra-country child trafficking for such purposes as labour, sexual exploitation, slavery and pornography was yet another modern-day scourge.

Parliaments must therefore do more to address trafficking problems by, among other things, establishing internal measures for detecting intra-country trafficking of minors in particular, taking an interest in the activities of immigration authorities in source, transit and destination countries for trafficked persons, ensuring that trafficking revenues were kept out of the national purse, setting up parliamentary committees for the regular follow-up of trafficking issues, and allocating sufficient budgetary resources to put a stop to trafficking.

Parliaments must also work to improve employment prospects and clamp down on online and other advertising of deceptively appealing employment offers that induced many to sell their family assets in order to pay the upfront costs demanded of anyone wishing to take up the offer. Formal agreements with host governments for monitoring compliance with contracts of employment were another measure to be encouraged. Such actions would help to prevent exploitation, sexual abuse, slavery and trafficking of workers and ensure fair remuneration for work performed. It was the job of parliamentarians to work for the peace and stability that would enable their citizens to live, work and study in a secure environment.

Mr. A.F.I.E.D. AL MANSOUR (Sudan) declared that political and socio-economic issues could be directly resolved by employing free, objective and genuine dialogue in the manner of parliamentarians. A peaceful approach to political problems and disputes was essential to forestalling violence and raising awareness of the fact that a modern-day state capable of responding to public needs and aspirations could be built only through peace founded inter alia on tolerance, justice and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

Peaceful negotiation and dialogue had been prioritized as the only means of ending the protracted war in the south of his country and, in accordance with the long-standing conviction that Sudan's cultural, tribal and ethnic diversity was its strength, power- and wealth-sharing were now policy principles and upcoming generations were raised on such values as social peace and mixed identity. In keeping with its commitments under the relevant peace agreements and despite the ensuing losses of land and key resources, Sudan had respected the right of the south to self-determination and had worked tirelessly to settle outstanding problems with the new South Sudan in a good-neighbourly spirit. It had furthermore led initiatives to end the current bloodshed in that country and was providing shelter and assistance to South Sudanese refugees on its territory. In Darfur, peace now also largely prevailed as a result of long, hard negotiations conducted with the assistance of Qatar in particular.

As part of its commitment to instilling democracy, the Sudanese Government had recently announced constitutional and legal reforms designed to expand freedoms and ensure fair elections, taking into account such matters as proportional representation and the electoral participation of all political groups. A committee composed of all political groups, civil society stakeholders, experts and academics would be tasked with drafting a permanent constitution.

Mr. SINH HUNG NGUYEN (Viet Nam) stated that the IPU had for 125 years pursued the commitment to secure global peace and security through the advancement of democracy and human rights, and through stepped-up international dialogue and cooperation, including on such common security-related issues as disarmament and counter-terrorism. Indeed, the parliamentary efficiency for which the IPU constantly worked, in the interest of justice, freedom and equality for all, provided the foundation for the promotion and protection of global democracy, an approach reflected in the IPU Strategy 2012–2017. Appropriate adjustments must be made, however, in the light of the emerging challenges and opportunities in today's ever-changing world.

Having experienced long years of struggle, Viet Nam and its people aspired to a world of peace and democracy and supported the goals of non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Non-proliferation measures must be implemented in compliance with international law and without placing unintentional burdens on normal economic and trade activities. In view of the energy shortage, natural disasters and advances in science and technology, all countries should nonetheless be entitled to research, develop, consume and transfer nuclear, chemical and biological technologies for peaceful purposes. As to counter-terrorism, the IPU's efforts to enhance parliamentary cooperation, notably through information-sharing, were most welcome.

Viet Nam had proactively contributed to IPU and United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of democracy as a common human value. Human rights must be similarly promoted, including through national legislation and parliamentary oversight. He expressed gratitude for the trust and support demonstrated in his parliament by the unanimous approval of the decision to hold the 132nd IPU Assembly in Hanoi, in March 2015, and proposed parliament and the post-2015 development agenda as the theme of debate at that event, which all IPU Members were invited to attend.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that, in considering the crucial role of parliaments in ensuring democracy and peace amid evolving realities, the ramifications of protracted conflicts and such predominating factors as nuclear arms proliferation, terrorism and inter-ethnic strife were impossible to ignore. The inextricable linkage between democracy and peace lay in the idea that peace was primarily dependent on the promotion of democratic institutions and partnership between democratic nations. Democracy was thus a form of representative governance contributing to international peace through respect for human rights, equality before the law and due process within a framework of political pluralism. As bastions of democracy central to that process, parliaments were uniquely positioned to promote and propagate the values conducive to peace, but peace was a holistic concept of which socio-economic development was an integral component. It could not be delivered without addressing important challenges, including poverty, social inequality and climate change, and responding to public needs and aspirations. The question was whether the best means to that end was to pursue the model of inclusive democracy or that of social democracy.

Bangladesh had achieved significant socio-economic development through comprehensive policies directed at the achievement of middle-income country status by 2021. Its peace model championing people's empowerment and development had been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 and its Constitution likewise enshrined the promotion of international peace, to which Bangladesh had robustly contributed through its participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The recently elected Tenth Parliament was also intent on functioning with the effectiveness needed to sustain and consolidate a sound and vibrant democracy, including by upholding the rule of law, human rights and good governance and continuing to deliberate constructively in a spirit of cooperation, tolerance and consensus. It was through a constitutional democratic regime that public aspirations could be maintained.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Sitting of Monday 17 March (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

A commemorative video, “Reflections on the IPU”, was screened, in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU’s work and achievements over its 125-year history.

The PRESIDENT welcomed Mr. Mustafa Ben Jaafar, Speaker of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia, to the Assembly, where he would deliver a presentation on the newly adopted Constitution in Tunisia as part of its historic transition to democracy. The Tunisian Parliament had been instrumental in leading the country out of crisis after the fall of the previous regime, thereby attesting to the important strategic role of parliaments in all societies aspiring to democracy and peace.

A particularly striking feature of the Tunisian Constitution was the fact that it was based on consensus: it took account of the various groups and wide range of beliefs in Tunisian society; met the needs of the Tunisian people; and guaranteed fundamental individual and collective rights and freedoms. The Tunisian example should indeed inspire efforts in other countries affected by the Arab Spring to overcome their difficulties. The IPU stood ready to provide assistance and support to the Tunisian Parliament and congratulated its members, in particular Mr. Ben Jaafar, for their part in a critical stage of their country’s history.

Mr. M. BEN JAAFAR (Tunisia), thanking the IPU for its efforts on behalf of its Members, expressed particular gratitude to its President for his continuing support of Tunisia’s transition process and his attendance at the ceremony at which the new Constitution had been adopted in February 2014. The IPU’s approaching 125th anniversary was a timely opportunity for also expressing pride in belonging to the first international multilateral organization that remained unparalleled as a forum of consultation for the world’s parliamentarians in their efforts to achieve peace, promote cooperation, establish representative democracy and protect human rights. An IPU Member since Tunisian independence in 1957, his Parliament had renewed its resolve to pursue the vision of the IPU’s founding fathers in working to install a transparent and responsible democracy built on the free will of the people and their full and equal participation in public life at all levels, regardless of cultural and socio-economic differences, as was indeed their fundamental right. Publicly accountable institutions representing all components of society were vital to ensuring optimum effectiveness in expressing the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action. Now more than at any time past, parliamentarians must reaffirm, preserve and support the international dimension of democracy in keeping with the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration on Democracy.

The IPU had long supported and cooperated with the United Nations in many of its areas of activity, eventually acquiring observer status in 2002. International relations had not yet been fully democratized, however, and the IPU must therefore work to advance the reform of an international system that remained clearly unequal, with military power too often a deciding factor in international relations, with the right of veto in the Security Council remaining in the same hands, and with the unjust economic disparity between affluent and developing countries continuing to give the lie to empty talk of equity. The glaring inability of the international community to find just and durable solutions to conflict must also be addressed, above all in the Middle East, given the potentially disruptive consequences for global peace and security. The Palestinian people must have an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital, the Palestine refugee issue must be resolved and wrongly detained Palestinian parliamentarians must also be released. In the case of the Syrian crisis, the bloodshed would be halted only through the peaceful co-existence of the Syrian people in a free and democratic State embracing all ideologies and beliefs.

The Tunisian people looked forward to building peace and democracy after its long struggle for freedom, justice and development through a peaceful and civilized revolution, which had borne its first fruit in the form of the Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia. In a historic moment signalling reconciliation, strong national cohesion and the triumph of unity over difference and tolerance over hatred, almost 92 per cent of parliamentarians chosen in the country’s first free and fair elections in

2011 had approved the new instrument, which expressed the Arab-Islamic identity of the Tunisian people in espousing such values as justice and compromise and took inspiration from Tunisia's cultural richness and diversity.

Indeed, the political, economic and social obstacles, episodes of violence and security threats faced during the transition process had been weathered thanks to the just and law-abiding Tunisian people. Such challenges as political assassinations, terrorist operations and other attempts to thwart that process had thus been overcome to produce a progressive Constitution compliant with international norms and based on accountability and reconciliation. Tunisia had in fact opted for the best, albeit most difficult, course by tasking a national constituent assembly reflecting all political and ideological hues with drafting the Constitution, drawing on successful transition experiences elsewhere. Involving a comprehensive national dialogue with civil society, political and other actors, it had been a highly transparent exercise in consensus.

Modern, revolutionary and expressing the commitment to sublime human values and human rights principles, the resulting Constitution was designed to build a participatory democratic republican system as part of a civil State with a parliamentary system based on the separation and balance of powers. It enshrined the independence of the judiciary and respect for human rights and freedoms, guaranteeing inter alia equal rights and duties for all, without distinction; the right to life, human dignity and freedom of belief, conscience and religious observance; economic, social and cultural rights; political rights and freedoms; and women's rights, including equal opportunities and equal representation in elected bodies. It also enshrined the commitment to develop youth capacities, promote decentralization and disseminate the values of moderation and tolerance, prohibiting torture, *takfir* (excommunication) and incitement to hatred and violence. In addition, it created fully independent constitutional bodies for promoting and supporting democracy, such as the Independent High Electoral Commission, the Audio-visual Communication Commission and the Human Rights Commission.

Following the voluntary handover of power to an independent and neutral caretaker government of national consensus, Tunisia was now in the final transition stage, which would culminate in elections to be held, before the end of 2014, under a new electoral law. It had won the battle for freedom and its Constitution now laid a solid foundation for democracy. With economic, social and security concerns firmly prioritized, the major challenges were to build democratic institutions and achieve the development essential to preserving the gains made, all of which would require concerted national efforts and the solidarity of friends in order to convey positive messages of hope to the country's youth and curb disparity. Tunisia also looked to the IPU for support of its right to recover looted assets held abroad, for assistance during the election process and for further cooperation in the institutional development of its Parliament. He conveyed his best wishes for a successful Assembly to the IPU, which remained a beacon for democracy, freedom, diversity, peace and justice.

The PRESIDENT, thanking Mr. Ben Jaafar for his enlightening presentation, likewise wished every success to the Tunisian National Assembly in its endeavours, which would surely reverberate across the Arab world.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on

The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy

Resumption of the debate

Mr. M. Al-GHANIM (Kuwait), resuming the debate, said that Kuwait had very recently celebrated its independence and liberation, an anniversary that would forever keep alive the values of peace and democracy in the minds of its people. Kuwait's edifying history had furthermore inspired a pioneering commitment to build on those values for the benefit of future generations in a land of freedom and peace.

As it celebrated its own anniversary, the IPU was to be saluted for its tremendous role in promoting peace, democracy and human rights worldwide, with human beings as the rightful focus, objective and means of its activities. Democracy was a human aspiration and it was humankind, regardless of differences in beliefs and origins, that must be served by legislation. Going hand in hand, democracy and peace together formed the foundation for human rights in countries across

the world, including new democracies, which must be supported and strengthened. It was therefore vital to renew the commitment to promoting both in the interest of sustaining the freedom of peoples worldwide.

By the same token, parliamentarians must additionally make a moral commitment to peace and democracy by taking concrete action to address the causes of such tragedies as the plight of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation and of Syrian refugees fleeing the crisis in their country. International efforts must be stepped up to resolve such situations, which threatened to destabilize the region. In that context, Kuwait had recently hosted, for the second time, an international conference for pledging humanitarian support to Syrians affected by the crisis. His country was intrinsically committed to peace and democracy, thanks to which he was able to stand and address the present gathering as a free representative of free fellow citizens.

Ms. F. Diendéré Diallo (Burkina Faso) took the chair.

Mr. H. ABRAHAMYAN (Armenia) noted that, throughout its 125-year history, the IPU had maintained its commitment to the promotion of peace, human rights and democracy through a wide range of related activities, including in response to challenging issues of global concern. The same focus infused the domestic and foreign policy in Armenia, where reforms were under way with the aim of strengthening democracy, developing civil society and protecting human rights. The National Assembly had thus already hosted the first-ever regional meeting of parliamentarians on children's rights and indeed stood ready to host other inter-parliamentary events in future. It was also committed to working with civil society through various parliamentary channels on matters of public concern.

Recalling the 20 years of international efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict on the basis of the three internationally accepted principles of national self-determination, territorial integrity and non-use of threat or force, he expressed regret that Azerbaijan recognized only that of territorial integrity, which had only produced a stalemate. The frequent bellicose rhetoric from the highest Azerbaijani authorities in Baku similarly deterred the peaceful settlement to which the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia were strongly committed. The former was in fact a functioning State where several parliamentary, presidential and local elections declared free and fair by international observers had already taken place. With widescale reforms under way, a democratic society was taking shape and the vision of a homeland within Azerbaijan was not one embraced by the upcoming generation.

More generally speaking, the democratic culture needed for a lasting democracy required ongoing education of the public, responsibility for which lay mainly with the political elite. Parliamentarians must therefore work to deepen democracy as the only means of strengthening statehood, developing the country and securing a more prosperous future for society.

Mr. F. DRILON (Philippines) commended the IPU for its major contribution to the quest for world peace and the promotion of democracy. Its technical assistance to parliaments, especially in countries recovering from years of conflict, was invaluable, as were its human rights and gender equality programmes. Its continuing advocacy for increasing women's political participation was also yielding results. In the Philippines Congress alone, women accounted for a record 25 per cent of the Senate membership and 27 per cent in the case of the House of Representatives, figures that were expected to rise still further.

In the context of the IPU as a unique venue for the free discussion of international issues, the establishment of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs was particularly welcome. It would involve parliamentarians playing a role in ensuring that government commitments under international instruments were honoured and could also well assist the peaceful settlement of disputes. The United Nations indeed considered the IPU to be an essential partner in promoting the rule of law. Parliamentarians must therefore strive to espouse a rules-based regime in the interest of maintaining international peace, remaining vigilant against those who sought to establish the rule of force.

After 15 years of suspension under martial law, the Philippines Congress had resumed in 1987 as an ever vibrant law-making body deriving its mandate from the people, exercising checks and balances over the executive and the judiciary, and upholding the country's democratic ideals. Its commitment to supporting the IPU was demonstrated not only by its hosting of the 112th Assembly in Manila but also by its active role in IPU statutory bodies and committees, including through individual legislators such as himself. He acknowledged with gratitude the major contribution of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to the release of his colleague, who had consequently been able to attend the present Assembly.

Ms. T. EFUA ASANGONO (Equatorial Guinea) reported that the institutions created under her country's Constitution, approved by referendum in 2011, included a bicameral parliament, which had given rise to a more pluralistic and participatory democracy in line with the people's aspirations for dignity, peace, unity and social justice. Representing the country's 13 political parties, the Parliament comprised 100 deputies and 70 senators, including 24 women. It was thanks to the gender equality and equal opportunity policies in place that she had been elected as the Speaker of the Senate, making her the first-ever woman in the country to head a constitutional body. Her election had thus been an achievement for women, particularly in view of the various oversight functions exercised by the Senate and its role in ensuring the well-being of citizens and the protection of their rights and freedoms.

While doing their utmost to discharge their functions, her country's parliamentarians were aware of the limitations of their newly established institution, which would essentially benefit in serving its people from the support of international institutions and friendly countries. Participatory democracy and lasting peace were prerequisites for sustainable development and the Parliament of Equatorial Guinea was therefore determined to work in conjunction with international organizations to develop strategies for achieving those goals in the interest of a better, if not perfect, world.

Ms. N.M. ZZIWA (East African Legislative Assembly) congratulated the IPU on its 125 years of service for the betterment of parliamentary democracy and effective representation on issues affecting all humanity, such as those relating to disaster reduction, peace and security, democracy, good governance and the vulnerable sectors of society. Democratic principles were instrumental to the workings of the five Member States of the East African Community, which had made tremendous strides towards good governance through various measures, including regular elections, constitutional reforms involving all political parties and key stakeholders, and vast improvements in media freedom. The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) had supported regional efforts in such matters as establishing peace and stability, combating terrorism and halting the proliferation of small arms through, for example, disarmament and alternative livelihood programmes.

EALA had likewise been a prime advocate of sustainable development policies for the improvement of living standards, human rights and equality. It had crucially collaborated with the IPU on issues of maternal, newborn and child health, one of its ultimate objectives being to eradicate maternal deaths, and it sought to outlaw the practice of female genital mutilation to which so many African girls were subjected. It had also represented marginalized sectors, including children; supported the tireless work under way to restore peace in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; spearheaded the enactment of laws supporting regional integration under the East African Common Market Protocol; approved a bill, now awaiting assent, on facilitating access to antiretroviral drugs for persons living with HIV/AIDS; proposed a disaster-risk management bill in the wake of the region's losses from such natural disasters as heavy rains, floods and landslides; and continued to advocate, among others, for affordable housing, sustainable cities and access policies that reduced risks to climate change.

Mr. K.T. GEBREHIWOT (Ethiopia) remarked that the chosen theme of debate was timely in the light of the unstable peace and insecurity prevailing in many parts of the world as a result of multidimensional, complex and interconnected challenges, including armed conflict, acts of terrorism and drug trafficking. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in helping to address those challenges through the promotion of peace and security, as well as through building the democratic societies critical to sustainable development and socio-economic progress. Together with the establishment of appropriate governance institutions and practices, such measures should be prioritized. The IPU should also be committed to institutional capacity-building to equip its Members for addressing deep-seated structural problems through mechanisms for realizing its core principles of peace, democracy and human rights. Peace and stability would be difficult to attain without active parliamentary participation in peacebuilding, national reconciliation and conflict resolution.

Despite inclusive and job-generating economic growth, poverty remained a fundamental problem for Ethiopia and its eradication an overriding goal to be attained through access to sustainable livelihoods and basic social services assured inter alia by social development, democracy and good governance. Recent achievements included wider access to education, reduced maternal and child mortality, and increased food self-sufficiency and agricultural productivity. A key factor in the country's impressive broad-based and equitable economic growth was the participatory aspect of the development process. Ethiopia also continued to assist in

building a new regional security, political, economic and environmental partnership with Horn of Africa States in the interest of achieving an economically and politically integrated region. It had a long and proud history of substantial participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations since the early 1950s to the present day and its Government remained committed to an inclusive political process and a democratic system in which the rule of law and justice prevailed.

Mr. S.A. OUATTARA (Burkina Faso) said that the commitment to peace and democracy was a key theme demanding concrete measures on a daily basis, a new approach to life and fresh interaction with peoples and national institutions. Chiming as that theme did with present global challenges, it was more important than ever to sustain peace and strengthen democracy in the interest of relieving the world's tensions, conflicts and attendant complexities. A more comprehensive approach to crisis management was consequently required. Parliamentarians, too, must step up their commitment to their role as an interface between peoples and institutions by ensuring a more inclusive response to the promotion of peace and democracy, which implied the need for greater cooperation among parliaments themselves, as well as between parliaments and multilateral institutions involved in peacebuilding. The recent establishment of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs was therefore a particularly welcome reform.

At the national level, the commitment to peace and development was sustainable only if parliamentarians listened carefully to the peoples they represented and respected their diversity and specificity. For over a decade, Burkina Faso had actively promoted peace and social cohesion in Africa through a variety of forums. Sharing the presidential vision of peace as the foundation of development and true democracy, its parliamentarians worked with conviction to that end. Paying tribute to all parliamentarians in their daily efforts to realize the vital choice of peace and democracy, he stressed the importance of the programme of work ahead and conveyed his best wishes to the IPU on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Mr. N. NIGMATULIN (Kazakhstan) commented that the joint contribution of IPU Members to the cause of peace and security attested to the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in international relations and problem-solving. The IPU must now work to strengthen mutual confidence and maximize its vast potential for addressing the threats and challenges to global development, including poverty, injustice, environmental degradation and terrorism. To that end, it should build on its existing prestige and influence as a forum for inter-parliamentary dialogue among equals, regardless of size, power and location. One benefit of this for Members was the identification of best practices for consideration in drafting national legislation.

Home to a multiplicity of nationalities and confessions and with the values of equal opportunity, tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in its Constitution, Kazakhstan was a model of inter-ethnic and interreligious dialogue. Its role as a bridge between civilizations, religions and cultures was indeed aptly reflected in its successfully functioning Parliament, which represented all ethnic groups. It was also soon to host, for the fifth time, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Another priority for Kazakhstan was compliance with international peace and security norms, which had earned it a reputation as a State fully committed to the preservation of global peace and stability in a crisis-ridden world where the inviolable principles of multilateralism and collectivism must be paramount. It pursued a responsible nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation policy, closing its nuclear test site and signing the Treaty on a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. It had also initiated the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures for Asia and provided substantial technical and financial assistance to Afghanistan. On the strength of such activities, it had proposed its candidature for non-permanent membership of the Security Council for 2017 to 2018.

Mr. A. MARTINHO DE BARROS PINTO (Sao Tome and Principe) observed that, 125 years on, the ideals and values promoted by the IPU's founding fathers remained fully alive. The IPU had indeed played an important role from the outset in defending peace, a role reinforced after the Cold War by its focus on the internationalization of its basic principles relating to conflict resolution through effective parliamentary diplomacy.

His country's National Assembly had worked to overcome countless obstacles and achieve social peace since the historic advent of the multiparty system in the early 1990s. It was open to learning from more experienced parliaments while also taking into account its own realities. With the current electoral mandate nearing its end, monitored elections were due to take place before the end of 2014 to ensure the rotation of power in accordance with the wishes of the electorate. Women currently accounted for only 10 of its 55 parliamentarians, although expectations were that

the 30 per cent quota would be met in those coming elections, which were vital to consolidating the progress already achieved towards democracy. The financial cost was burdensome, however, and a potential disruption to the macroeconomic balance.

The political developments and escalating conflicts in today's globalized world of information had worrying implications for peace, as did other problems such as international terrorism, human trafficking and slavery. The IPU and its membership must therefore deploy the democratic mechanisms at their disposal in order to tackle the issues concerned. Parliamentarians must comply with the wishes of the people whom they represented and take the lead in building global peace.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that with the world facing new levels of fragility, conflict and humanitarian tragedies, renewing commitments to peace and democracy was timely. Those two ideals were constantly under threat, being challenged and called into question and it was the role of parliamentarians to defend and develop them, ensuring that human rights and democracy were respected.

She lamented the many ongoing or simmering conflicts in the world especially the recent attack on Ukraine's territorial integrity and the military intervention in the Crimean Peninsula by the Russian Federation. Through that action, the latter had placed itself outside international law. Germany called for dialogue to resolve the issue instead of the present sabre-rattling and risk of war. Meanwhile, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continued; it was a humanitarian catastrophe and was increasingly a political crisis for the whole region.

The problems posed by such conflicts were compounded by other global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, poverty and financial crises, which showed that world politics could not sustain a "business-as-usual" approach. To combat such challenges the international community needed to commit to greater cooperation, understanding and knowledge of different cultures, values and interests.

Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) took the chair.

Mr. C. ÇIÇEK (Turkey) commended the valuable contribution made by the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Johnsson, and said that, as the IPU celebrated its 125th anniversary, he hoped its good work would continue. There were various conflicts causing devastation throughout the world, which was why a renewed commitment to peace and democracy was so important. The recent outbreak of tensions in Ukraine should be resolved in accordance with democratic principles and international law, with the safety of the Crimean people protected.

The behaviours and attitudes of the 20th century were now outdated and the world faced new threats as a result of globalization. Principles needed to be established to distribute wealth and welfare more evenly around the world and to make it a more safe and secure place. The 21st century had brought with it greater incidence of terrorism, transboundary organized crime, cyber crime and intercultural polarization. Despite a decrease in inter-State conflicts, domestic conflicts continued to increase, with women and children suffering the most. Global security and safety were further threatened by hunger, poverty and climate change. To eliminate those threats, States needed to work together to resolve problems peacefully and to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction. Non-proliferation mechanisms were integral to that.

The international community needed to fight global terrorism, promote respect for cultural diversity, prevent poverty and respect human rights. In a globalized world with increasing social mobility and migration, respect for and management of cultural and ethnic diversity became even more important. Turkey had for many years had a multicultural, multi-faith, multilingual and multi-ethnic society and believed that diversity was enriching and should be valued. All States needed to ensure that its laws and resources served all people, regardless of their differences.

The motto declared by the founder of the Turkish Republic, "Peace at home; peace in the world", formed the basis of the country's foreign policy. Turkey was now an emerging donor country, providing development assistance, and had long supported the demands of the people in North Africa and the Middle East for a democratic transformation in their countries. There were many polarized and extreme views around the world, including increasingly in Europe, and the only way to guarantee a peaceful and stable future for the world was to build democratic awareness and ensure national ownership of democracy.

Turkey hoped, in particular, that ongoing issues related to Cyprus would be resolved soon through renewed negotiations and that the Palestinian situation would also soon be settled.

Item 2 of the agenda**Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda**

The PRESIDENT announced that four proposals for the subject of the emergency item had been submitted (A/130/2-Inf.1):

- The role of parliaments and the IPU in fighting terrorism and achieving international peace and security through a peaceful political solution to the situation in Syria and respect for resolutions with international legitimacy and the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States (Syrian Arab Republic);
- Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU (Morocco);
- Russian Federation aggression against Ukraine (Ukraine); and
- The crisis in Ukraine (Canada).

He invited the four delegations to make a presentation on each of their proposals.

The delegate of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that the ongoing conflict in his country had destroyed its social fabric. The media was inciting war and promoting killing and extremist acts. All people in the Syrian Arab Republic, whether Christian or Muslim, were threatened by what was happening and the effects of the conflict were spreading to other countries in the region; nobody was safe from the crisis. The Government was working to resolve the crisis, including through international initiatives and by offering an amnesty to all those who wished to return to the country. He hoped that the proposal by his delegation would be approved as the emergency item so that further steps could be taken to end the conflict.

Mr. H. KOUSKOUS (Morocco) said that the situation in the Central African Republic was catastrophic; there had been much barbarity, ethnic and religious cleansing and, despite the presence of peacekeeping forces and the provision of international aid, the situation had not improved. Given the ongoing uncertainty, the planned transition in the country at the start of the following year would be difficult to achieve. All reports on the conflict, by the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, Amnesty International and others, showed that the massacres were continuing, homes and places of worship were still being destroyed and the State infrastructure was crumbling.

He said that Morocco's proposal for the emergency item was supported by the Arab and African Groups and he hoped that all Members would consider supporting its inclusion in the agenda.

Ms. N. AGAFONOVA (Ukraine) said that the Ukrainian issue concerned the stability and security not only of Ukraine but of the whole world. Her country was alarmed by the violation of international law, the United Nations Charter and the principle of national sovereignty by the Russian military intervention in the Crimean Peninsula. There were also indications that other regions of Ukraine were at risk. The Russian Federation was violating the assurances it had given in the Budapest Memorandum and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, the referendum held in Crimea had no validity, as a free and fair referendum could not be held under duress and military intervention.

She informed the Assembly that, owing to their similarities, the Ukrainian and Canadian delegations had merged their two proposals and said that she hoped all Members would support the proposed emergency item. Ukraine would remain unrelenting in restoring Crimea's legitimate status as an integral part of Ukraine.

Mr. T. YOUNG (Canada) said that the crisis in Ukraine required the urgent attention of the IPU, not least because of the previous day's illegal referendum on the secession of Crimea to the Russian Federation. Having been held under illegal military occupation, its results were invalid and illegitimate. The crisis was a major event of international concern and the IPU, with its focus on democracy, international law and human rights, was the ideal forum in which parliamentarians could take a firm stand against what was happening.

The unlawful presence of Russian military forces in that Peninsula was unacceptable and represented a clear violation of international law and of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The crisis needed to end for the sake of international order, peace and stability and for the

security and safety of the Ukrainian people. Canada had monitored with concern the events of recent weeks and believed that a resolution taken by the IPU Assembly on the crisis would reinforce international and bilateral efforts undertaken in other forums. All parties needed to work to resolve the crisis in a spirit of dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation; reaffirm commitments to international legal principles and the rights of minorities; uphold the values of democracy; and promote the rule of law and freedom of expression and association.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that the referendum held in the Crimean Peninsula the previous day, with the participation of 96 per cent of the population voting to accede to the Russian Federation, had been held in accordance with the universal right to self-determination, as proclaimed by the United Nations. The referendum was not the decision of Moscow but of the Crimean people.

For many years, the Ukrainian Government had failed to provide a better lifestyle for its people and to protect the rights of the Russian-speaking majority in Crimea, which had been further threatened by recent decisions taken in Kiev. The Russian Federation was deeply concerned about the political crisis that had broken out in Ukraine since the start of 2014, as it now affected not only Crimea but other regions in the country as well.

In order to respect the decision of the Crimean population, the Russian Federation proposed postponing a discussion on the situation until more information was available and proper investigations could be carried out into what was happening in Ukraine, including into the deaths of over 100 people in Kiev.

Mr. T. QUBA'A (Palestine), acknowledging the comments by other speakers that the situation in Crimea was illegal, immoral and ran counter to international, including humanitarian, law, asked whether the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the torture and suffering that occurred should be allowed to be considered as legitimate, legal and compatible with international law.

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

Following a roll-call vote, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Morocco was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 9.

Mr. H. KOUSKOUS (Morocco) expressed his thanks to all those who had participated in the vote and for the outcome in favour of promoting peace and security in the Central African Republic.

The SECRETARY GENERAL, responding to requests for clarification on the results of the vote, said that a proposal needed to obtain two-thirds of the votes cast in favour and against. Both the Moroccan and joint Ukrainian-Canadian proposals had received two-thirds meaning that, according to the rules of the vote, it was the proposal that received the largest number of favourable votes that would be selected, which, in the present case, was the Moroccan proposal with over 900 votes cast in its favour.

Final Assembly Agenda

- Item 1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 130th Assembly
 - Item 2 Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 - Item 3 General Debate on *The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy*
 - Item 4 Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments
(*Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)
 - Item 5 Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints
(*Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
 - Item 6 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
(*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
 - Item 7 Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
 - Item 8 Approval of the subject items to be taken up by the Standing Committees and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 - Item 9 Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU
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Item 3 of the agenda**General Debate on*****The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy****Resumption of the debate*

Mr. F. DOS SANTOS (Angola) congratulated the IPU on its 125th anniversary and acknowledged that, despite the pacifist ideals that drove William Randal Cremer and Frédéric Passy to found the organization, the world still witnessed many conflicts. Given particular crisis situations around the world, the relevance and timeliness of the theme of the debate was beyond doubt.

Owing to the recent history of his country, Angolans were fully aware of how precious peace was and of its importance for the social and economic development of States. Successive macroeconomic indicators attested to the fact that Angola's economy was one of the fastest growing in the world, a clear result of the stable environment prevailing in the country and its focus on peace, democracy and social justice. Parliamentarians played a key role in establishing and strengthening peace, particularly in post-conflict situations similar to that in Angola. In his country, military battles of the past had been replaced by battles of political ideas, which had helped to strengthen the peacebuilding and reconciliation process.

Democracy, however, was not a ready-made package; it needed to be built piece-by-piece, based on a multiparty political system whose primary component was guaranteeing the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people. Peace and political stability were not a reality in every country and recent developments in the Central African Republic, Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine were just a few examples of political differences not being resolved through dialogue and peaceful means and in accordance with international law and order.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) said that, as parliamentarians acknowledged the outstanding achievements of the IPU since its creation 125 years previously, it was not out of self-congratulation but a determined desire to repair the breaches in democracies around the world. For democracy to be meaningful it had to be tangible and to touch and enrich the lives of ordinary people. South Africa was currently celebrating 20 years of democracy, peace and stability and continued to be guided and inspired by the example and teaching of the late Nelson Mandela. The fundamental freedoms that he had fought for were enshrined in the Constitution and protected by law.

Democracy was ever evolving and no perfect model yet existed anywhere in the world. People, however, drove their own destinies and were active participants in shaping their own and the world's future. Freedom was the cornerstone of democracy and the will of the people should always be the basis of the authority of governments. The IPU had repeatedly affirmed that healthy democracies were based on the existence of well-functioning democratic institutions, not least parliaments, which had an obligation to ensure transparency and accountability in their work, processes and procedures. Parliaments needed to mediate tension and maintain a balance between the competing claims of diversity and uniformity and to actively promote and protect democracy.

South Africa commended the outgoing Secretary General for his considerable contribution to the work of the IPU. Under his stewardship it had evolved into a dynamic and effective organization that was respected the world over.

Ms. A. VAN MILTENBURG (Netherlands) said that the need for international, and thus inter-parliamentary, cooperation had grown in recent decades, owing in part to technological developments and an ever-increasing supply of information. Parliamentarians now had more and more information at their fingertips, which was increasingly shared with others in society. The key question was how parliamentarians were, or should be, using that information. They needed to demonstrate that they were fulfilling the mandate given to them by the electorate but also to recognize that new ways of communicating and obtaining or sharing information had significant consequences on the way that they worked.

The ease with which young parliamentarians used modern media showed how quickly technological developments had changed the nature of democratic processes. Despite such change, however, parliamentarians should value the opportunities provided by the IPU and other forums to meet together, as there was much diversity among democracies around the world and understanding such diversity was a key basis for cooperation. She welcomed the fact that the IPU continued to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among parliamentarians.

In many countries, parliamentarians were not able to go about their work unhindered; many were confronted with threats, intimidation, violence, torture, imprisonment, or even forced disappearance. It was of the utmost importance that all parliamentarians and the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians stood up for and assisted their colleagues who were not free to carry out their duties.

She welcomed the establishment of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs and underscored the key role that parliaments played in overseeing government policies regarding international cooperation. That Standing Committee would also act as a catalyst for ensuring the views of the parliamentary community were heard within the United Nations on the matter of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Netherlands commended the outgoing Secretary General for his many years driving forward the work of the IPU and wished him the very best for the future.

Ms. A. SOLVITA (Latvia) said that, in 1989, Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians had formed a human chain from capital to capital, in the spirit of solidarity and freedom. It was important to continue to push for freedom, because neither that, democracy or peace were a given in today's world.

The images of the Maidan in Kiev brought back memories of the Latvian capital in 1991, when people set up barricades around parliament, government and other buildings. From her country's experience, revolution was the so-called "easy" part; the challenge lay in establishing a State based on democracy, human rights, the rule of law and good governance, namely the universal principles that would, in time, ensure peace. For democracy to succeed, however, it required a multiparty political system and an active and effective civil society. Governments could not take proper decisions without acknowledging the views of all relevant parties and recognizing the rights of others to the freedom to express those views.

However, democracy and freedom could not survive in isolation and the international community could not therefore be indifferent to global events, including the aggression of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine, which was unthinkable only a short time ago. Latvia strongly supported the territorial integrity of Ukraine and any threat to it should be vigorously condemned. The use of armed force by the Russian Federation within Ukrainian territory was a violation of international law and the principles of the Budapest Memorandum and threatened international security. There could be no global commitment to peace and democracy if a member of the United Nations Security Council did not respect international law and the sovereignty of States and territorial integrity.

The sitting rose at 6.50 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 18 March (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the chair.

A commemorative video, “Reflections on the IPU”, was screened, in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU’s work and achievements over its 125-year history.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy

Resumption of the debate

Mr. M.L. OULD KHELIFA (Algeria), noting the steadily evolving role of the IPU as a forum for consultation and cooperation, said that the present gathering demonstrated the determination to promote candid inter-parliamentary dialogue on matters of common concern and underscored the commitment to freedom, peace and democracy as key priorities in defending public interests. As natural institutions for democratic expression and the implementation of joint efforts for security and peace, parliaments indeed offered the participatory democratic framework essential to peacemaking.

Firmly determined to build the rule of law after its painful experiences of the 1990s, Algeria had accomplished considerable progress in establishing democracy, building good governance and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the interest of peace and stability. Robust reforms implemented since 2000 had also inter alia promoted dialogue and consultation among all stakeholders in a pluralistic society with a free and diverse press; increased the number of women in parliament to over one third of the total; encouraged youth participation in political and economic life; and enhanced conditions for the exercise of political rights.

Algeria was committed to such inalienable principles as the right to self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the promotion of comprehensive international dialogue, as well as to non-military settlement of the Syrian crisis and the intensification of international efforts to relieve the suffering of Syrian refugees, many of whom it was hosting. As a prerequisite of socio-economic development, the establishment of stability called for peacebuilding and measures to combat terrorism, which had nothing to do with religion or nationality, and was linked to transnational organized crime, including drugs and arms trafficking. It was likewise connected with hostage-taking, which should be internationally criminalized, as should the payment of ransoms. In short, joint efforts were vital to consolidating the values of peace and democracy.

Mr. A.M. AL-JARWAN (Arab Parliament) observed that the theme of the debate reflected the IPU’s constant endeavour to ensure that peace and security were prioritized as prerequisites for international cooperation to entrench democracy as a governance system enabling peoples to live in freedom and dignity. His Parliament directed efforts towards the establishment of both in a sensitive region where the long-standing issue of Palestine would remain central until its territories were fully liberated and its people returned. The Israeli occupation, however, hindered a just peace born out of respect for all rights and international resolutions. His Parliament fully supported the right of the Palestinian people to the establishment of an independent State, with Jerusalem as its capital, and called for a halt to settlement expansion, excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the restrictions on movement responsible for the exceptionally heavy losses to the Palestinian economy. To those ends, it looked forward to continuing IPU support for the Middle East peace process.

It also affirmed dialogue as the only solution to the Syrian crisis, rejecting all forms of foreign intervention and appealing for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to the Syrian people who were being attacked and killed simply for seeking freedom and democracy. It called for a peaceful solution to the Iranian occupation of three Emirati islands through direct negotiation or international adjudication and for non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It renewed its commitment to serve peace and democracy, including as part of IPU efforts for the

non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the hope of a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone. It looked forward to continuing efforts to combat terrorism and supported IPU activities for increasing transparency in elections, strengthening representative institutions and promoting human rights and gender equality. Women in fact accounted for one third of its own Bureau members, with some holding leadership positions.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco) commented that, despite predictions of a peaceful and secure world at the end of the previous century, a new crop of conflicts had soon emerged and the terrorist threat had turned into one of the greatest security challenges ever faced. Against that complex background, Morocco had successfully constructed a sophisticated democratic model in a prevailing atmosphere of stability, security and calm that had enabled it to confront challenges such as extremism, illegal migration and transnational crime, including trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms. It was also implementing a bold new migration and asylum policy, unique in the Southern Mediterranean and consistent with international law, to address the situation of African and Syrian migrants, guaranteeing their rights, dignity and socio-economic integration into Moroccan society.

Concerning the renewal of its commitment to peace and democracy, Morocco continued to support the Palestinian cause, including by way of resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Jerusalem Committee chaired by King Mohammed VI. The Marrakech Declaration recently adopted by Arab Interior Ministers on combating terrorism was also part of the efforts to establish global security and stability. Morocco's proposed emergency item on the Central African Republic likewise represented a renewal of that commitment.

On its 125th anniversary, the IPU was to be celebrated for its promotion of democracy, freedom and equality; human rights, gender equality and democratic governance; the right of all peoples to live in security and peace, participate in economic development and live in a healthy environment; and the centrality of all citizens to any democratic, social and economic process. Those principles were guaranteed under the Moroccan Constitution and Parliament played a role in their implementation, spreading the culture of democracy and human rights and enacting relevant legislation.

Mr. S.D. DESRAS (Haiti), welcoming the opportunity to renew the commitment to peace and democracy, said that the IPU had worked hard over its 125 years to translate representative democracy into an incontrovertible reality. Links had been forged across the globe among peoples, parliaments and political actors through modern-day information, trade and travel networks, which had facilitated the movement of populations, goods and capital across borders without calculating for such other ills as transboundary disease, drug-trafficking and pollution. The IPU therefore worked in partnership with the United Nations to resolve some of those consequences of globalization, including threats posed to human rights and national sovereignty, in the interest of creating a better world. Its endeavour to promote global peace and democracy indeed placed special emphasis on the parliamentary role in the promotion and protection of human rights. On that score, the Universal Declaration on Democracy remained a powerful instrument exerting tremendous influence on people's lives.

A singular institution, the IPU also famously promoted gender partnership and women's political participation, a non-negotiable obligation incumbent on all signatories to related international instruments. In conflict areas, it worked for peace and security through a range of interventions and activities also aimed at providing support to democratic governance. It had conducted a field mission to Haiti as recently as February 2014.

In commemorating its 125th anniversary, the IPU could pride itself on its contributions to the wide spectrum of issues vital to humanity, ranging from climate change, health care and food security to all those already mentioned and more. He paid tribute to the Organization for its chosen trajectory and commendable efforts to establish parliamentary democracy based on the principle of dialogue as the best problem-solving tool, as well as to parliaments for their altruism, vision and commitment in seeking to improve the human condition.

Mr. D. MARK (Nigeria) commended the IPU's avowed commitment to its stated objectives, including the goal of global peace through inter-parliamentarianism and constructive engagements with governments and civil society actors worldwide. It had achieved positive results in the areas of peaceful dispute settlement, armament reduction, international security and representative democracy, in addition to substantial progress in developing measures for sustainable global peace and good governance through its close working relationships with international and regional bodies, including the United Nations.

The IPU's 125th anniversary was a time for renewing its commitment and strengthening its resolve to create stable political environments for thriving peace, with democratic principles underpinned by adherence to the rule of law, transparency, accountability and representative government as their bedrock. The Organization's evolving role in addressing the multiple challenges across the world's conflict zones must also be contemplated, however, with recent political crises a stark reminder of the need to exercise constant vigilance while striving for peaceful coexistence. As a transnational platform, the IPU must continuously seek to evolve pragmatic strategies for mitigating threats to democracy and peace.

His parliament did its utmost, including through ongoing amendment of the Constitution, to enact laws requiring a committed contribution across the board to facing Nigeria's peculiar challenges in sustaining democracy as a culture acceptable and workable for the majority, taking into account the multiple ethnicities, tribes and cultures. Current bills under consideration on issues such as non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the rights of children affected by civil strife also bore out parliament's renewed commitment to global peace and democracy. If developing and emerging democracies were to survive, democracy must be constructed in response to the myriad problems threatening their peace and security and adversely affecting their socio-economic development. The IPU must therefore pursue its ever relevant mandate to promote and sustain a peaceful political order.

Mr. S. KINGA (Bhutan) opined that democracy and peace went beyond the conduct of elections and absence of conflict. For Bhutan, a successful and respected monarchy, the question was whether democracy could sustain the peace synonymous with its name for over 100 years. The country having embarked on an exciting journey of democratic transition and consolidation, his delegation was honoured to participate in the present historic Assembly after proudly becoming the 163rd IPU Member in 2013. The youthfulness of the delegation was emblematic of the young Bhutanese democracy and Parliament, while its inclusion of Bhutan's first woman minister boded well for the gender parity encouraged by the IPU as the norm in representation and leadership.

Bhutan's peaceful route to the democracy introduced six years earlier had puzzled experts, who habitually linked democratization with civil unrest and violence. The answer lay in the leadership of the Bhutanese monarchy, which had now accomplished its founding mission to deliver peace and prosperity, with the King remaining as the unifying symbol of a small but ethnically diverse society. Bhutan's commitment to peace and democracy had in fact been championed by the previous King, who had declared the pursuit of collective happiness and the success of democracy as core themes of his reign, instituting political reforms accordingly.

The increasing number of political parties fielding candidates in the free and fair elections now twice conducted in Bhutan was a mark of democracy in action. The consolidation process, however, was driven by the idea of gross national happiness, an alternative modality that had inspired the United Nations International Day of Happiness and was aimed at fostering emotional and spiritual well-being, cultural diversity and nature conservation through legislation and public policy as part of a progressive socio-economic reform programme. Bhutan nonetheless faced numerous challenges along the way to ensuring its peace and security.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) asserted that renewed commitment to peace and democracy could not be overemphasized, particularly given the resurgent threats to regional and international peace and security. Contemporary international politics were now so interdependent and globalized that the absence of war between democratic States was postulated as tantamount to an empirical law in international relations. Against that theoretical underpinning, recent political developments the world over, including in Africa, would enhance peace, stability and sustainable economic growth. The promotion of democracy and human rights was indeed a global imperative for avoiding the risks associated with political instability. The growing trends towards democracy should therefore be supported through institutional capacity-building aimed at consolidating efforts for peace and justice.

Zimbabwe would continue to join in furthering democratic governance, peace and stability in Africa, including through its commitment to numerous international peace instruments and participation in peacekeeping missions, mediation efforts and election monitoring activities, notably in the context of the South African Development Community (SADC) and the AU, the more so as it was currently the deputy chair of both organizations. It likewise complied fully with the principles underlying the continent's common concept of democracy as enunciated in relevant AU declarations, which included adoption of a democratic constitution; separation of powers; promotion of political pluralism; democratic change; free and regular elections; and guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms.

At the domestic level, the commitment to those principles was demonstrated by such landmark achievements as the Unity Accord, the Global Political Agreement leading to inclusive government, and a people-driven and participatory constitution-making process. Elections declared free, fair and credible had been conducted following the Constitution's entry into force in 2013, more than doubling the number of women in parliament to reach 34 per cent of the total. Gender parity was in fact the ultimate goal in all social sectors.

Mr. J.D. NTAWUKULIRYAYO (Rwanda) said that impediments to peace such as poverty, injustice and poor governance must be overcome, including in the interest of sustainable development. The Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, among them Rwanda, were thus working to emerge from instability and conflict by identifying the root causes of recurrent tensions and redressing social, economic and political imbalances in order to build the foundations of sustainable peace and development. As witness to the terrible atrocities against its Tutsi population in 1994, Rwanda actively engaged in various regional peace and security forums and was a signatory to the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, under which it was committed "to neither harbour nor provide protection of any kind to persons accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide or crimes of aggression, or persons falling under the United Nations sanctions regime".

Twenty years on from the genocide, Rwanda was well-qualified to testify to the benefits of peace and to urge countries in the region to seek peace wherever it was endangered. As part of the post-genocide reconciliation process, prisoners suspected of genocide had been prosecuted until 2012, under the traditional Gacaca or community justice system, which had been generally effective and much more expeditious than the national courts. Rwanda now continued to entrench the pluralistic democracy, equitable power-sharing and respect for human rights enshrined in its Constitution. Women accounted for a ground-breaking 64 per cent of parliamentarians and an office of the ombudsperson and other institutions had been established to promote well-being through good governance. Parliament also worked to embed a culture of peace and law abidance and to raise awareness of democratic principles. He called on Members to defend the principles of peace and democracy for a better world.

Mr. P.J. KURIEN (India) commented on the IPU's remarkable contributions to nurturing and sustaining a peaceful and democratic world order. It had been instrumental in setting new standards relating to democracy, elections and parliaments. Its Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections and its Universal Declaration on Democracy were indeed inspiring and, since joining the organization in 1949, his Parliament had been actively associated with its work.

In various parts of the world, however, representative democracy remained a cherished dream and peace an ever elusive mirage. Authoritarian rule, conflict, poverty and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction were among the serious threats to both. It was Mahatma Gandhi's efficacious path of peace and non-violence that would bring about a sustainable, peaceful and democratic world order, as indicated by the outcome of India's difficult freedom struggle. The country's Constitution now provided a roadmap for promoting international peace and security that functioned as a foreign policy guide, with India proactive in that sphere in numerous international and regional forums. Under the deep-seated framework of parliamentary democracy adopted after independence as the best system of governance for India's extremely plural society, the country was now among the fastest growing economies and had experienced peaceful transitions of power through 15 general elections in 65 years, with another gigantic election exercise shortly due to take place.

All global bodies must now ponder the visible democratic deficit in their structures and functioning, global governance institutions must be reviewed and restructured in the light of political realities, and developing countries must be more widely included in the decision-making of such institutions. Despite the success of democracy, there was no room for complacency in the face of hostile systems and ideologies. Efforts to bring about a truly democratic world order committed to peace and non-violence must therefore continue in earnest.

Mr. D. Mark (Nigeria) took the Chair.

Mr. M. UESUGI (Japan) related that, since first joining the IPU in 1908, Japan had continuously participated in IPU activities, except during World War II, an event that had prompted its firm commitment to pacifism in a free, modern and democratic nation. Currently, it was engaged in tireless recovery and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011. It was such experiences that brought home the IPU's key role in

promoting global solidarity and friendship among nations, as well as in developing democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity. It was also through comprehensively discussing those topics in the noble spirit displayed by the IPU throughout its 125 years that friendship could be deepened. Through self-reform, the IPU must work to strengthen its authority in order to act in cases where action by the United Nations proved impossible, thereby setting a worthy example and enhancing its status as leader in parliamentary diplomacy in deed, as well as in name.

Concerning assessed contributions, he held that Members should be responsible for making financial contributions to the IPU on the basis of their power and economic strength. Indeed, appropriate fulfilment of such responsibilities was a fundamental part of financial reform and also related to the IPU's future development. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the IPU, parliaments that had been suspended should be reinstated and efforts made to attract non-members. Participation in the IPU by as many parliaments as possible, including the US Congress, would promote global peace and democracy. In consideration of its 125th anniversary, the IPU must adopt more ambitious goals, inform the world about its activities and develop its relationship with the United Nations in an integrated manner.

Mr. K. WA KABANDO (Kenya), congratulating the IPU on its 125th anniversary, noted the important milestones it had achieved in working for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the establishment of representative democracy worldwide. In 2010, Kenya had adopted one of the world's most progressive constitutions, including a comprehensive bill of rights. The Constitution also provided adequate safeguards for the representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other special interest groups. It furthermore created fully independent commissions and independent offices of government tasked with protecting the people's sovereignty and ensuring that all State organs observed democratic values and principles, in addition to promoting constitutionalism. It likewise safeguarded the public interest by allowing public participation in the legislative process, thereby strengthening democracy and enhancing transparency and accountability. For its part, the Kenyan Parliament had consciously enacted legislation designed to promote democracy and human rights, addressing such matters as sexual offences, internally displaced persons, female genital mutilation and the registration, regulation and funding of political parties.

In the greater East African region, Kenya had played an instrumental role in the struggle for peace and sustainable democracy: first, in the negotiations for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that had culminated in an independent South Sudan in 2011; and second, in the Somalia stabilization process through its contribution to the forces of the AU Mission in Somalia and to the establishment of governance and administrative structures in that country. He reiterated the call for the IPU membership to join in the international efforts under way to promote lasting peace and stability in both those countries. His Parliament would continue to lend full support to IPU activities as part of its ongoing commitment to peace and democracy.

Mr. H. NAPOLEÃO (Brazil) remarked that the IPU was a unique forum for the promotion of democracy and preservation of world peace through the exchange of ideas among Members from different political backgrounds on issues affecting millions of lives. It was an institution built on diversity but with the united goal of strengthening international cooperation and it retained its vibrancy by virtue of its achievements and its part in resolving pressing modern-day problems in areas such as human rights, disarmament and sustainable development.

As particular illustrations of the IPU's key contribution to peace and democracy, he singled out three of its resolutions: first, the resolution adopted in 2004, at the 110th Assembly in Mexico, on "furthering parliamentary democracy in order to protect human rights and encourage reconciliation among peoples and partnership among nations"; second, the resolution adopted in 2005, at the 113th Assembly in Geneva, on "The importance of civil society and the interplay with parliaments and other democratically elected assemblies for the maturing and development of democracy"; and third, the resolution adopted in 1992, at the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Yaoundé, on the organization and functioning of democracy, which had set out key elements for designing more inclusive and participatory political mechanisms.

Since joining the IPU in 1954, Brazil had actively participated in many IPU activities, hosted two assemblies and held the IPU Presidency. IPU assemblies provided an opportunity for sharing knowledge and learning from the successful experiences of others, one example of which in Brazil's case was a law on access to information. Under that law, government transparency and accountability had increased and all citizens had access to data on the activities of public entities, the administration of public assets, use of public funds, bidding processes and administrative contracts. He reaffirmed the Brazilian Parliament's commitment to the IPU and its principles.

Mr. E.K.D. ADJAHO (Ghana), pointing out that democracy thrived where there was peace, stated that both were indispensable development tools. Ghana had thus built an architecture around the two, with its Constitution of 1992 laying the fundamental framework for democratic government. The Ghanaian Parliament, through effectively discharging its functions, also played a major role in the country's renewal of commitment to peace and democracy. Particularly significant on that score was the National Peace Council, established by law in 2011. Ghana had also committed itself to numerous international peacekeeping initiatives in the subregion.

Mindful of its civic responsibility to safeguard peace and build peace and democracy initiatives, the Parliament had sometimes intervened to address potentially explosive problems such as ethnic and political violence. Indeed, parliamentarians visited their constituencies before, during and after elections in order to identify early warning signs and respond promptly to possible flash points. In addition to ratifying a number of international and regional instruments aimed at conflict prevention, the Parliament had enacted various laws relating to peace and democracy, establishing, for example, electoral, human rights and civic education commissions. Its actions had thus been key to ensuring free, fair and transparent elections, protecting human rights and dignity, and educating the public as to their civil responsibilities.

In the context of creating a society based on freedom and justice and as part of its oversight function, the Parliament ensured the timely release and proper use of budget allocations for policies aimed at maintaining peace and enhancing democracy. It was also involved in the planning and operation of field missions to monitor and report on the situation in selected conflict zones. It would continue to work with the IPU and national stakeholders to ensure that Ghana remained a model for democratic governance, rule of law and stability.

Ms. I.R. MONTENEGRO (Nicaragua) appealed to all Members to renew their commitment to peace and democracy, for which the moment was particularly timely in view of the economic, political and environmental crises facing the peoples of the world. Parliamentarians must respond to those difficult challenges and likewise recognize the challenge of unfair trade relationships exemplified in the price of exports from the poorest countries. More than simply the absence of war, peace meant overcoming major stumbling blocks such as poverty, child malnutrition, lack of opportunity, social injustice and health and education deficiencies. Peace was threatened by the destabilizing interference of governments and undermined by failure to guarantee gender equality. Democracy was likewise more than elections alone; it entailed the guarantee of freedom of expression and involvement of the people in determining its own future through ownership of decision-making.

Having experienced interference in its internal affairs and civil conflict that had destroyed lives and the economy, her country was clearly committed to peace, independence, sovereignty, self-determination and a fair international order. Other cherished principles included those of solidarity among peoples and States and the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. Nicaragua was now successfully striving to combat poverty and its consequences by fostering reconciliation and unity and establishing rural-urban and public-private alliances. With international assistance and cooperation, its annual growth rate had increased by a respectable 4.7 per cent between 2010 and 2013 and its formal economy by 8 per cent. It was also renowned for its pursuit of gender equality, with women represented in decision-making spheres throughout the country. The Parliament had moreover resolved to prioritize gender equality through implementation of the IPU's Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments.

Mr. A. MAJALI (Jordan) said that no country was immune to the repercussions of varied and complex crises such as those in the Middle East. Among the IPU's merits was its ability to influence global politics, promote conflict settlement and create opportunities for international understanding. By proposing innovative alternatives to encourage new behaviours making a real difference to international peace and stability, its stature would be further augmented.

The highly explosive Middle East crisis would constitute an existential threat unless fairly and prudently addressed, including through a fresh European and United States outlook and a search for radical solutions with partners in the region. The overriding issue was the Palestinian question, which required international intervention compelling Israel to end its procrastination and non-compliance with United Nations resolutions. The establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital, was non-negotiable, as was the right of refugees to return and to reparation. Borders and water issues were also concerns and Jordan's custodianship of Jerusalem's holy sites was a red line. In short, resolution of the Palestinian question was key to peace and security for Israel, its neighbours, the region and beyond.

Recent political, social and economic upheavals in the Arab region included the bloody Syrian conflict, to which a political solution agreed by all parties was the only answer. Indeed, the entire Middle East situation must be re-evaluated to take into account not only western interests. Jordan was struggling to cope with the additional burden of Syrian refugees and failed to comprehend the lack of genuine partnerships for building peace, security and justice as a basis for relations among States. The establishment of an expert committee to evaluate and propose solutions to the global crisis situation could be a first step towards promoting political and economic stability and security.

Mr. M. NAGO (Benin) remarked on the relevance of the theme of the debate, addressing as it did a key concern during a time of general crisis in which most countries sought to improve conditions for the preservation of peace and democracy, the barometer of development. Renewed commitment to both was essential and called for assiduous efforts to strengthen democratic systems, the rule of law and good governance, as well as improve exercise of the parliamentary mandate. In performing their dual role of legislation and oversight, parliamentarians must enact laws to those ends and likewise fulfil their mission of defending and supporting their people, as well as inculcating the values of tolerance, acceptance of others and peace.

At the present crossroads in history, fair, viable and decisive choices must be made for the sake of future generations or the consequences would be felt, irrespective of wealth, power or military might. Disputes must be settled through dialogue and consultation and energies diverted away from destruction into shared development. As a result of globalization, rampant technological development and porous and disintegrating borders, domestic security problems had now assumed an international dimension requiring regional and global solutions, while financial and economic crises, galloping inflation and high unemployment were potential causes of social unrest. The advantages of representative democracy must therefore be leveraged to promote a genuinely participatory system in the interest of peace, democracy and shared development.

Applauding the IPU's consistent efforts on that score, which included parliamentary capacity-building and the adoption of numerous resolutions, he confirmed his Parliament's readiness to play its part in maintaining peace and security in Africa and elsewhere. To that end, bold new approaches must be deployed in order to build mutual confidence between peoples and governments.

Mr. Y. SEM (Cambodia) declared it apt to renew the commitment to global peace and democracy following the IPU's 125 years of successful operation through politically and financially trying times. The Organization's remarkable progress and achievements during that period were indeed a meaningful reflection of its mission to foster peace and security, promote democracy and respect for human rights, and contribute to the development of effective representative institutions. Peace continued to be nurtured through the IPU's furtherance of political dialogue and negotiation for conflict prevention and dispute settlement and through its support for United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations. The IPU moreover carried out its activities in compliance with international standards and norms, adopting a Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections and a Universal Declaration on Democracy, and it had also organized, in 2000, the first Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, at which a Declaration on "The parliamentary vision for international cooperation" had been adopted.

Cambodia had experienced three decades of conflict, turmoil and destruction that had brought untold hardships, shattered lives and unfulfilled dreams to a peace-loving people. General elections held in 1993 had, however, promoted adherence to the principles of pluralistic democracy, market economy and respect for human rights, freedom and dignity. The combination of subsequent elections in 1998 with the successful implementation of a national reconciliation policy had brought peace to the nation and ensured the integration of all persons into the mainstream of society. Co-existence without violence, exploitation or oppression was a prerequisite for peace, as was respect for the right to self-determination. Peace and democracy went hand in hand and were essential to security, political stability and socio-economic development. Parliaments must therefore do all within their power to protect and promote both worldwide.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) stated that, in order to address the plethora of challenges facing the IPU in its important role of advancing democracy and assisting parliaments in fulfilling their mandates, efforts must be rededicated to accelerating the strengthening of democratic institutions; building parliamentary democracy in the interest of effectively holding to account the executive; promoting civic awareness to enhance public participation in the democratic process; increasing collaboration with civil society organizations; and enabling the media to play its rightful role in the consolidation of democracy.

Numerous milestones had been achieved in consolidating democracy in Zambia since 1991, including the enactment of a ministerial and parliamentary code of conduct; enhancement of press freedom through constitutional provisions; enactment of a law providing for greater independence of the judiciary; creation of autonomous democratic institutions working on human rights, corruption, drug enforcement and election matters; implementation of parliamentary reforms; and approval of a revised decentralization policy to promote citizen participation in democratic governance and acceleration of development. The six presidential and parliamentary elections conducted since 1991 had been declared fair, free and above all peaceful.

Notwithstanding those efforts, urgent attention was required in other areas, specifically: the organization of political parties so as to increase the number of women parliamentarians and ensure a level playing field in terms of funding; voter education underlining the importance of participation in all elections; review and modernization of the legal framework regulating the media; consolidation of electoral reforms initiated in 2003; the need to promote consensus concerning the constitutional drafting and review process; and the high poverty rate belying the country's positive economic growth. In 2013, the International Day of Democracy had been celebrated by engaging the public and showcasing the life of the Zambian Parliament, which looked forward to further cooperation for advancement of the IPU's ideals.

The President resumed the Chair.

Mr. V.-A. STERIU (Romania), expressing pride in his Parliament's long association with the IPU, reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the IPU's ideals, values and objectives. Recognition of the IPU's truly remarkable contribution over 125 years to the strengthening of parliamentary institutions and the promotion of democratic governance was well-deserved. In generating positive change for parliamentary institutions and activities, the IPU had helped to enhance their legitimacy and effectiveness, including through the provision of valuable tools for increasing their status and relevance. In the case of Central and Eastern European parliaments, for example, it had an incontestable role to play in promoting the achievement of their recently affirmed goal of greater and earlier involvement in such processes as the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council.

The IPU's uniqueness and added value stemmed inter alia from its universal vocation; its outstanding democratization expertise; its protection of the human rights of parliamentarians; its special relationship with the United Nations; and its role as a forum for the international parliamentary community to debate wide-ranging topical issues, among them crisis situations threatening international security and the rule of law. The Romanian IPU Group had actively contributed to such debates and to drafting the outcome resolutions.

The IPU was also instrumental in raising parliamentary awareness of the need for input into processes shaping the future, such as the post-2015 development agenda, and in promoting the honest and responsive government identified as a leading priority in the My World survey findings. The forthcoming UN General Assembly debate on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU was an excellent opportunity to highlight the parliamentary contribution to UN activities and the fact that parliamentary support for the implementation of multilateral agreements enhanced the global role of the United Nations, translating into effective results at the national level.

Mr. Y. CHIN (Republic of Korea), commenting on the opportunity provided by the present gathering to reaffirm mutual trust and shared convictions, said that his earlier membership of the Executive Committee had taught him that diverse views could be reconciled towards the common objective of advancing democracy. The IPU itself also served as a platform for building a network of like-minded friends. He had been privileged, for example, to work with Canadian Senator Donald Oliver, who, deeply concerned about the tragic consequences of the division of the Korean Peninsula, had channelled sincere efforts into establishing an IPU committee for promoting peace and reunification. The Senator had now retired from politics but his strong commitment to peace and democracy had left a deep impression on himself and colleagues. Sharing such precious memories was a fitting way of celebrating the proud history of democracy advocated by the IPU for the past 125 years.

The IPU had constantly strived to attain the objectives identified in the three strategic directions embodied in the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017, which was a key initiative. Peace and democracy were undeniably the two core values underpinning the Organization's work; since its inception in 1889, it had prioritized the ending of conflicts through political dialogue, peace and security and had responded to pressing global issues by adopting statements and resolutions, organizing consultations with local parliaments and politicians and deploying fact-finding missions.

He paid tribute to those many efforts, expressing the hope that the IPU would continue to mobilize its resources to address outstanding issues, including that of the Korean Peninsula. He also looked forward to welcoming parliamentary delegations to the three-day World e-Parliament Conference, to be hosted by his National Assembly in May 2014, and to concerted efforts by IPU Members towards the common objectives through their renewed commitment to peace and democracy.

Mr. A. AL MAJALI (Oman) called on all Members, while congratulating the IPU on its 125th anniversary, to engage in further strengthening its well-earned presence on the world scene and its effectiveness as a global organization involved in international decision-making. As with all topics on the present agenda, the renewal of commitment to peace and security merited careful consideration of issues such as the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world and good governance for sustainable development through targeted policies in keeping with international standards. Disparities in development must be taken into account and the use of scant natural resources must be rationalized for the sake of the environment and future generations.

Concerted efforts were essential to addressing the world's crises; as clearly demonstrated in the case of Palestine, differences in international opinion and lack of will led to failure in guaranteeing the most basic human rights and ensuring compliance with international law. Israel was launching new attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque and other holy sites in occupied Jerusalem as part of its systematic attempt to extinguish the question of Palestine, which included land grabs, forced displacement and a racist settlement policy. An international campaign should be launched to keep the question centre stage by exposing the realities of that policy and the tactics for delaying negotiations.

Oman's policymaking was based on key elements such as dialogue, respect for diversity, non-interference in the affairs of others and rejection of the use of force. All peoples must enjoy the right to self-determination, to choose their own system of government and to shape their own futures. In short, civilizations must come together and cooperate against cultural division in order to construct a multicultural world to which everyone contributed on the basis of their capabilities and distinctions.

Mr. M. GAROYAN (Cyprus) asserted that IPU Members must work together to defend their shared values: human dignity, fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law. While taking stock of the IPU's milestone achievements, new and inventive ways must also be explored for strengthening cooperation on human rights and the rule of law, the building blocks for democracy and peace worldwide. By reinforcing IPU structures and implementing new action plans, the foundations for increased global prosperity, security and peace could be laid. Historical roots and intellectual and cultural fundamentals must also be preserved, however. Promoting a sense of democratic community while upholding tried and tested traditions must therefore remain a priority for the IPU.

Parliamentarians must live up to the expectations of their electorates and demonstrate through action that challenges were opportunities for positive change. Equipped as they were to cultivate public participation, they had an important role to play in safeguarding peace and democracy. Through intensive and continuous consultation with the executive and constituents, as well as through international cooperation, they could address matters of universal concern, while as guardians of fundamental human rights and representatives of public interests, they also had a substantial role to play at the national level and in parliamentary diplomacy, particularly in crisis or conflict situations.

Concerning the Cyprus problem, a joint declaration agreed by the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, under UN auspices, signalled a commitment to peace and a renewed endeavour to that end. The declaration paved the way for a democratic dialogue leading to a reunified Cyprus on the basis of the agreed framework, with the Greek-Cypriot side exerting persistent efforts towards achieving a lasting, functional and viable solution, in accordance with international law, pertinent United Nations Security Council resolutions and European values and principles.

Mr. D. SQUARE (Senegal), reiterating the commitment of his country's National Assembly to working within the framework of the IPU to spread democracy throughout the world, expressed support for the IPU's efforts to promote human dignity and respect for fundamental human rights, foster socio-economic development, strengthen social cohesion and achieve global peace. In addition to performing its legislative role, his Parliament was set on ensuring that the benefits of democracy were translated into practice. All parliaments must mobilize, however, by instituting measures to entrench peace and democracy at the national and indeed international levels, taking into account the increasingly cross-cutting, transboundary, ethnic and religious nature of present-day conflicts. Initiatives to that end must therefore be stepped up through bodies such as the IPU,

which must also pursue its efforts to bring peoples closer together through national parliaments and to promote the alignment of national laws with instruments aimed at strengthening democracy and preventing conflict.

Democracy was the path chosen by Senegal, a sovereign country with a long democratic tradition. It had witnessed two peaceful rotations of power and was involved in conflict resolution efforts in Africa and elsewhere. Born after independence and shaped by the country's cultural environment and democratic legacy, its young President was working to deepen democracy at home and abroad. Under his leadership, a gender parity law enacted in 2010 was applied to local and national elections, with the result that the National Assembly now counted 64 women among its 150 members. It also included young parliamentarians and viewed diversity and democracy as pivotal issues. Democracy was the best system for guaranteeing freedom, sovereignty and fraternity, the prerequisites of peace.

Mr. A. RIVADENEYRA HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico) expressed determination to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the IPU in promoting and consolidating democracy throughout the world, improving communication between countries and supporting international conflict resolution efforts. Parliamentary diplomacy had assumed its present importance largely due to the IPU, which served to promote closer relations between States through formal political dialogue. The IPU had been central to international institutional cooperation from the outset and its original focus on peace and democracy remained equally relevant and demanding of full parliamentary engagement today.

Believing that a fairer international order should be based on nuclear disarmament and peaceful conflict resolution, Mexico was a staunch proponent of the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as the only means to ensuring international peace and security. The billions of dollars spent annually on nuclear weapons were disproportionate to the development expenditure requirement and a nuclear explosion would wreak environmental, human and economic disaster. The argument for preventive nuclear weapons must therefore be abandoned, along with the weapons themselves. The 17-year paralysis of multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament was truly regrettable. Multilateralism was a prerequisite for the resolution of problems affecting global security, as was the need to address the issue of small weapons and munitions in order to meet the highest standards for regulation of the conventional weapons trade.

Clear international action on the basis of shared responsibility and involving parliaments was likewise needed to tackle the illicit trade and use of drugs, both through prevention aimed at limiting the health and social consequences and through cooperation to reduce the flows of illicit drugs and money in international crime. Parliaments must also work to consolidate principles upheld by the IPU such as non-discrimination in political participation, inclusiveness, promotion of human rights and women's involvement in public life, which were among the challenges ahead, especially for nascent democracies.

Mr. T. HENARE (New Zealand) said that the IPU had confirmed his expectations as a forum for politicians of different persuasions to join in discussing issues of common concern. He had observed the IPU's enormous impact on the world and its democracies, which was on a scale closer to the people on the ground than could be said of numerous other international organizations. The IPU must not, however, become complacent; rather, it must take the fight for democracy and participation to every corner of the earth to ensure that its entire family benefited from its hard work.

Turning to highlight the criminal treatment of indigenous peoples and cultures throughout the world, he related that an indigenous language was lost to the world each week. Without the language that brought stories and a way of life, a culture was no more. He therefore appealed for those in power to give consideration in dealing with indigenous peoples to supporting and assisting the survival of their languages and cultures in a modern world. Indigenous cultures must be given more than lip service; they must be afforded the ultimate opportunity to play their part in an ever changing environment in a manner appropriate to them. The IPU was thus to be congratulated for its organization of a meeting on indigenous peoples, to be held in Bolivia, in April 2014. Lastly, he implored the US Congress to return to the IPU family and also called for greater engagement, including in his country's upcoming bid for a seat on the UN Security Council.

Mr. T. QUBA'A (Palestine) said that the sole bases for Middle East peace were the resolutions of international legitimacy, which demanded an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land; the establishment of a Palestinian State along the borders of 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; settlement of the Palestinian refugee question; and the release of prisoners detained in Israeli jails. Israel, however, had derailed all initiatives for a just and comprehensive peace, preferring to continue flouting those resolutions by increasing settlement

construction to the tune of 123 per cent in 2013 alone. Despite the Palestinian offer of painful concessions, it was now seeking to impose conditions such as recognition of the Jewishness of the Israeli State, which would remove the legitimate right of return of displaced Palestinians. Other obstructions to peace included Israel's ongoing construction of the separation wall, its attacks on Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and its blockade of Gaza.

In short, the Palestinian side called for the implementation of United Nations resolutions and the avoidance of double standards. Welcoming the boycott campaigns against the Israeli occupation and settlement activities, he urged the IPU to espouse a courageous European Union (EU) directive entitled "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards", which was consistent with those resolutions. The apartheid which had ended in South Africa was continuing in the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories, where Palestinians were discriminated against in accessing their own water resources. They would continue their desperate struggle for the same legitimate rights as all peoples and for a life of peace in an independent Palestinian State.

Ms. S. ATAULLAHJAN (Canada) affirmed that the three main pillars of the IPU's core business, namely: promoting representative democracy, protecting human rights and advancing gender equality, must be continuously reinforced. According to 2013 indicators, more declines than gains in democracy had been recorded worldwide and only 45 per cent of countries were classified as being "free". The IPU was uniquely positioned to improve that situation by contributing to the qualitative aspects of representative democracy through studying parliamentary institutions; developing democratic standards, guidelines, principles and tools; providing technical assistance and advice to parliaments; and building the capacities of legislators.

The ability to monitor respect for internationally protected human rights, a cornerstone of the rule of law, was challenged by the dangers facing human rights defenders around the world and the visibly shrinking space available to them in certain regions. Parliaments clearly had a key role to play in advancing the elements of a safe and enabling environment for those defenders and in providing them with an avenue for dialogue with governments. Parliamentarians themselves were being prevented from exercising their mandate and remained at risk of intimidation, reprisals and arbitrary detention. The work of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was therefore fundamental to the defence and promotion of human rights.

Concerning gender equality, women's rights and the advancement of women in decision-making, the IPU's essential work had included the adoption of a resolution on access to health as a basic right, sending the message that the highest attainable standards of health for women and children was an international human rights obligation. The Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments, another accountability tool, was likewise a blueprint for action and the establishment of normative standards. The Canadian IPU Group looked forward to the continuation of the IPU's work, with renewed commitment, in its core areas.

Interactive discussion with the Director General of the International Organization for Migration

The PRESIDENT welcomed Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to the Assembly, and invited him to address participants on the subject of migration, which concerned all countries and was high on the IPU agenda.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, expressed thanks for the opportunity to address the participants and stated that large-scale migration was inevitable, necessary and highly desirable. His thesis was that, with one in seven persons an internal or international migrant, migration was a megatrend of the 21st century and had been overwhelmingly positive.

The many drivers making migration inevitable included demography in the light of the unprecedented quadrupling of the world's population in the past century; the rising number of jobseekers arriving in the ageing societies of the industrialized world from the youthful South; the revolution towards full digitalization; disasters, both man-made and natural; and distance-shrinking technology and low-budget travel. Migration was set to stay and, if properly welcomed and integrated, migrants could share the values espoused in their host countries. Few countries could claim that migration played no role in their past, present and future. Migration was necessary to fill job vacancies, have requisite skills available and create prosperous economies; and it was desirable if managed humanely, fairly and correctly.

In October 2013, at the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development of the United Nations General Assembly, over 100 countries had encouragingly issued a joint declaration conveying a number of key messages: the centrality of human rights of legal and illegal migrants alike so as to enable their contribution to development; the critical and inextricable link between migration and development, on the basis of proper policies and legislation, and the relevance of migration for the post-2015 development agenda, with explicit reference to the need to take into account migration in future development strategies; and the concern for stranded migrants and migrants caught in crisis situations.

Migration could not be treated in isolation, as indicated by the many thousands of migrants who had died in oceans and deserts in 2013, of stranded migrant workers evacuated and repatriated by IOM during the Libyan crisis in 2011, of migrants rescued by IOM from the ethno-religious violence in the Central African Republic and of Syrians transported to refugee camps by IOM from the Jordanian and Lebanese borders. Protection of the human rights of all migrants was a precondition for their human development and successful contributions to home and host countries. In short, proper policies were vital to providing persons forced to flee from humanitarian crises with the help they needed.

The indispensable need to integrate migration and development was underscored by the many billions of dollars in migrant remittances sent to developing countries in 2013, which was triple the amount of official development assistance (ODA) and roughly equivalent to the GDP of small to medium-sized European countries and to the amount of all foreign direct investment. Remittances helped individuals to pay for food, education and health care. Many migrants also contributed social remittances through assisting in schools, hospitals and the like. Smart policies must be introduced for utilizing diaspora networks to increase mobility between home and host societies. IOM was seeking partnerships with a view to establishing clear targets for reducing the material costs involved in sending remittances and paying recruitment agency fees; the human costs of smuggling, trafficking and exploitation; and the costs entailed in losing social security benefits because they were not mobile.

In the era of the greatest human mobility in history, it was a cruel irony that anti-immigration sentiment was higher than ever before, particularly in industrialized developed countries, where migrants were held in low regard and consequently subjected to abusive public discourse, restrictive policies and laws reflecting that deep-seated sentiment. Scapegoating of migrants during economic crises, such as associating them with disease and crime, must stop. The lack of national and global leadership on migration was appalling and political courage minimal, with votes instead being won off the backs of innocent persons. A fundamental shift in public perception was therefore needed, given that xenophobia, discrimination and hate speech put migrants at risk and hampered their contribution to development.

Elements driving anti-immigration sentiment, policies and laws included the global economic and financial crisis; post-9/11 security syndrome; fears of loss of personal and national identity; and false stereotypes and myths about migration and migrants. Migration was a reality and more constructive dialogue would be helpful. He therefore appealed for the support of parliamentarians in working for better migration policies and legislation that would decriminalize irregular migrants and give migrants an opportunity to integrate into society and make their contribution to it. Parliamentarians were key to that dialogue in that they were ideally placed to inform and educate the public concerning the positive role of migrants and their skills in the achievement of national interests in both the present and the past.

The delegate from CHAD paid tribute to IOM for its support in the costly exercise of repatriating to Chad many thousands of migrants fleeing the Central African Republic. IOM had chartered aircraft for that purpose and was now assisting with the return of many Chadians to their homes inside the country.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, responded that IOM had been honoured to work in partnership with the Chadian Government in repatriating those migrants and indeed in dealing with the Libyan crisis in 2011. It was now confidently seeking the necessary funding to help thousands of others wishing to escape the dangers to which they were exposed in the Central African Republic.

Mr. A. BURT (United Kingdom), expressing concern that growing instability and unending conflicts would further increase existing migration pressures in Europe, asked what parliamentarians could do to raise awareness of migration issues among governments and advocate more determinedly on behalf of IOM.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, suggested that parliamentarians, who were better placed than anyone to perform those functions, could give higher priority to migration issues; inform and sensitize constituencies concerning the historic, present and future role of migration; enact appropriate legislation, avoiding inter alia the criminalization of undocumented migrants; utilize diaspora networks for enhancing the contribution of migrants in both their home and host countries; eliminate misleading references from public discourse and prevent stereotyping; and ensure access for migrants to health, education and other public services for their own benefit and that of the wider community. He referred to IOM's active dialogue with relevant United Kingdom agencies, which he looked forward to continuing.

The delegate from IRAQ wondered how the unfortunately increasing anti-immigration trends in some countries might best be countered and how the integration of migrants into host countries could be balanced with the prospect of an eventual return to their home countries.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, commented that the less than positive connotation of the word migration in some languages was problematic. Human mobility should entail the free flow of peoples, which demanded non-traditional approaches in order to provide migrants with choices other than overstaying in host countries. Examples included the grant of multiple-entry visas or, more controversially, dual nationality, and mobile social security benefits, which were options driven by common sense rather than by irrational fears based on stereotyping of the role of migrants in unemployment, disease, crime and even terrorism.

The delegate from VENEZUELA emphasized that an understanding of migration came only through an in-depth exploration of the reasons behind it, ranging from years of European colonization in Africa and elsewhere to war, poverty, misery and need. Countries must assume their responsibilities, as in the case of Jordan, which had shouldered the burden of mass migration, despite the consequences.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, agreed that many important lessons could be learned by viewing migration from the historical perspective. More credit and recognition must also be given to countries that had generously kept open their borders to thousands of migrants fleeing crises, including as prime examples Jordan, Lebanon and neighbours of Libya. More effort was likewise needed to ensure that such migrants returned home with dignity and a chance to restart their lives.

The delegate from DJIBOUTI asked what plans IOM had for working with the Government of Djibouti to save the lives of migrants in transit through the country.

Mr. W. LACY SWING, *Director General, IOM*, said it was a difficult question with no easy answers. IOM operated a Migrant Response Centre in Djibouti, but ways must be found to dissuade migrants from risking the Red Sea crossing to Yemen, only to end up stranded without jobs, and to ensure human rights protection on arrival for those driven by poverty to take such risks. It was ultimately a matter of addressing poverty through development.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Lacy Swing for his excellent presentation and for his replies to the questions asked by delegates.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 18 March (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Ms. I.M. Montenegro (Nicaragua), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

A commemorative video, “Reflections on the IPU”, was screened, in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU’s work and achievements over its 125-year history.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. P. SAWCZAK (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - OPCW) highlighted the singular success of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction: it banned outright an entire class of weapons of mass destruction and oversaw that ban through international verification by way of a rigorous international inspection regime. With membership of the OPCW standing at 190, the near universal adherence to the Convention signalled its importance for the international community, which had steadfastly supported the OPCW mission. Since the Convention’s entry into force in 1997, the OPCW had verified the destruction of some 82 per cent of declared chemical weapons, with the elimination of remaining stocks in sight, developed extensive measures to guard against their re-emergence, and established mechanisms and training for enhancing protection against the impact of chemical attacks and accidents. It was also actively promoting cooperation on peaceful uses of chemistry.

A unique opportunity to eliminate a major chemical arsenal was provided by the mission currently under way in the Syrian Arab Republic, where the confirmed use of chemical weapons was a stark reminder of their horrific effect and the need to extend the global ban. The OPCW had thus redoubled its efforts to persuade the six remaining non-Member States, namely Angola, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, People’s Democratic Republic of Korea and South Sudan, to join without delay or condition; the case for not doing so was untenable. Given the attention to chemical disarmament generated by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 to the OPCW, the hope was that those States would reconsider their position or speed up internal accession processes in progress. He called on IPU Members to advocate to that end in their inter-parliamentary contacts and discussions with government representatives of those States. Comprehensive national implementing legislation was equally key to strengthening the Convention’s global effectiveness. The OPCW stood ready to inform all such efforts to advance the cause of consigning chemical weapons to history forever.

Ms. D. PASCAL-ALLENDE (Chile) recalled that IPU involvement in the peaceful settlement of disputes dated back to the first inter-parliamentary conference convened by the founding fathers in 1889 to discuss arbitration and peace questions. The IPU had since eased tensions around the world by promoting dialogue and discussion, exemplified in the work of the Committee on Middle East Questions and in the good offices employed to that effect in various conflict situations. The IPU also explored such matters as arms regulation and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and cooperated with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, which benefited from its experience in conflict resolution.

Defence of human rights and the rule of law were important elements of democracy. In her region, the IPU had provided memorable support to exiles from past dictatorships and condemned abuses committed by those in power. Human dignity, social justice and respect for diversity were all part and parcel of democracy and must be put into practice in order to promote advancement and meet public expectations. Future challenges pertained to equality, citizens’ rights, armed conflicts and transnational organized crime, including trafficking in women, children, drugs and arms, which threatened individual and national security. Parliaments must pool resources by

exchanging ideas and good practices in order to tackle such issues, which should also entail cooperation with civil society. Civil conflicts and insurgencies could bring about the collapse of political institutions, which subsequently required rebuilding in order to restore stability and peace. In that regard, the IPU had produced many useful publications to assist parliaments in effectively fulfilling their role. Lastly, parliaments must be more representative of their societies in order to eliminate inequality. In Chile, both the President and the Speaker of the Senate were women.

Mr. M. MERŠOL (Slovenia) remarked that peace and stability were tested anew by economic and financial crises. Disconcertingly, poverty was increasing in both developing and developed countries and austerity measures had dashed all expectations of improved economic development, the foundation of peace, stability and progress. Given the degree of anti-government revolt around the world, it was perhaps time to consider a new development paradigm.

The European Union represented stability and progress in the eyes of prospective members, including six acceding and candidate South-Eastern European countries, for which its further enlargement was thus a matter of key importance. The hope in the cases of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia was that, in the interests of the wider region, the European Union would replicate the decisive approach it had successfully applied to Serbia and Kosovo in order to remove the ongoing obstacles to progress. Public interests must be paramount; the population could not be held liable for internal political disagreements or the quality of neighbourly relations.

Slovenia supported all efforts to strengthen stability in its region, in particular integration activities pursued by regional parliamentary organizations, the number of which would soon be augmented with the inauguration of the South-East European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly in May 2014. Expansion of parliamentary diplomacy within the framework of such organizations and at the bilateral level offered wide-ranging prospects, enhanced democratic processes and provided new strategic alliance possibilities. Greater parliamentary cooperation and integration would moreover enhance the synergy effects. The parliamentary level was an excellent starting point for broad topical discussions attracting a wider interested public and thus offered an alternative forum for political dialogue. As guardians of the public interest and accelerators of development ideas, parliaments were equipped to strengthen mutual trust and friendship between countries and in turn regional stability and welfare.

Ms. M. ANDRÉ (France) recalled that the IPU's founding fathers had been peace activists with the innovative idea of involving parliaments in preventing war through arbitration and mediation, a key objective supported by addressing political, economic and social concerns, an equally core activity for the IPU today. Peace and democracy were inseparable, with a truly democratic parliamentary system necessarily implying representativeness, transparency, accessibility, responsibility and effectiveness. A representative parliament presupposed free and regular elections, democratic and independent political parties, respect for the rights of opposition parties and all minorities, and the guarantee of free expression.

The weapons threat to the world was now such that, as reflected in the work of the present and the previous Assembly, the IPU had progressed from seeking arms limitation to advocating full disarmament and encouraging the ratification of relevant international instruments. Concerning development, the IPU now worked with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the light of the linkage identified since the IPU's inception between trade protectionism, peace and security. Parliaments must promote multilateral trade agreements guaranteeing global market access under favourable conditions to the most vulnerable countries and, in the interest of sustainable development, public policymaking must incorporate well-being indicators relating to education, health and culture.

Voiced 125 years ago, the opposition to colonization and the pioneering call for women's equal right to education were mirrored in pivotal areas of the IPU's ongoing work: in addition to human rights issues, the themes of parity, diversity and equality were ever present. The IPU monitored the gender composition of delegations, raised awareness of violence against women and promoted the role of women in parliament. In short, the IPU was faithful to the ideals of its founding fathers and had widened its influence through the universality of its membership and its contribution to the development of parliaments as vibrant and truly democratic institutions.

Mr. U. HOLM (Sweden) said that history judged by promises kept. Committed to working for peace, cooperation among peoples and representative democracy and advantaged by its diverse membership, the IPU was a focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue to find solutions to global and regional problems increasingly linked to national affairs. Concerning the topical issue of

the post-2015 development agenda, parliamentarians must call for gender equality, women's rights, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming as a transformative stand-alone goal. Those areas continued to lag behind, whereas equal rights and opportunities for women and girls were essential to underpinning growth and increasing prosperity and sustainability.

As legislators, parliamentarians held the key to progress on that score through tackling the root causes of inequality, dismantling cultural barriers and changing mind-sets, which also required the cooperation and participation of men. The weak link in the chain, lack of policy implementation was likewise implicated in the ubiquitous problem of sexual and gender-based violence. It was time to reap the benefits of women's participation in politics, decision-making and the management of economic resources. Another important issue, women's right to sexual and reproductive health, would be addressed at the forthcoming International Parliamentarians' Conference to be held in Stockholm to discuss implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population on Development, which remained a challenge for many. Greater commitment and resources must be mobilized to stop the high annual mortality rates attributable to treatable complications of pregnancy and delivery.

Parliamentarians must bring their knowledge and expertise to the consultation on the post-2015 development framework, which should include democratic governance, as proposed by the IPU. Given the elusiveness of the long-term goal of poverty eradication, they must also rally in support of vulnerable populations. Lastly, with all that it stood for, the IPU must take a decisive stand on the situation in Ukraine.

Mr. A. BURT (United Kingdom) expressed pride in his predecessor, Sir William Randal Cremer, a founding father of the IPU, one of the oldest international bodies and the first multilateral political body established specifically to encourage international dialogue on matters of common concern. The promotion of peace and democracy had always been central to its work, in accordance with the vision of the IPU as a key mechanism for resolving disputes between nations through arbitration and friendly mediation, not acts of aggression or war. The eight Nobel Peace Prizes awarded to IPU Members in its first decades indeed underscored its success in that sphere. The IPU had also been instrumental as a forerunner of institutionalized multilateral cooperation exemplified in such intergovernmental structures as the League of Nations and the United Nations. In the post-war period, it had stood ready to help restore constructive and mutually beneficial relations between nations, assisted in its revival by United Kingdom parliamentarian and former IPU President, Lord Stansgate.

The IPU's contribution to encouraging a global rules-based system for such relations had significantly facilitated the spread of democracy, human rights and respect for the rule of law. On that score, the Organization's value had been recognized by former United Kingdom Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose opening remarks at the IPU's Centenary Conference in 1989 had underlined efforts to establish benchmarks and norms for measuring and evaluating democratic progress, an area of expertise ever unique to the IPU. The British Group of the IPU remained proud of its part in facilitating her meeting with Soviet President Gorbachev in 1984, which had effectively promoted openings for democracy and the end of the Cold War. It was now time, on the IPU's 125th anniversary, to rededicate efforts to the future through a ruthless analysis aimed at refocusing on adding value and enhancing the IPU agendas in a tougher world.

Mr. G. SILVA (Portugal) paid tribute to the IPU's founding fathers; the world was a better place since the two eminent pacifists had created the first permanent forum for multilateral political negotiations. Indeed, the IPU's 125 years of survival as a global organization were thanks to its status as a repository of timeless, universal and human-centred values and principles, which continued to infuse the entire spectrum of its activities, covering areas ranging from peaceful conflict resolution, rule of law and good governance to human rights, non-discrimination and social welfare, to name but a few. Accomplishments such as the award of eight Nobel Peace Prizes to IPU Members were therefore hardly surprising. The IPU lived by its motto in using to best advantage the diversity of its Members and the power vested in them by their constituents.

The IPU had contributed decisively to ending and preventing the escalation of regional conflicts. Parliamentary diplomacy brought peoples closer together and parliamentarians in countries such as the Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine must work to promote a swift resolution to the conflicts and to re-establish security and democracy. In that same connection, Jordan and Lebanon deserved recognition for taking in many thousands of Syrian refugees. IPU values must be upheld at all costs in the interest of protecting human rights and freedoms, preventing abuses of power and fostering social change and progress, with

parliamentarians raising awareness of climate change effects, environmental protection measures and risks to sustainable development. In short, the IPU's 125-year endeavour to globalize its values and principles would endure into the future as the mantle of its founding fathers continued to be handed down to their successors.

Mr. A.A. HUSEIN (Somalia), recalling that the Federal Parliament of Somalia had renewed its membership of the IPU in 2013, said that it was proud to re-emerge in inter-parliamentary forums at the present juncture in his country's history. Somalia was now recovering from chaos, civil unrest, effects of piracy and recurrent environmental emergencies that had perpetuated chronic famine, displacement of populations and political and social conflicts. The outlook was promising in the light of recent gains made against al-Shabab and in the reduction of piracy incidents and impact. Economic and political recovery was under way and reconstruction efforts were enhanced by steady private-sector growth.

Fortunately for the country, its vibrant diaspora community had kick-started the collapsed economy through small business activities, encouraging international investment, real estate development and employment. In addition to addressing security challenges, the Federal Parliament was playing its part by reviewing the country's investment, banking and insurance laws, in consultation with entrepreneurs and others keen to invest. It also worked closely with regional and key development partners to respond to current and emerging challenges. In short, it was eager to build relationships that facilitated sharing of expertise, technical capacity-building and skills transfer in order to fulfil its duties to the people of Somalia with respect to law-making, oversight and constituency representation. He looked forward to bilateral cooperation with IPU Members.

Mr. I. GIL LAZARO (Spain) said that renewal of the commitment to peace and democracy was appropriate after 125 years of service in their cause, the more so given the essential role of parliamentary democracy in the complex modern world. The IPU must therefore develop a new framework of action for improving its working methods and its relations with national parliaments and international organizations, such as the United Nations and WTO, and for enabling it to offer game-changing alternatives with the unfolding of international events. It must underscore the inviolability of international law and the rule of law; strengthen dialogue and negotiation as conflict prevention and resolution tools; emphasize the role of tolerance in stability and world peace; and promote respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

The exercise of sovereignty in line with the values of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights also necessarily implied fair development, including through policies aimed at poverty eradication and sustainable housing, employment, and education to enhance the quality of life for all citizens. A strong rule of law was likewise key to the exercise of freedom and legislation must be enacted accordingly. Other vital areas of focus must include pluralism, the environment, gender equality and women's rights, as well as the challenge of effective representation. The pursuit of all such objectives would promote a stable, fair and peaceful international order based on free and open national societies. IPU Members, in all their diversity, must work towards achieving those noble and worthwhile ends for a better world, as expected of them by the millions suffering from hunger and injustice.

Ms. A. HABIBOU (Niger) stated that the theme of the debate chimed perfectly with her country's major quest for peace and the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, which formed the backbone of its renewal programme. Indeed, the achievement of peace and security was a priority in overcoming the multifaceted challenges facing the Sahel-Saharan region, particularly given Niger's location in an area long threatened by the activities of armed rebel movements, criminal organizations and Al-Qaida. For precisely that reason, it had alerted the international community in 2011 to the threat of Libyan weapons being circulated in the area by jihadists and extremists. It had also been quick to propose the channelling of joint resources into counter-terrorism efforts, including intervention in Mali. It was thus committed to such initiatives as the Nouakchott Process, launched in 2013 under AU auspices in order to enhance security cooperation and the operationalization of African peace and security architecture in the subregion.

While tensions and conflicts persisted in a number of surrounding countries, Niger's maintenance of peace had conversely enabled it to focus on socio-economic development. Normal economic, trade, cultural and tourist activities were under way, with the country a safe destination and host to numerous regional and international gatherings. Democracy and the rule of law had

also been strengthened, as evidenced by the separation of power, fully functioning constitutional institutions, unrivalled status of the political opposition and near-total press freedom. Regrettably, however, the irresponsible actions of some media threatened to undermine the fragile balance patiently constructed in a young nation-building country with a high illiteracy rate. Those concerned must instead treat sensitive issues with deserved caution to avoid damaging national cohesion and unity.

Mr. G. KONSTANTOPOULOS (Greece) said that respect for international law, strong public cooperation and education to combat fanaticism and intolerance were key to creating the peaceful social environment without which freedom, rights and the development of humanitarian ideals were unachievable. The rights of vulnerable population groups, especially children, must be protected and all children must complete primary education in order to grow into responsible citizens contributing to their country's progress. Other essentials for consolidating democracy included the promotion of gender equality, women's participation in public life, elimination of violence against women and children, universal access to basic health care services, and equal opportunities for dignified employment.

At the global level, cooperation was crucial to risk-resilient development with a view to a better and safer future. Disaster risk evaluation was a prerequisite for the design of sustainable development models, in conjunction with local authorities and communities. With environmental sustainability likewise a prerequisite for the enjoyment of fundamental rights, sustainable growth principles must be integrated into policies and measures taken to counter the loss of environmental resources and biodiversity. Climate change was a major threat also affecting those rights, constantly increasing climate refugee numbers and population movements and foreshadowing potentially irreversible environmental effects in the absence of drastic greenhouse gas emission reductions in line with Kyoto Protocol commitments. Equal access to sustainable development was another universal right that must be recognized.

Nuclear-weapon States must likewise abide by their nuclear disarmament and weapons commitments under international instruments, a system must be established for ensuring exclusive use of nuclear material for the declared purpose, and international risk assessments and security obligations in all nuclear facilities must be upheld, together with strict criteria for radioactive substance and waste transfer and management. He appealed for concerted efforts to advance peace and democracy for a prosperous global society of equal opportunities for all.

Mr. J. LATORCAI (Hungary) related that his Parliament, a founding IPU Member, had already hosted two IPU Conferences by the time he was born in 1944, adding that the bitter lesson of the 20th century was that democracy could only unfold in peace. The free democracies in which some 40 per cent of humankind now lived must therefore be protected. In Ukraine, a peaceful solution to the current situation would be attained only through full observance of international law and the democratic rights of the Ukrainian people, including its numerous cultural, linguistic and ethnic minorities. All threats to Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity were to be condemned.

Under criticism for failing to respond to major challenges, the international political system created after World War II must be reformed and modernized but without jeopardizing peace, human rights and the commitment to social development. In short, the modern democracy now in crisis must be improved for sustainability as a prerequisite to preserving global peace, with an additional focus on societal issues such as demographic crisis, family protection and the role of religion. In that spirit, his Parliament had worked to sustain Hungarian democracy and peace, adopting a new Basic Law identifying Hungary's contribution to world development as a vital foreign policy mission. Hungary had thus played a prominent role at the United Nations level in working to facilitate nuclear disarmament, foster universal cultural diversity and promote sustainable water management and food security worldwide. Its 24 years of dedication to democratic renewal and peace unequivocally demonstrated that sustainable peace and democracy achieved significant results to ensure survival and the prosperity of future generations.

Mr. H.C. SCHMIDT (Denmark) declared that the key word in the present debate was respect: respect for each other and respect for diversities. Respect was unlikely learned overnight, however, but rather thanks to a long tradition of democracy such as existed in Denmark. Respectful treatment of minorities was a crucial indicator of the extent of a country's democracy. The national minorities living on each side of the border delineated between Denmark and Germany after many years of war were, for example, treated by their authorities with the same respect as the majority. Parliamentarians were particularly obliged not to incite hatred against any minority and the worst instance of discrimination was the persecution of sexual minorities unfortunately witnessed in some

countries. Discrimination for genetic reasons had no justification and was especially unacceptable when practised by State authorities responsible for the protection and respect of all citizens. Such conduct produced callous societies. Indeed, any society incapable of protecting vulnerable groups would attain neither peace nor democracy but remain a failure.

Mr. V. GUMINSKY (Belarus) applauded the IPU's growth into a powerful inter-parliamentary union acting increasingly in cooperation with the United Nations, working to strengthen international peace and security, and serving as a forum for the collective discussion of important modern-day issues and challenges, affording parliamentarians a unique opportunity to define their positions. Active participation in the work of such a prestigious organization was a foreign policy priority for his Parliament, which greatly appreciated the IPU's support for Belarusian initiatives to combat weapons of mass destruction, trafficking and the effects of man-made disasters. The now traditional annual Parliamentary Hearings at the United Nations and the landmark World Conferences of Speakers of Parliaments were instrumental to strengthening parliamentary cooperation with the United Nations on a wide range of issues. Belarus would continue to utilize, in its national interest, the experience gained within the IPU framework.

His government had made significant policy progress in guaranteeing such fundamental values as the right to life, liberty, justice, and social welfare, attaining ahead of time the MDGs relating to poverty and hunger, literacy and child, infant and maternal mortality. It also conscientiously fulfilled its obligations under international human rights treaties. As a result of those actions aimed at promoting democratic development, it enjoyed social stability and freedom from interfaith, inter-ethnic and social conflicts. Concerning the post-2015 development agenda, Members must actively support the IPU's involvement.

The threat to international security was a grave problem demanding balanced and sound political decision-making and collective responsibility for the maintenance of peace and stability. The Belarusian contribution to the cause of disarmament and world peace was evidenced by its refusal of nuclear status and removal of nuclear weapons from its territory. It stood ready to pursue the joint efforts for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime and maintaining a system of international security and strategic stability.

Mr. W. CAO (China) congratulated the IPU on its 125th anniversary; it had long contributed to the promotion of international peace and stability, democratic progress, rule of law, human rights, sustainable development and sociocultural cooperation. Nowadays, the changing international situation created uncertainty and the underlying causes of the global economic crisis remained. Regional, security and terrorism challenges were also ever more acute.

In overcoming such challenges, solidarity was essential to peace, stability and shared development achieved through respect for the principles articulated in the UN Charter, including territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from the use or threat of force. Terrorism and separatism must be condemned, the diversity of civilizations respected and global economic recovery maintained. A fair, inclusive and orderly international monetary system must be built, together with mutual trust created through more effective communication and the wherewithal for citizens to have their say, particularly in emerging and developing countries. The G20 must also become a long-term economic governance mechanism supporting emerging countries and opposing trade protectionism. In the globalized world, international and regional security must be pursued through cooperation. China therefore stood ready to work collectively towards an open, transparent and equitable framework for integrated security.

The peace-loving Chinese people aspired to development and modernization, for which lasting international security was a prerequisite. Recently announced reforms attested to the Chinese determination to champion peace, development, cooperation and a mutually beneficial win-win strategy of openness. Building on the lessons of history, China would participate actively in multilateral organizations such as the IPU; engage constructively in settling global issues, safeguard peace and justice, and work for a fairer and more rational international order. A prosperous, developed, harmonious, stable and responsible China working through international cooperation for global well-being, stability and shared human development would better contribute to those goals.

Mr. D. XIMENES (Timor-Leste) commented that the theme of the debate was extremely current in the present global circumstances. He noted that the resolution of international conflicts through arbitration had been at the origin of the IPU, which over the years had become increasingly active in that sphere, including through its growing cooperation with the United Nations manifested by the establishment of its Committee on United Nations Affairs. Parliaments too had played an

instrumental role in conflict resolution, regime transition and stabilization, as in in Timor-Leste in 2008. The persistence of global conflict demanded strengthening of such institutions as the IPU and indeed the United Nations, which should reflect the correlation of international forces and represent the interests of new global actors. Politicians must act more decisively, uninfluenced by economic or other interests.

In the spirit of renewed commitment to peace and democracy, Timor-Leste, despite its relatively new independent status and scant resources, recognized it's due to others such as Guinea-Bissau, where it was assisting with the conduct of free and democratic elections aimed at restoring constitutional order. The equal importance of development and institutional capacity-building to preventing conflict in such scenarios must not be overlooked, however. In his region, the South China Sea dispute compromised peace and stability and must be peacefully resolved.

Recounting that his country had been a victim of espionage during negotiations with Australia concerning oil in the Timor Sea, he called on parliamentarians from that country to engage in ensuring that their authorities released key evidence needed for the International Court of Justice to formulate an independent opinion on the matter. For the sake of credibility, there must be no complacency about such clear violations of human rights, which also applied to the situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, Western Sahara and Ukraine. More active IPU structures were indispensable in the face of United Nations ineffectiveness.

Mr. K. SVENDSEN (Norway) noted that, while much had been achieved since the IPU was founded in 1889, serious crises such as the one in Ukraine illustrated the need for vigilant focus on the base forces of democracy. Entailing methods reminiscent of the Cold War, the Ukraine situation demonstrated the shortcomings of diplomacy and the consequences of weakness in the institutional frameworks crucial to the functioning of democracies. In its tug of war and brutal show of force prompting protests from several western democracies, the Russian Federation's disregard for Ukrainian territorial integrity was unacceptable. The delicate question also arose of how to ensure the civil rights, safety and integrity of Ukraine's Russian minority without jeopardizing the country's future. Basic principles to be adopted by the new Ukrainian Government should include the adoption of a robust constitution to safeguard key values and secure civil rights and rights to participate freely in a democratic system for all citizens, including minorities; and the establishment of strong and independent institutions to oversee the execution of power, without misuse by the majority, and operation of the State in accordance with public interest.

In contemplating how to strengthen democracy and avoid conflict, vital questions must be asked about anti-corruption, the continuing democratic safety of minorities and religious groups, and the seriousness with which all crimes were treated. Written by a small group of mostly male, privileged and wealthy citizens, Norway's 200-year-old Constitution had occasionally been amended but its principles remained constant. It thus kept society united, shielded against misuse of power against minorities and guaranteed the exercise of democratic rights. A golden age of democracy would be a hasty conclusion to draw from the rising number of democracies. The IPU must focus on strengthening democratic institutions and protecting democratic principles if democracy were not to be reduced to a fancy phrase.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said that the marking of the Organization's 125th anniversary affirmed the commitment to strengthening its values and principles aimed at the advancement of peace, democracy, development and human rights. His Parliament had been a proud Member since 2002, when it had been reconstituted after various reforms. Bahrain had acceded to all international human rights instruments and set up a national human rights institution, as well as a commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees in accordance with the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry established voluntarily, in a worldwide precedent, to examine the tragic events of 2011.

Although a recent Member from a small country, his parliament was active in two IPU Standing Committees and two other committees. It had also organized meetings of Arab women parliamentarians. In reaffirming its commitment to energetically supporting IPU's work, it additionally looked forward to benefiting from IPU expertise in order to build on its achievements as a successful democracy in such a short space of time.

Equal rights were guaranteed under the Constitution and minorities and their rights were protected by law in the spirit of tolerance for which the Bahraini people were known. Freedom of religious observance was also guaranteed and the country housed places of worship for the divine religions and other faiths. Women enjoyed all civil rights and accounted for 20 per cent of members of the legislature and a high proportion of both public and private workforces, an accomplishment

attributable to the importance attached by the Bahraini people to the role of women in human development. Through national dialogue, the difficulties of the past few years would surely be overcome. IPU support for the efforts to establish security and political stability in order to improve development would be welcome.

Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, took the Chair.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) commented that international peace and security were key to achieving an ideal society. His country had been the first to develop a human rights charter and had never invaded another country but had always successfully defended its borders. It was substantially unified, despite sanctions, and 87 per cent of its population had participated in the recent presidential election. Its foreign policy was based on friendship with all legitimate countries and it stood poised to assist in resolving international problems.

The world would remain unfair as long as there was war and conflict, hunger and poverty, unjust decision-making and inhuman behaviour, lack of parity and violation of human rights, and unequal enjoyment of scientific achievements. Muslim countries such as his sought a world in which all those elements were reversed and even conventional weapons were unacceptable. Nuclear weapons must therefore be eliminated but were regrettably still being produced by some countries.

The violent situations in various parts of the world must be resolved through negotiation and diplomacy; his country was ready to work with the international community to end the loss of life, as well as to achieve mutual interests. It had been a victim of sanctions due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, for according to inspections it had never pursued the production of nuclear weapons, which had no place in its defence doctrine. Moreover, those weapons were prohibited by a fatwa reproduced in United Nations documents in five languages. Other countries must be realistic and work to cooperate with all. Islam taught that humanity was one. Progress towards a democratic world free of weapons of mass destruction and war and full of friendship, parity and mutual respect must therefore be made without regard for borders, languages or other distinctions.

Item 9 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item: *Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU*

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France), opening the debate, said that the emergency item was a well-deserved choice but noted that it had been met with relative indifference when first proposed by her delegation at the previous Assembly and that the French President's attempt to alert the international community to the issue, in December 2013, had also been in vain. Although the alternative proposal for an emergency item on Ukraine had not been taken up, it was to be hoped nonetheless that the Assembly would adopt a firm official position on the serious events unfolding in that country, constituting as they did an uncontested military occupation and attack on territorial integrity and sovereignty that jeopardized regional and international peace and security.

In the Central African Republic, almost one half of the population was dealing with the dramatic consequences brought by the security and humanitarian situation. The United Nations had authorized the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the use of all necessary means by the 2,000 French troops working with MISCA to protect civilians and restore peace. Tribute must be paid to the African countries contributing the 6,000 troops to MISCA and to countries sending material assistance. The lamentable European failure of responsibility to deliver on commitments was disappointing and worrying. The situation had serious consequences, including potentially for Europe. Urgent action was imperative in the face of harassment based on religious grounds.

Mr. M. GAPES (United Kingdom) expressed support for the emergency motion, recalling the difficult history of the Central African Republic and the series of coups and attempted coups over 20 years. The situation was now even worse than in 2007, when the Small Arms Survey had stated that the country was a tinderbox awash with small arms from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad, with armed groups running wild and better equipped than government forces. As learned from the events in Libya in 2011, conflicts in one country had knock-on consequences on neighbours.

A recent newspaper article had outlined the appalling situation in the Central African Republic: the wholesale exodus of the Muslim population; the deployment of too few peacekeepers too late; and the underestimation of the challenge of disarming the Muslim Seleka rebels, containing the anti-balaka militia, and protecting the Muslim minority. It had concluded that the only option was to facilitate evacuations, at the risk of contributing to the ethnic cleansing that the peacekeepers had been deployed to prevent. In Mali, only French intervention had prevented a disaster. Wider Christian and Muslim violence would have serious consequences and could be exploited by extremist groups in other countries for broader conflict.

Sharing international concerns and as a permanent Security Council member, the United Kingdom had worked to secure a resolution, in December 2013, mandating the AU and French troops to respond to the security and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic. It had also played a strong role in securing a further Council resolution, in January 2014, to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic; set up a United Nations sanctions regime for political spoilers and human rights violators and abusers; and authorize a temporary EU military operation.

Among the biggest humanitarian donors to the country, the United Kingdom had increased its aid to a total of GBP 15 million, in addition to providing GBP 2 million for the AU to cover some of MISCA's operational costs. It would continue to review its contribution in the light of events. It had also provided logistical support to the French mission, at the request of the French Government, in the form of three flights to carry French equipment to the country. Much more must be done, however, and he therefore called on Members to support the motion.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India) voiced deep concern at the security situation, humanitarian crisis and escalating violence in the Central African Republic, where the security apparatus had virtually collapsed and over 600,000 persons were displaced. In the short term, law and order must be restored and immediate humanitarian aid be provided to the almost one half of the population in urgent need. In the medium term, the transition agreed by stakeholders must be effectively and sustainably managed. The long-term priority was rebuilding and reconstruction, which could be achieved only if minimum security conditions were met. It was thus vital to strengthen MISCA and to disarm and reintegrate armed groups. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) also had an essential role to play in facilitating a durable solution to the crisis.

India had a long-standing engagement with the Central African Republic through a robust component of development cooperation focused on capacity-building, skills development and strengthening of social and physical infrastructure, which were instrumental to peace, sustainable development and the consolidation of democracy. India had regularly participated in the meetings of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic and was fully committed to the country's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity. The IPU's collective voice would lend encouragement to the international efforts for realizing the short-, medium- and long-term priorities mentioned. His delegation looked forward to engaging actively in the deliberations on the Moroccan-proposed draft resolution.

Dr. T.-B. Gurarib (Namibia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Ms. D. DLAKUDE (South Africa) said that her country remained gravely concerned by the violent overthrow of the Government in the Central African Republic, the collapse of State institutions and the brutal sectarian killing of innocent civilians, all of which it condemned in the strongest possible terms. The complex security, humanitarian, human rights and political crisis in that country had serious consequences across the region. In 2013, over 40 South African soldiers had tragically lost their lives or been wounded in attacks by rebel fighters. The recent call by the AU and the United Nations for a comprehensive and integrated response to the crisis was therefore welcome.

Any attempt to seize power by force must be denounced; the will of the people must be the basis of authority for government and sanctions or other measures should be imposed against perpetrators of any unconstitutional changes. A peaceful solution must be sought through a constructive political dialogue involving all parties and representing all religions and sectors. All violence must stop.

Unrelentingly committed as it was to assisting the people of the Central African Republic, South Africa echoed the AU call for the international community to mobilize adequate support to meet their humanitarian needs. She urged parliaments to mobilize their governments in support of the six-point initiative proposed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and to ensure that pledges

made at the recent Brussels funding conference were met without further delay. She also called on the IPU to provide technical assistance to the country's national election authority in pursuance of free, transparent and credible elections and to send a needs identification mission to work with the transitional authorities. Through collective action in keeping with the UN Charter, the carnage could be ended and the people helped in its quest for peace.

Mr. E. MOKOLO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), welcoming the debate, voiced concern over the humanitarian drama in the Central African Republic, with which it shared a lengthy border inhabited on either side by the same ethnic groups. Even without including fleeing members of the Congolese diaspora, the officially registered figure of over 43,000 refugees who had crossed from Bangui to the nearby Congolese town of Zongo was surely more than doubled by the countless numbers slipping across that border, some of them bringing arms. The crisis therefore threatened to destabilize the northern part of his country, which, despite its own internal difficulties and operations in the east, had promptly contributed a contingent of troops to MISCA. He called on the IPU and its Members to do their utmost to restore peace and stability to the Central African Republic.

Mr. M.M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed deep concern over the human rights violations being committed in the Central African Republic, condemning the acts of violence and extremism perpetrated against civilians and in particular Muslims. It supported the UN-led efforts to restore peace and stability to the country, including by disarming small groups. It welcomed the selection of the Transitional President and her approach to selecting a cabinet from among the country's different political and social groups. It expected the new Government to do its utmost to bring peace and order and to call elections in the near future. With the proper approach, situations that had occurred in other parts of the world would not be repeated. The hope was that the present discussion could contribute to an early resolution of the issue.

Mr. A. EL ZABAYAR (Venezuela) stated that the warmongering in the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine had also taken hold in the Central African Republic. Colonial interests were involved in encouraging war in Africa, whereas supplying arms and sending in troops were not the answer. On the contrary, the debt to Africa would be repaid by ending the hunger and grinding poverty. The Venezuelan experience taught that those attempting to resolve problems were in fact creating those problems in order to justify their military presence on the ground. Tackling the root causes was the way forward.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) regretted to say that some of the peacekeeping troops deployed to his neighbouring country had recently stood by and watched impassively as Muslims and mosques were attacked. Such bias was to be condemned; French and other troops in the Central African Republic must remain neutral in discharging their mission and exercising the right to protect by preventing attacks from any source. Sudan was opposed to any forced regime change in that country, whose refugees it was now hosting in the tens of thousands, without support.

The IPU must give its backing to multinational peacekeeping efforts aimed at restoring democracy and peace to the Central African Republic before further troubles erupted. Peace was a prerequisite for safeguarding the rights of all citizens, including religious and ethnic minorities, and for ensuring the stability of the entire region. As Sudan had learned, problems were often resolved only to be replaced by others. It therefore supported all international peacekeeping activities, while also firmly rejecting any intervention targeting any specific religious or ethnic group. All populations had the right to co-exist in peace and security. He called on the IPU to stand by the people of the Central African Republic to that end.

Mr. G.N. GATTA (Chad), firmly endorsing the draft resolution, said that the consequences of the barbaric and inhuman violence unleashed in the crisis in the Central African Republic were unimaginable, affecting in addition the numerous ethnic groups straddling its borders with Chad. That violence, in the guise of religion, was simply an expression of hatred by those who rejected interaction with anyone not sharing their identity.

While appreciable, the current international efforts were insufficient to contain the challenge in a country where justice and authority were now non-existent. Beyond food and material assistance, those efforts must be channelled into creating dialogue with a view to rebuilding a country where all populations, without exception, could live in peace and security. Resolutions were all well and good, but practical initiatives and political dialogue were more productive. Over 100,000

Chadian and other West African Muslims were seeking refuge in Chad from the grave security crisis in the Central African Republic, which threatened to spill over into neighbouring countries and beyond. Sound solutions must be found to restore peace and ensure the safety of those neighbours.

Ms. M. STOLBIZER (Argentina), likewise expressing support for the draft resolution, declared that an immediate halt to the armed violence in the Central African Republic was imperative and that all efforts to restore peace must take into account such factors as marginalization and the concentration of wealth among a few. Peace was also inextricably linked to justice, guaranteeing that atrocities would not go unpunished; with the assurance that such crimes would not be repeated; and with assistance to victims, especially women and children, and displaced persons.

The IPU must therefore call for the ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments and the ATT, which, along with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, had important deterrent effects. Compliance with those instruments was moreover conducive to respect for human rights, peaceful co-existence and a fair international order, in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Charter. Another pertinent issue for consideration was whether justice would be enhanced by a universal criminal law.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco), speaking as a member of the sponsoring delegation of the draft resolution, said that the untenable barbarity seen in Africa was reflected in a failed State where all justice and forces of order had evaporated. In addition to the atrocities and wide-scale ethnic and religious cleansing taking place, the anti-balaka were destroying dwellings, schools and hospitals and thousands of terrified refugees were fleeing into neighbouring countries consequently threatened with security problems.

The immediate requirements were to put the country back on track, ensure the return of refugees and assist the transitional government with restoring normality through free and transparent elections conducted in a secure environment. Morocco had sent a contingent to the country to maintain the security of United Nations premises but all those living and working in the country were engulfed by fear.

The IPU must therefore call for respect for human rights and the protection of civilians, especially women, children and the elderly, not forgetting the indescribable acts of brutality and cannibalism that had occurred. It must condemn the attacks that had taken place in Bangui, the thousands of civilian deaths and the widespread violence between Muslims and Christians. It must also call for the fulfilment of financial pledges made in order to satisfy the immediate requirements cited and above all guarantee the territorial integrity of the Central African Republic, large parts of which remained under anti-balaka control. Urgent assistance must be provided to the transitional authorities in order to end the daily tragedies being suffered in that country. Not thus far mentioned but also of relevance was the role of the extensive poaching and illicit wildlife trade in the matter.

The VICE-PRESIDENT announced that the draft resolution on the emergency item would be finalized by a drafting committee comprising, in addition to the sponsoring delegation of Morocco, delegates from Cambodia, Chad, Finland, France, Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

Sitting of Wednesday, 19 March (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

A commemorative video, "Reflections on the IPU", was screened in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU's work and its achievements over its 125-year history.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. M. SHEETRIT (Israel) said that the privacy of citizens was an issue that needed to be discussed and addressed by parliaments, particularly with regard to the Internet. Although there had been a strong focus in the media on data collection by governments, the amount of data collected by private companies should not be underestimated and was often greater than that collected by governments. Of particular concern was the lack of security provided for databases holding sensitive customer information. Parliaments should take steps to address and legislate on the issue, especially with regard to how much data companies were able to collect and for how long it should be stored. The IPU should also discuss the issue in future.

Ms. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation) observed that legislative power could only be effective when there was good communication with constituencies. Such communication was vital to help define priorities and pass legislation that reflected the aspirations of the people. Promotion of dialogue and respect and tolerance of other opinions was vital and parliamentarians should distance themselves from those who promoted the supremacy of one group over another. They should also refrain from drawing hasty conclusions based on unsubstantiated information; some groups used lies and distorted information for their own interests. One of the key challenges for international peace and security was the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by States, NGOs and other groups in defiance of the UN Charter, for example to intervene and interfere in the internal situation of a sovereign country. With regard to the situation in Ukraine, the Russian Federation continued to call on Ukrainian politicians and EU officials to negotiate and establish a dialogue. Her country wished to see a stable, prosperous and dynamic Ukraine, but the extremist elements in that country, which were protected by foreign governments, were encouraging destabilization and violence. Concerning the recent referendum in Crimea, the people of that region had expressed their wish to become part of the Russian Federation, a country committed to democracy and the protection of human rights.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland) observed that a lot of expectations had been placed in democratic rule and the people's right to self-determination; however, the Arab Spring and recent events in the Central African Republic and Ukraine had shown that things had not worked out as expected. Democratic governance drew its legitimacy from the people and it was up to parliamentarians to demonstrate the benefits of democratic rule and the connection between the electorate and the decision-makers and to show that people could make a difference by voting. It was also crucial to continuously fine-tune democratic governance, making sure it was both active and reactive by reaching out to the people and responding to their needs and aspirations. Parliamentarians should remember that they had multiple responsibilities, namely to their electorate, to the country as a whole and to the rest of the world. The IPU played an important global role as it enabled parliamentarians to share best practices and lessons learned, facilitating the building of better-functioning and stronger parliaments. In addition, democratic governance also contributed to building a peaceful world. Lastly, it was important that parliamentarians played an active role in the development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

Ms. G. REQUENA (Venezuela), recognizing the role played by the IPU as an envoy between the parliaments of the world and the United Nations, said that another country was undertaking efforts to destabilize her country and overthrow its legitimately established government.

Imperialistic efforts by the same country had been seen in other countries and were intended to impose its economic power on the rest of the world. The propaganda carried out by a number of powerful national and international communications corporations, supported by some governments, had converted human rights into a weapon of punishment for independent governments. Venezuelan society faced a number of problems and challenges, including security and productive economic development, but the current Government was committed to dialogue and peace as a central principle of that dialogue. As such, the President of the country had invited all sectors of society to participate in a national peace conference. It should be noted that the Venezuelan Government was supported by numerous regional mechanisms and bodies, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), MERCOSUR, and the Organization of American States (OAS). She encouraged Member Parliaments to express their support for the declaration on the situation in Venezuela adopted by GRULAC.

Ms. M. MAZLAN (Malaysia) said that the road to peace and democracy could be difficult depending on how a country managed its economy, social development and security. There were numerous global threats to democracy, such as political upheaval, economic instability and environmental changes, meaning that governments needed to remain dynamic, vigilant and knowledgeable. Malaysia was a country with a rich cultural diversity where people of many different religions lived together based on principles of respect, tolerance and understanding. There were many challenges in maintaining such a society and Malaysia had taken steps to fight extremism, promote tolerance and protect people's rights to freedom of speech, of assembly and of association. In fact, the Malaysian Prime Minister had made a speech before the UN General Assembly in 2010 encouraging all countries to support any initiatives that promoted mutual respect and peaceful co-existence and rejecting extremism. Malaysia had also set up the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, which offered training courses for local and foreign government officials in the areas of public affairs, foreign affairs and defence. She paid tribute to the work of the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, and expressed her country's thanks for the assistance it had received in the search for flight MH370.

Mr. P.-F. VEILLON (Switzerland) said that it was important that the IPU continued to play a role, for example through the discussions of the Committee on Middle East Questions or the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus. Parliamentary dialogue could be a useful tool in the promotion of peace, particularly when traditional diplomacy had reached its limit. However, he did not consider it the responsibility of the IPU to promote a nuclear-weapon-free world or to find solutions to issues such as AIDS or malaria. Parliaments could exchange views and develop proposals within the scope of the IPU, but it should be recognized that their ultimate power was limited. What the IPU could do, however, was provide global support for parliamentary democracy, given that democracy was an ever-changing concept, which took multiple forms based on the history, culture and size of each country. It should also provide support to national parliaments and emerging democracies, particularly in the form of helping parliaments exercise their mandates and protecting the human rights of parliamentarians and the fundamental principles of democracy. Lastly, he suggested that instead of working with geopolitical groups within the scope of the IPU, which only served to accentuate regional differences, Members could unite based on their political views.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) declared that issues such as climate change and the proliferation of nuclear weapons threatened the survival of the human species. The current global situation, in which poverty and hunger had created hopelessness, the economic crisis had created chaos and terrorism and trafficking in drugs and people was increasing, represented a significant challenge. In addition, some countries were using interventionist policies and subversion to impose regime change in other States, which was a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter. Despite the adoption of the MDGs there had not been sufficient political will to achieve them. Peace and development were interdependent concepts and the financial resources that were wasted on war could be used instead to eradicate poverty and hunger. It was up to parliamentarians and the IPU to promote peace, solidarity, social justice and sustainable development. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was committed to peace and achieving a nuclear-weapon free region. Cuba was a small country which was working tirelessly to improve the lives of its citizens; opposition from certain countries caused many difficulties. She highlighted the case of the so-called Cuban Five, three of whom were still serving unjust prison sentences in the United States of America and thanked those countries that had expressed solidarity with Cuba.

Mr. S. PARRY (Australia) said that the Australian and New Zealand Parliaments had been focusing particularly on issues related to the Pacific region and he hoped that the IPU would consider establishing a separate geopolitical group for that region. In addition, although there should be a focus on emerging democracies, it was important to not forget about existing democracies. Democracy as a concept required continuous review and updating.

Mr. S.S. AHMED (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption - GOPAC) explained that his organization was the only international network of parliamentarians that focused solely on combatting corruption and its members came from more than 50 countries around the world. There were some forms of corruption that were so grave that they should shock the conscience of the international community and mobilize countries to act across borders. The UN Convention against Corruption clearly recognized the need to address corruption at the international level and endorsed the creation of innovative inter-State mechanisms to do so. Drawing attention to the Declaration for the Fifth Forum of Parliamentarians adopted during the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, he said that over the coming years GOPAC would endeavour to implement the provisions of that Declaration and encouraged all parliamentarians and the IPU to join the struggle against corruption.

Mr. R. WALTER, speaking on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), drew attention to the history of the establishment of the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly. He explained that PACE now comprised 47 democratically-elected European parliaments, including the Russian Federation and Ukraine. He therefore wished to condemn the recent actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including its annexation of Crimea; such actions were a violation of the Statute and principles of the Council of Europe and the country's commitments to that body, such as the respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States. States should be reminded to respect the rules of the organizations that they joined. He regretted that the issue had not been taken up as an emergency item by the Assembly and encouraged all countries to strongly condemn the actions of the Russian Federation as they were in direct violation of international law. Of particular concern was the fact that the Council of the Federation had authorized the use of military force in Crimea. Moreover statements had been made by both houses of the Russian Parliament supporting calls for separatism and secession in an already tense region. In order to establish national unity in Ukraine, it was important that a new constitution was adopted and that early presidential followed by parliamentary elections were held as soon as possible. He hoped that the IPU would join PACE in standing ready to assist the Ukrainian authorities.

Ms. R. RIKHARDSDOTTIR (Iceland) reflected that the activities of women's movements in pushing for gender equality in society had equipped them with the leadership skills to be able to transform and increase the effectiveness of political spheres through the sharing of knowledge and advocacy. Women's movements continued to use innovative approaches and seek new avenues to promote gender equality, including by taking a lead in street politics during uprisings and their aftermath. Despite the progress made with regard to the number of women in politics, there continued to be a low number of women in top positions. Women's education and empowerment were strongly associated with democratic development and, as such, renewal of the commitment to peace and democracy could not become a reality without gender equality. Women had different approaches to problem-solving and prioritization that should not be underestimated. It was crucial that all sectors of society, including institutions and political parties, were involved in ensuring change in political representation. Gender equality should be the main priority for all countries.

Mr. T. QUBA'A, speaking on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), stated that PAM had been very active in addressing the key challenges arising from democratic transitions in the region. PAM was fully committed to finding a rapid solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and a PAM delegation had recently visited Damascus to convey key messages from the UN Secretary-General and the EU. A number of bilateral meetings had also taken place between representatives of the Syrian Parliament and parliamentarians from Arab countries during the Eighth Plenary Session of PAM to ensure inter-parliamentary dialogue in support of the peace process. Parliamentary diplomacy and democracy were at the heart of PAM's work and its delegates had recently carried out visits to a number of countries, including Egypt, Israel and Jordan, to promote peace, stability, respect for international law, democratic transitions, human rights and the fight against terrorism. Missions to Libya and the

Russian Federation would soon be undertaken. A major challenge for the region was unemployment and countries were working with institutions, including the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, to address socio-economic issues.

Ms. P. KRAIRIKSH (Thailand), welcoming the work done by the IPU over the previous 125 years to promote peace and democracy, observed that despite progress made, challenges remained, notably in the areas of human rights and sustainable development. The IPU should therefore pursue its efforts in those areas. Many countries in the world continued to grapple with the concept of democracy; in many developing nations, democracy was seen as a western concept that did not always yield the desired results when applied to the cultural and social situations of different countries. Of particular concern in some countries was whether recourse was available to society when persons who were democratically elected exercised their mandated authority in ways that were corrupt, totalitarian or illegal. Free and fair elections were not the only prerequisites for a democracy; rule of law, transparency, respect for human rights, respect for minorities, freedom of expression, freedom of the press and independent bodies such as constitutional courts were also essential. She therefore urged the IPU to place greater emphasis on the factors that made for a sustainable democracy through research, comparative studies, dissemination of information and active advocacy. Democracy was needed as an enabling partner of peace.

Mr. M. KITT (Ireland), welcoming the efforts of the IPU in areas such as building democracy, supporting women parliamentarians, participation of men in gender equality discussions and violence against women, said that it had been widely recognized that gender-sensitive parliaments were crucial for gender equality. A recent review of Ireland's engagement with the Gender Partnership Programme had identified progress in areas such as improving the capacity of women parliamentarians and sustained support and advice regarding women's rights and gender equality. Ireland had recently committed to providing funding to the Gender Partnership Programme. Turning to the issue of ODA, despite challenging economic circumstances in Ireland, the Government had managed to protect and stabilize its ODA budget. Ireland's development cooperation programme would focus on hunger reduction, sustainable growth and good governance. He encouraged other countries to give more aid if possible. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) would soon undertake an analysis of Ireland's aid commitments, which was important for public accountability. Ireland planned to review its collaboration with multilateral organizations to ensure that their priorities matched its own, enhance links with African countries and continue to strengthen systems to improve management and accountability of its aid programmes.

Mr. Y. ASSAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) declared that his country was experiencing a conflict that had been instigated and funded by foreign countries; the conflict was systematically destroying the infrastructure of a country that had previously enjoyed many years of peace and security. Some countries were even providing support to the terrorists active in the country under the guise of providing support to the Syrian people, an approach that did not support democracy and distorted the reality of the situation. The Syrian people had the sovereign right to choose their representatives and he therefore called on all IPU Member Parliaments to respect the UN Charter, the IPU Statutes and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict in Syria. The Syrian Government was committed to protecting the human rights of its citizens and was willing to inter alia grant amnesties to those carrying weapons and provide pardons for foreigners taking part in the conflict. The conflict was affecting the reputation of the country and the economic embargos that had been imposed made it difficult for Syria to procure the medicines it needed, thereby affecting the health of the Syrian people.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon) said that despite efforts by the IPU to promote peace and democracy, challenges remained, particularly in his region. Many countries in the region had experienced or were experiencing armed conflicts and also faced the threat of terrorism. Such events had led to many thousands of refugees fleeing their homelands and Lebanon itself had received high numbers of refugees from Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic, which caused a significant burden on the infrastructure and economy of the country. There were also numerous unregistered refugees living and working throughout the country, which threatened the Lebanese workforce. Although Lebanon was doing its utmost to assist the refugees, it required further aid from other countries; efforts to bring an end to the conflict should also be intensified. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic constituted a significant threat to the region and it needed to be

addressed in order to ensure peace and security. He encouraged his fellow members of parliament to raise awareness about the situation in Lebanon in order to encourage their governments to provide financial and material assistance.

Mr. I.M. HASSAN (Djibouti) requested the Assembly to observe a minute's silence in memory of the soldiers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) who had been killed in a suicide attack in Buloburde, Somalia, on 18 March 2014.

A minute of silence was observed.

He observed that throughout its history, the IPU had worked tirelessly to promote peace, cooperation and representative democracy. Representative democracy was in place in his country, which was active in achieving and maintaining peace in the region. Djibouti had undertaken measures to encourage the participation of young people and women in politics. For many years, women in politics had worked side by side with their male colleagues and enjoyed equal salaries; indeed many heads of State institutions were women and a woman was currently the head of one of the country's political parties. He encouraged the IPU to continue providing Djibouti with assistance such as training of parliamentarians, facilitating the use of ICTs in order to optimize the work of parliamentarians and change their working culture, and assisting in the introduction of a legal structure for a future Senate.

Mr. F. KABURA (Burundi) noted that the IPU played an important role in strengthening the capacities of national parliaments, promoting human rights, facilitating the participation of women in the political sphere, preventing conflicts and consolidating peace. Burundi in particular had benefited greatly from its collaboration with the IPU and from the opportunities it provided to learn from the experiences of other parliaments on diverse issues that had local, national, regional and international impacts. He particularly welcomed the support Burundi had received from the IPU in the areas of protection of human rights, including the human rights of parliamentarians, gender equality, and strengthening the capacities of women parliamentarians. In addition, with the support of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, the Burundian Parliament had set up a national parliamentary network on HIV/AIDS in order to strengthen parliamentary participation in the national fight against the disease. He wished to express his country's sincere appreciation for all the support and cooperation it had received. Now more than ever, the parliament of Burundi functioned on the basis of respect for participatory democracy and peace. Lastly, he paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General of the IPU.

Mr. M.A.S. AL-SHADADI (Yemen) remarked that the Assembly and the 125th anniversary of the IPU were taking place in politically, socially and economically sensitive times. Human rights must be respected and protected and countries should strive for international peace and security. Unfortunately, there continued to be human rights violations in many regions of the world and the IPU had an important role to play in assisting parliaments in the protection of human rights and the fight against poverty, terrorism and racism. It was vital that the IPU was an effective organization, and as such there was a need for structural reform. The 125th anniversary of the organization was an important opportunity to take stock of what had been done and what can be done to address the challenges. Yemen was committed to peace and democracy and opposed the stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons. He thanked the outgoing Secretary General of the IPU for all his efforts.

Mr. M. KÖCHL (Austria) said that enhancing international cooperation was very important and that it was vital for the future development of the IPU that the memberships of those countries whose affiliation had been suspended were re-established. Democracy was fundamental for peace and security as only an open society that respected the freedom and human rights of its people was able to prosper sustainably. Human greed was a key factor in conflicts; policies were needed that contained greed and rewarded honesty and commitment to public well-being. Laws were needed at the global level to prevent a small number of people from making massive profits at the expense of the many. Another way to decrease the number of conflicts was to reduce consumption of natural resources and to switch to renewable forms of energy. It was also important to use accurate measurements when discussing cause and effect at the global level. For example, although there were discussions about the effect of air traffic on climate change, 93 per cent of people had never been on an aeroplane. The 125th anniversary of the IPU was an excellent opportunity to renew countries' commitment to enhancing and diversifying international dialogue; discussions should not avoid contentious topics and honesty was crucial.

Mr. M. ZIÓLKOWSKI (Poland) said that the IPU had made a significant contribution to building and sustaining peaceful democratic order, but despite those efforts, the world was not a better or safer place. New threats had arisen and democracy remained only a dream in some countries of the world. The three situations that were the subject of proposals for an emergency item reflected that situation; all were tragic situations that undermined regional stability and caused significant human suffering. The situation in Ukraine was particularly serious as it would have far-reaching consequences for the territorial integrity of the country and set an ominous precedent for neighbouring countries and the world as a whole. Many international borders cut across different ethnic, religious and linguistic groups and the fact that a local vote was able to change international borders was a flagrant violation of international law. He encouraged Member Parliaments to condemn such behaviour and do everything possible to resolve the conflict peacefully and in accordance with internationally-recognized rules.

Mr. M. NASEB (Libya) commented that following 42 years of dictatorship in his country, in which the population had suffered oppression and tyranny and in the absence of democratic institutions, following the 2011 revolution people now had high hopes for the future. He expressed appreciation to the outgoing Secretary-General for his visits to Libya. Thanks to his and the IPU's assistance, Libya was making progress on achieving the goals of the 2011 revolution including rule of law, justice, human rights and freedom of expression while at the same time preserving the country's national identity and setting up democratic institutions. Elections had been held in 2012 and a committee had been established to draft a new constitution. National dialogue and consultation with all sectors of society was vital to achieve national unity. Lastly, a committee had been established to develop a roadmap for activities until the new constitution had been drafted; within 30 days a ruling would be issued to enable presidential elections to take place.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador), paying tribute to the dedication and commitment of the outgoing Secretary General, opined that universal citizenship and a global system of rights and guarantees was a more sensible approach than that of individual countries guaranteeing their citizens their rights. It was crucial to avoid a situation in which on crossing a border into another country, a person was forced to give up some of the rights afforded to him in his own country. Currently, there were two main characteristics that constituted citizenship: birth and place of origin and he wondered whether those were too arbitrary as no one was able to choose their ancestors or their place of birth. However, there were many millions of persons around the world who chose where they wanted to live, which language to speak, where to pay their taxes, get married, raise children and where to die. Did such choices not imply a sense of voluntary belonging to a community or society? Who was more deserving of belonging to a country? Someone who worked, paid their taxes and contributed to society or someone who had born there and enjoyed de facto rights? The concept of being foreign should be eliminated, as it was based on racism and xenophobia. As such, his country strongly supported bilateral and multilateral agreements that promoted the concept of rights being portable. The concept of universal citizenship and the portability of rights, including the rights to property, life and justice, required further discussion by the international community.

Mr. R. VAN RIET (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament - PNND) explained that his organization's membership was made up of individual parliamentarians from across the political spectrum rather than national parliaments. The aim of PNND was to assist parliamentarians to take action to achieve non-proliferation and disarmament goals. It also endeavoured to bring a parliamentary dimension to international nuclear disarmament processes by organizing panel discussions at relevant conferences and engaging with initiatives such as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. PNND had collaborated closely with the IPU on the issue of disarmament, through efforts such as high-level panels, side events and the production of a handbook to support members of parliament in advancing non-proliferation and disarmament. The handbook, which was available in English, French, Russian and Spanish, contained examples of best practices and offered practical recommendations for action. He welcomed the draft resolution that was being discussed by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments". PNND was keen to assist parliamentarians in the implementation of that resolution once it had been adopted.

Mr. T. MAUNG (Myanmar) noted that, despite concerted efforts to achieve a peaceful world, worrisome security situations still prevailed in some parts of the world. With nuclear and other disarmament and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as vital components of international peace and security, the recent proclamation of Latin America and Caribbean as a zone of peace was commendable. For Myanmar, a key foreign policy goal was to contribute actively to the maintenance of such peace and security. It therefore consistently supported disarmament and opposed arms races and the illegal production and sale of all weapons, also signing, in September 2013, the Additional Protocol to the International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguard Agreement. Its desire to enhance further its status in connection with other key disarmament-related conventions was supported by the parliament.

Since 2011, democracy had gradually flourished in Myanmar, where, as required under the Constitution, the branches of government were separated to the extent possible and carried out reciprocal checks and balances. The now strong and viable parliament played a crucial role in building democracy, taking tangible steps to that end in conjunction with all other stakeholders in the democratic transition and reform process. Together with the Government, it had reviewed, amended, revoked and adopted over 80 laws to ensure conformity with the Constitution and accepted international obligations, norms and standards. Its members were also instrumental in the peace process, including in talks for a nationwide ceasefire agreement to be followed by political dialogue.

Mindful of the contribution of sustainable development to peace and prosperity, Myanmar had relentlessly strived to improve socio-economic conditions, with poverty alleviation a core strategic priority. It was determined to overcome the remaining challenges and greatly appreciated the support received from the IPU since its reaffiliation to the Organization in 2012. It looked forward to continuing cooperation.

Mr. V. MATEU (Andorra) said that the visionary founders of the IPU had understood that a union of nations through their parliaments was an exceptional means of creating lasting peace and harmony among peoples. With its objective of promoting peace and democracy through political dialogue, the IPU was an early predecessor of the League of Nations and the United Nations, created with great ambition and confidence in dialogue and cooperation as the sure means to progress. Indeed, the founding fathers had given their commitment to meeting annually in pursuance of that objective.

In the 125 years since the IPU's establishment, democracy had become the official system in the vast majority of countries and was recognized as the best means of bringing about equality, fairness and the public good, but much work remained to ensure its reality on the ground. Renewal of the commitment to peace and democracy was important to averting situations that could endanger the future of international organizations, with which the IPU must work on the basis of its ever valid founding principles. With peace a human right and violence never a solution, efforts to promote a culture of peace and end armed conflict must be intensified. Realization of that right to peace was linked with democracy and the absence of absolutism, monopoly of truth and use of armed force. Underlying causes of conflict such as social exclusion and lack of socio-economic justice must also be addressed. However, democracy in name alone was insufficient to resolve situations requiring dialogue and genuine understanding. Democracy took many forms but must be fully functioning in order to prevent conflict, guarantee human rights and establish conditions for lasting peace. Duty-bound to pursue those goals, parliamentarians could take hope from the example of Andorra, which in its 700 years had never experienced armed conflict.

Mr. S.N. QAMAR (Pakistan) stated that the IPU had ever remained a torchbearer and watchful defender of the democratic and parliamentary rights of peoples and parliamentarians. Still awaiting full realization, however, was the promise of meaningful democracy ensuring equal and equitable opportunities for all, promoting peace and guaranteeing sustainable development. Difficult and fragile situations in the Arab, Asian and African regions were reminders that, in addition to elections, democracy involved the development of a new socio-economic culture of mutual respect, understanding, rule of law and accountability. Democracy failed if it served the interests of a selected few at the expense of the masses, if it catered to expansionist obsessions and burned resources buying bullets instead of books. The foremost duty of chosen representatives was to their electorate.

Pakistan had ardently struggled for the supremacy of law, respect for human rights and people's freedoms, ideals embodied in its Constitution. Representing the free will of the people, its Parliament had proactively created a balance of power among State institutions and enacted key

social reform legislation focused on marginalized groups. Peace was the foremost challenge to a young democracy in a country still healing from decade-long scars of global terrorism. In working to promote peace and reconciliation, the leadership therefore looked to the international community for support in strengthening the pursuit of choices for its people, who had made tremendous sacrifices for world peace.

The new democratic partnership between established and emerging democracies must embrace new priorities; strengthen the forces of democracy; address global security requirements; focus on socio-economic needs; and create a bond of strong mutual trust, close and common interests, and a firm commitment to the shared values of freedom, liberty and human dignity. Democratic Pakistan wished to build comradeship with IPU Members on that basis in order to promote peace and freedom worldwide.

Ms. T. MUSHELENGA (Namibia) observed that, with new conflicts and threats to democratic governance continuing to emerge, the IPU was the ideal platform for pledging a renewed commitment to peace and democracy. It was disturbing that an estimated 1.5 billion persons lived in countries affected by violent conflict that destroyed lives and livelihoods, with a particularly profound impact on women and vulnerable groups. The gap between those and other developing countries was widening and they were the furthest from achieving the MDGs.

Peace, democracy, human rights and good governance were interdependent. As proponents of the democratic peace theory in an increasingly volatile world, parliamentarians had a growing stake in upholding peace, democracy and the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They must seek to empower diplomatic institutions responsible for defusing tensions and strive to complement the role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. Inclusive political systems and justice were similarly crucial to cohesive nation-building and development. Citizen participation in the law-making process was thus vital to strengthening democracy, peace and harmony.

In Africa, the plague of contagious conflicts without political or territorial boundaries generated major drawbacks to progress towards peace, good governance and better livelihoods: displacement, refugee flows, abductions and erosion of psychosocial capital, among others. The complex barriers built by those dynamics impeded efforts to build communities and prevent violence. In their capacity as lawmakers and representatives accountable to their people, parliamentarians must therefore urgently engage mechanisms for promoting collective security through pooled regional and international resources and capacities; addressing conflict situations; and finding solutions for the sustainable peace and democracy that enabled nations to flourish and live harmoniously with others.

Ms. P. KIKWEMBE (United Republic of Tanzania) commented that democracy, open society, and respect for human rights and equality were increasingly recognized as universal values. The IPU's promotion of political dialogue for the prevention and settlement of conflicts through multilateral negotiation and parliamentary diplomacy fostered the peace that was so crucial to development at the national and global levels.

Unlike many of its African peers, her country had been largely successful in averting conflict and instability. The government had worked hard to promote good governance by instilling efficiency, accountability, legitimacy, transparency and beneficial decision-making responsive to the aspirations and needs of all social groups. Women enjoyed equal rights under the Constitution and efforts had been made to enhance their political, legal and socio-economic empowerment, as well as improve their access to education, training and employment. The aim was to achieve gender parity in all decision-making institutions, including parliament. Women currently accounted for 36 per cent of parliamentarians and 30 per cent of ministers.

Tanzania had been involved in peacekeeping missions and mediation efforts to end conflicts in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan. Responsibility to work for peace lay not only with leaders, however, but with each individual and must be taken seriously, for inner peace promoted peace in the community that radiated to neighbouring communities and beyond. Living by the principle that peace was the key to development had assured Tanzania its place as the most peaceful of countries since gaining independence in 1961.

Ms. I. DERVOZ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) recalled the IPU's important contributions to peace, security and democratization, in particular its early decisive role in the creation of international arbitration mechanisms laying the foundation for the International Court of Justice, and its strengthening of the parliamentary institution. While the Universal Declaration on Democracy stressed genuine equal partnership between men and women in the conduct of public affairs as a

prerequisite to the achievement of democracy, her country ranked only 69th out of 145 countries on that score and only 11 of its 57 parliamentarians were women. Although 40 per cent of election candidates had to be women, the open voting system meant that few were elected. The IPU had done much through affirmative action to enhance women's representation among its own ranks and its success in promoting women's parliamentary representation was evidenced by the figures: the number of women parliamentarians had risen from 7.8 per cent of the total in 1975 to a record 31.2 per cent in 2013. Encouraging as they were, however, those figures could be improved.

In her country's war, an estimated 50,000 women had been raped but had still not seen justice done 18 years on. The use of women as a weapon of war likewise occurred in other conflicts and should perhaps be a topic of future IPU discussion. Women's social empowerment was a useful remedy in post-conflict environments and was thus a focus of non-governmental efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Aware as they were of the benefits of peace after their harrowing war experiences, her country's citizens were similarly aware of its fragility in a non-democratic society. The IPU served as an effective platform for the exchange of best practices, which was a valuable tool for promoting peace and democracy. All efforts must be channelled into removing threats to peace, which had no alternative.

Ms. A. RAMIREZ NAVA (Bolivia), congratulating the IPU on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, said that her parliament was gratified by its membership of a global organization engaged in such vital work for all countries, particularly in the areas of peace, democracy and gender equality. There was no better or more beneficial system than democracy. She invited Members to attend an upcoming meeting in Bolivia on parliaments and the rights of indigenous peoples, organized by her parliament and the IPU, and looked forward to welcoming them in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Mr. A.Q. SAHJADI (Afghanistan) remarked that peace and democracy were indivisible and a common human interest and desire but that their attainment called for sustained cooperation among nations and indeed parliaments in order to ward off threats to both and ensure a civilized world free of war and insecurity. Popular sovereignty was exercised in the context of peace, with democracy in turn helping to strengthen peace by taking public opinion into account and accordingly preventing warmongering.

Terrorism and extremism were enemies of peace and democracy and menaces to society. Afghanistan thus looked forward to further international assistance and cooperation as it continued to lead the fight to destroy those enemies on behalf of peace-loving nations, with innocent persons among its citizens sacrificed in the process. Indeed, the concerns of the Afghan people and its parliamentarians at the prospect of the withdrawal of the international coalition forces from the country in 2014 must not be disregarded. It was imperative to prevent Afghanistan from yet again becoming a safe haven or training base for terrorism, which it was committed to eradicating from its territory. Joint efforts must therefore be channelled into combating the common enemies of terrorism and extremism for the sake of regional and global peace and democracy and future generations.

Mr. G. TRENZI (San Marino) outlined the beginnings of the IPU, rooted in the initiative of its founding fathers to advocate for the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The IPU's efforts in support of peace had been striking from the start and its establishment of official headquarters in Geneva showed early foresight. With the advent of World War II, it had made the leap into its current form as the international organization of parliaments, becoming the leading forum for parliamentary consultation, parliamentary diplomacy and the strengthening of parliamentary institutions. Over the years, its practical contributions had continually grown and widened through its activities and programmes aimed at promoting democracy, international peace and security, human rights protection, compliance with international humanitarian law, sustainable development, gender equality and the dissemination of cultural models and scientific knowledge. Especially noteworthy was the IPU's increasing cooperation with the United Nations, which was surely conducive to its accreditation as a parliamentary arm of the Organization for further mutual benefit.

The IPU was not only the oldest existing inter-parliamentary organization but also the first political organization to address the issue of international arbitration. In the face of innumerable global crises, it had consistently pursued the objectives of peace and parliamentary strengthening. It could therefore be credited with innovating and institutionalizing multilateral political negotiations based on the relationship between its family of parliamentarians from countries far apart, both geographically and ideologically. Spanning over 20 years, his involvement in the IPU qualified him to affirm its true value in having created a context for political cooperation and overcoming patterns

of traditional diplomacy, advantaged by a diverse membership sharing common values and principles. With its centuries-old underpinning of democracy, freedom, peace and respect for the rights of all human beings, those values and principles had always been the distinctive legacy and *raison d'être* of San Marino.

The President resumed the Chair.

Mr. V. GAPSYS (Lithuania) emphasized the important role of parliaments in international affairs, including in the development of regional and international parliamentary cooperation, parliamentary scrutiny and compliance with international norms and the rule of law. The growing political, socio-economic and cultural globalization, technological advances and economic crisis had raised new challenges to democracy and global security. Regrettably, the 21st century was still marked by wars, conflicts, occupations, civilian deaths and human rights violations.

Lithuanian foreign policy rested on the universal values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and justice, as indeed demonstrated during its presidency of numerous international institutions, including the UN Security Council, of which it also now had a two-year term of non-permanent membership. Under its presidency, the Security Council had *inter alia* issued presidential statements on cooperation between the United Nations and the EU, protection of civilians during armed conflicts and the rule of law; and unanimously adopted a historic resolution on humanitarian issues in the Syrian Arab Republic. Lithuania had also co-sponsored other important resolutions on various countries and on the prevention of kidnappings and terrorist financing through ransom payments.

On the initiative of Lithuania, the Security Council had also taken up the worrying Ukraine situation. Lithuania strongly condemned the Russian incursion into and occupation of Ukrainian territory and called for an immediate halt to the aggression against Ukrainian sovereignty, which dangerously undermined regional peace and stability. It called for united international support to protect Ukraine and uphold the principles of international law. While welcoming the ongoing democratic changes in Ukraine and the determination of its leadership, it was deeply concerned by the misleading Russian information and smear campaign. He lastly called for the continued strengthening of the role of national parliaments as key democratic institutions, calling on governments to be more proactive in view of the complex problems facing democracy around the world.

Mr. M.H. NEJAD HOSSEINIAN (Asian Parliamentary Assembly) said that, bringing together 41 Member Parliaments and many observers from throughout Asia, the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) bore a great responsibility to serve the Asian people and indeed the world through its aim of promoting cooperation among its members and greater integration across the continent. As its Secretary-General, he looked forward to the day when those people lived in peace and enjoyed political stability, economic development and cultural respect. APA had many agenda items in common with the IPU and could surely benefit from cooperation to advance its programmes and objectives.

One element in common with the IPU was the strength gained from its Member Parliaments, vital in an era where parliamentary diplomacy played an increasingly significant role in international relations. Having successfully prevented war, violence and military activities on many occasions, parliamentary diplomacy created potential opportunities for traditional diplomacy and offered better means for the exchange of experiences in cultural and political cooperation and in interreligious and intercultural dialogue. APA was a young parliamentary organization and its engagement in IPU activities would provide a unique opening for such exchanges with a view to improving its efficiency.

Mr. B. SAIDYKHAN (Gambia) opined that, given the challenges to democracy, peace and security worldwide, it was imperative to continue strengthening the IPU's core values and promoting the ideals of good governance, transparency and accountability. In the same vein, his parliament promoted the ideals of a functional legislature as defined in the Gambian Constitution, working also to foster peace and security in Africa. Its commitment to a world free of all vices threatening human dignity was signalled by its participation in the democratization process, peace-building negotiations, inter-parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue with partners. It would thus remain an engine of growth and development for world peace.

Defence of peace and security was indeed a crucial platform allowing for wider collaboration and networking with critical and potential development partners and geopolitical constituencies. The present Assembly illustrated the resolve to make the world a better place and positively

transform legislatures in order to advance growth and development through commitment to the IPU ideals. Programmes and policies for the protection of minorities, women and children, provided a solid framework for peace and stability, while adequate capacity and infrastructural development were key to an independent, effective and efficient legislature offering to the electorate a quality service indicative of resourcefulness, dynamism and functionality. Parliamentarians must furthermore widen and diversify their knowledge base in order to improve fulfilment of their core functions. All such developments would augur well for strengthening the competence of legislatures in the democratization process.

In embracing best practices for reinforcing the commitment to peace, democracy and human rights, indigenous values, cultures and traditional practices must be respected. The imposition of an alienated prescribed culture or practice in the name of democracy or human rights defeated the very tenets of mutual respect for different ways of life.

Ms. S. MORONEY (New Zealand) endorsed her fellow delegate's earlier appeal in support of the rights of indigenous peoples and proudly recalled that her tiny nation had long upheld the principles of peace and democracy, had a strong reputation for independent international relations and was involved both formally and informally in supporting other nations in their efforts to strive for peace and more robust democracies. Although the maintenance of peace and democracy might be easier for an island-nation geographically isolated from competing interests and possessing the natural resources for prosperity, the country's history of pursuing progressive policies was another facilitating factor. New Zealand had been the first country to grant women the right to vote, in 1893, and the resulting early involvement of women in the decision-making processes formed a strong foundation for an inclusive democracy pursuing such policies.

It had nonetheless been decades before the first women were elected to parliament and appointed to high political office. Women's parliamentary representation, moreover, had stagnated at 34 per cent for the past 15 years. The IPU must therefore indeed remain vigilant concerning gender equality, as the Secretary General had warned, and work with more determined focus in that sphere. Parliamentarians must also ensure that women's representation in parliament translated into improvements for women's daily lives through, for example, economic independence and power, a reduction in and defeat of violence against them, control over their reproductive and sexual health, and pay equity.

As New Zealand faced no threat of armed conflict, the establishment of peace took a different form. Too many of its women were subjected to violence and 27 per cent of its children lived in poverty, a shocking statistic proving that poverty was brought about by the unequal distribution of resources, even when they were plentiful. Where child poverty existed, peace did not. Much more remained to be done.

Mr. A.J. MARQUINA DIAZ (Venezuela), joining in the congratulations to the IPU on its 125th anniversary, said that the Organization had been born out of a desire to promote dialogue based on respect. It was distinguished in representing the peoples of the world, including minorities, whose protection was a democratic principle underlying the establishment of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in that the overwhelming majority of cases it dealt with pertained to parliamentary minorities. The Venezuelan Government, for example, was again seeking to lift the parliamentary immunity of an opposition member in order to charge her with crimes relating to her support for public protests over food shortages and high inflation. The country was in political, social and economic crisis, with thousands dying. He communicated a cry for help from the Venezuelan people and young university students in particular.

Mr. K. NODA (Japan) expressed deep gratitude for the international support received in the aftermath of the earthquake it had suffered three years earlier. A grave humanitarian issue for his country was the forced abduction of young Japanese citizens and their removal to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, an issue brought to the attention of the UN Human Rights Council only two days earlier by a representative of the families concerned. The inhuman act of abduction violated human dignity and was intolerable. He called on IPU Members to lend their support for ensuring that those abducted were promptly returned to Japan. He additionally emphasized a lesson learned from his 16 years of experience as a mayor: public participation and collaboration in local government by all citizens, including women, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities, were essential elements of good democracy in practice.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) commented on the global need for peace, understanding and co-existence, ideals premised on respect for fellow human beings, acceptance of their respective uniqueness and values, and the equality of the values of different cultures, as articulated in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The way of living with neighbours, both near and far, must reflect that sense of equality, which would inevitably be challenged by other standards, cultures and traditions. The courage to verbalize and live with declared ideals would dissipate mistrust, envy and hostility, ultimately releasing a huge amount of resources for much wiser spending than on weapons.

Parliamentarians had a crucial responsibility to lead the way in spreading those ideals in order to create a better, safer and more democratic world, such as by promoting fair trade that would in turn promote sustainability. Without weapons spending, developed countries could afford to pay the higher price for products, especially if it achieved the desired outcome. A commitment must equally be made to reject the use of violence and terror as means of resolving problems. The use of terror sometimes showed that mistrust in fellow human beings was deserved, but words could be the strongest weapon of all.

Mrs. A. CLYWD (United Kingdom) underscored the status of the IPU as the world's main body for championing parliamentary democracy and the work of parliamentarians. Established in 1976, its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians provided a procedure for the treatment of complaints concerning violations of the human rights of parliamentarians around the globe. Its work to assist parliamentarians in those situations and protect their rights continued throughout and beyond the Assembly. Its aim was to establish the facts of a given case by cross-checking and verifying with the authorities of the countries concerned and with sources the allegations and information forwarded to it. It examined cases with the aim of a satisfactory settlement of complaints in the light of national and applicable international and regional human rights law. The various forms of such settlement included the release of detained parliamentarians or the effective investigation of abuses and legal action against their perpetrators. The Committee did its utmost to nurture a dialogue with the countries concerned in its pursuit of its aim.

After 30 years of involvement in the IPU, she continued to believe that the Committee's work was undoubtedly the best and most constructive of all IPU activities: it truly mattered and did deliver results. As a Committee member, she called on parliamentarians to support that work and refer to the Committee cases of parliamentarians who were unable to carry out their mandates, who were in prison or who had been murdered.

Mr. A. FISCHER (Germany) observed that the parties to many of the conflicts the world over were apparently incapable of resolving their problems themselves. People were living in fear and misery, suffering at the hands of corrupt governments and as a result of armed conflict. Many fought for the freedom, democracy and decent living conditions they were unable to enjoy.

In 2015, his compatriots would celebrate the 25th anniversary of German reunification following a peaceful revolution. They had been living together in a free and democratic State since 1990 and the peoples of Central Europe had peacefully co-existed for some 70 years. Those achievements were partially due to the success of the European parliamentary systems and to dialogue between nations. The Council of Europe had contributed to international understanding for decades, a feat that could not be overestimated and that should ideally be replicated across the world. In the present turbulent, complex and difficult times, it was important to develop a good and reliable frame of reference for co-existence at the national and international levels. Similarly important was the need to remain constantly aware of the challenge posed by the goal of creating a new era of peace, freedom and democracy. Tireless work for the achievement of that goal must continue.

Ms. F. DIAM (Senegal), looking back at the two changes in Senegal's government since 2000, related that the presidential incumbents voted out of office in free elections had each conceded defeat with a political maturity also typified in the country's institutions and electorate. The post-election stalemate and turmoil witnessed in some African countries thus avoided, Senegal had the distinction of being one of the most stable countries in the continent, where it had also spearheaded political liberalization.

As a young parliamentarian, she called on behalf of the world's youth for the further development of democracy. Political parties must actively promote the handover of power to new generations and strengthen the youth influence by increasing the involvement of young persons in decision-making bodies; after all, youth accounted for 70 per cent of the global population. She appealed to her young counterparts to champion the cause of democracy, the only guarantor of peace.

Mrs. B. JONSDOTTIR (Iceland) declared that there was no democracy without freedom of information, expression and speech or without privacy. Concerted efforts were urgently needed to ensure the common good of humanity and to raise public awareness of the responsibility of citizens in the democratic process. Parliamentarians must play their role in helping to create a more ideal society and build mutual trust through the avenues of direct participation and democracy. They must never give up the quest for peace in their hearts and in the world. In that spirit, she called for a resumption of talks between the Russian Federation and Ukraine and between China and representatives of the Tibetan Dalai Lama.

Mr. J. D'ARCY (Ireland) reported that his country was only too well aware from its history of the consequences that ensued when a country's territorial integrity or unity was under question. Thankfully, it had resolved the problem with its friends in the United Kingdom and the people now lived together in the spirit of unity, peace, friendship and democracy. He therefore urged the eloquent Russian delegates present to use their parliamentary voice of reason at home to ensure that dialogue and negotiation were employed as the way forward and to pursue their unique function in that regard.

Mrs. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation), exercising the right of reply, expressed regret over the attempt to spread spurious, irrelevant and unfounded information concerning the situation in Ukraine. Her country had not launched any incursions into that country, where a coup had led to the wide-scale killing, torture and humiliation of Russian citizens by extremists who had furthermore attacked property. The Russian President and Parliament had called the so-called new Government of Ukraine to the negotiating table and, on 21 February 2014, an agreement guaranteeing stability in Ukraine had been signed. The following day, the agreement had been violated, resulting in Ukrainian public protests against the unconstitutional and illegitimate authority endangering the interests of the people. In the referendum on Crimea, the people had decided almost unanimously in favour of uniting with the Russian Federation, as was their legitimate right. She called for an impartial investigation to shed light on the truth of the situation in Ukraine.

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia), also exercising the right of reply, said that the Syrian Arab Republic was repeatedly attempting to divert attention away from the tragedy of the Syrian people persecuted by a repressive regime exceeding all bounds in its aggression at home, deploying all forms of weapons, terrorizing the besieged population and carrying out mass killings. Instead of pursuing the country's development and prosperity, the Syrian regime had managed the spectacular feat of ruining its people, creating 2.2 million refugees and leaving over one half of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Instead of protecting its children, it was killing 12 of them daily. While that regime continued to wreak havoc and fear, Saudi Arabia was by contrast providing humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people. As the country donating the highest percentage of its GDP to ODA, it was proud to be promoting global stability and development and winning friends rather than dealing in sorrow and destruction and making enemies.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

SITTING OF MONDAY, 17 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m., with Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/130/A.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft agenda distributed to the Standing Committee members and, in the absence of any comments or objections, took it that the draft agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee session held on the occasion of the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito (March 2013)

The PRESIDENT took it that, in the absence of any comments or questions thereon, the Standing Committee wished to approve the summary records.

It was so decided.

Election of the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that the significant changes made to the IPU Statutes and Rules by the Governing Council at the 129th IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2013) had had an impact on the work of the Standing Committees. One consequence was that each Standing Committee Bureau would have 18 members and all members would be “titular members”. The Bureaux would also be more gender-balanced than previously.

The Arab Group had nominated Ms. S. Hajji Taqawi (Bahrain), Mr. A. Omari (Morocco) and Mr. A. Al-Ahmad (Palestine) as its titular members; the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. S. Barakzai (Afghanistan) and Mr. M. Hosseini Sadr (Islamic Republic of Iran); the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had nominated Mr. R. Godoy (Argentina) and Ms. G. Fermín Nuesi (Dominican Republic); the African Group had nominated Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria) and would be nominating another person in due course; the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Ms. J. Durrieu (France), Mr. A. Neofytou (Cyprus) and Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal). In addition, two current members of the Bureau were eligible for re-election, namely Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa) and Mr. S. Danusubroto (Indonesia). Given the large number of new members being elected to the Bureau, the President and Vice-President of the Bureau would not be elected until after all members had had a chance to meet to decide who to nominate for those positions.

In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Committee wished to approve the election or re-election of the named individuals to membership of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT went on to introduce Mr. L. Zerbo, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The Standing Committee's terms of reference included cooperation with other international organizations and, as the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament had been on the Committee's agenda for several years and the CTBTO was a major stakeholder on that issue, Mr. Zerbo had been invited as a special guest to speak to the Standing Committee ahead of its discussion of the draft resolution.

Presentation of the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
(C-I/130/DR, C-I/130/DR-am and C-I/130/M)

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, March 2013), the Standing Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. Y. Ferrer-Gómez (Cuba) and Mr. B. Calkins (Canada), for the subject item to be considered at the present session, namely *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments*. He commended the work of the co-Rapporteurs, who had produced a strong and focused draft resolution and an interesting explanatory memorandum.

Mr. ZERBO, *Executive Secretary, CTBTO Preparatory Commission*, said that the CTBTO had been an official observer at the IPU since 2007 and had sought that status because it recognized that parliamentarians played a key role in international arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament by ratifying treaties and enacting relevant legislation. The CTBTO also understood that parliamentarians reflected the will and desires of their constituencies, that they embodied the growing global consensus on ridding the world of nuclear weapons, and that they were in a position to spread the message on banning nuclear testing better than almost anyone else.

He underscored the need for the CTBT to come into force without delay. Over 2,000 nuclear tests had been conducted before the treaty was opened for signature in 1996 and now, 18 years later, the treaty's main purpose, namely to ban all nuclear explosions everywhere, had taken on a normative quality. Only one country had conducted tests since the turn of the century and 162 countries had now ratified the treaty. Despite such progress, the CTBT had not yet entered into force as it still required the ratification of eight specific countries: China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America. Nobody wanted to see a return to the dark days of the past and, while many obstacles had had to be overcome since 1996, he refused to see the treaty's entry into force as a naive hope.

There was reason to be optimistic about the future, not least because of the proven value of the verification regime that had been established. That transparent regime, open to all States signatory, had shown that it was possible to create an effective, non-discriminatory mechanism for security cooperation. It was based on three mutually reinforcing pillars: an international monitoring system, an international data centre and on-site inspections. The first two were already in operation but the inspections could only take place after the treaty entered into force.

The verification regime operated around the clock and was unprecedented in terms of its global reach; no State on its own could build up and deploy anything similar. It allowed information on the location, magnitude, time and depth of nuclear tests to be acquired within two hours and all man-made explosions in any environment to be detected and reported. The data collected were also used for civil and scientific purposes, providing tsunami warning centres with almost real-time information about underwater earthquakes. The CTBTO continued to maintain and strengthen the verification regime, including through political dialogue, technological foresight and ongoing evaluation of its current capabilities. Frequent outreach to the scientific community also ensured that it remained at the cutting edge of scientific knowledge. A full-scale integrated field exercise would be held later in the year, simulating a man-made event suspected to be a nuclear test explosion in order to help evaluate the readiness of the regime for on-site inspections.

The current capabilities of the CTBTO in its preparatory commission phase had proven how far it had come, but there was no room for complacency. The status quo was no substitute for a truly binding, global, legal commitment. To accelerate the ratification process and entry into force of the CTBT, a new Group of Eminent Persons had been established, consisting of high-level officials, public personalities of political standing and internationally recognized experts. The Group served to reinvigorate international efforts in support of the CTBT.

He hoped many parliamentarians would have the opportunity to connect with that Group in the near future and extended his best wishes for their coming discussions.

Ms. Y. FERRER-GÓMEZ, *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs for the Committee's consideration was the product of long and constructive negotiations. The text reflected the valuable contributions that had been made by delegations at and since the last session of the Standing Committee. The co-Rapporteurs had tried to resolve any differences and to find wording that was acceptable to both but, where that had not been possible, they had chosen to omit the relevant part of the text on the basis that it would be further enriched by the proposed amendments to and discussions on the draft in the coming days.

Parliamentarians should enter into their debate fully aware of their responsibilities as legislators and representatives of the people who had elected them. They needed to commit to advancing the non-proliferation and disarmament agenda and to promote the urgent substantive work that was required in that regard. To guarantee a better future for all, it was essential to prohibit the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and to provide for their destruction. The IPU could contribute by making specific and clear proposals and by encouraging the commencement, as soon as possible, of negotiations on a universal, legally binding instrument eliminating such weapons.

Mr. B. CALKINS, *co-Rapporteur*, echoed the thanks to those delegations that had submitted comments and proposals on the draft resolution. The majority of States had already committed both legally and politically to the twin goals of non-proliferation and disarmament and the question now was how to hold governments to account regarding those commitments and how to help them achieve those goals. Choosing from among the various proposals for achieving non-proliferation and disarmament meant deciding which would be the most effective. In that regard, the draft resolution had struck a good balance: it underlined the need to support and strengthen existing mechanisms while also calling on States to go beyond the status quo and seek greater progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The decisions on what to include in the draft resolution had been informed by the comments submitted by delegations. The text therefore focused on the key role of parliamentarians, who, as representatives of the people, had a perspective on the issue that was often different from that of governments. Parliamentarians needed to address nuclear risks and build legislative and political frameworks for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world. They should also raise awareness and foster public education on and support for the issue.

The draft resolution addressed a number of specific matters. First, it underscored that non-proliferation and disarmament were mutually reinforcing and both indispensable; the relationship between them was at the heart of the NPT. The draft recognized the importance of the NPT and drew on the international consensus on pursuing the three pillars outlined therein. It called on parliaments in all nuclear States, including those that had not signed the NPT, to demand deeper and faster progress on disarmament and greater transparency from their governments.

Similarly, the draft resolution also underscored the importance of the CTBT and urged all States that had not signed that treaty or the NPT to accelerate the process of signing and ratifying both of those crucial, international agreements and to fulfil their obligations under them. Another key multilateral mechanism would be a treaty banning the production of fissile material, and the draft resolution therefore recommended that negotiations begin on that as soon as possible.

The draft resolution further noted the five-point proposal of the UN Secretary-General on disarmament and repeated the call for negotiations to begin either on a nuclear weapons convention or on a package of separate but mutually reinforcing instruments. The draft also underscored the importance of nuclear-weapon-free zones and called, in particular, for the fulfilment of the long-sought goal of a conference in the Middle East on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU had been consistently engaged for many years on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, referring in that regard to the resolution adopted in 2009, *Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments*, the political declaration following the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which commended the UN Secretary-General for his five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, and the discussion in 2011 by the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs on *Nuclear Weapons – The Road to Zero*. The difference at the present meeting was that the draft resolution would move the agenda closer to the final goal: a nuclear-weapon-free world. It was a bold and ambitious text that required parliamentarians to take the lead in achieving that goal.

According to the IPU Statutes, the Standing Committees could discuss proposed amendments to their draft resolutions either in plenary or within a drafting committee. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had, at its previous session, been the first to ever finalize its draft resolution in plenary. After that pilot exercise, it had been decided that all Standing Committees would follow the same procedure; however, logistical issues at the venue of the present Assembly meant that there were only two rooms that the Standing Committees could use and, as such, all three could not finalize their draft resolutions in plenary in parallel. The Standing

Committee would therefore, on the present occasion, appoint a drafting committee, comprising representatives of all geopolitical groups, to consider the proposed amendments and produce the final draft resolution.

Debate

Mr. A. AL-TOURAIGI (Kuwait) said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure the international security needed for development; the existence of nuclear weapons, however, threatened that. All governments needed to comply with and respect their commitments under agreements such as the NPT. All those that had not yet ratified that treaty should be encouraged to do so.

He urged all parliamentarians to work towards the objective of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as already proposed in several UN General Assembly resolutions, not least because the region was at the centre of many conflicts and wars. The Islamic Republic of Iran should continue to cooperate on the issue of nuclear weapons, while Israel should take steps to reduce its weapons stockpile, which threatened global security.

Mr. C.-C. ROMAN (Romania) said that Romania continued to pursue the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, in accordance with the NPT, and to promote a comprehensive, balanced approach towards the three pillars of the NPT regime. The future viability of that treaty relied on its universal implementation.

Romania had shown its commitment to abandoning the use of highly enriched uranium and to implementing international non-proliferation policies. It had taken relevant legislative action, including to prevent illicit trafficking in fissile material and to provide technological security. Regarding the fifth point of the UN Secretary-General's five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament, parliamentary committees in Romania were examining the ATT, which Romania had signed in 2013, with a view to ratification.

Romania supported the right of any State to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as long as non-proliferation, safety and security requirements were met. The production of electricity and of radioisotopes for medicine and industry was vital to the development plans of many countries, including Romania. He emphasized the need to continue training human resources, particular younger generations of specialists, in the safe operation of nuclear facilities.

Mr. E. KAWILARANG (Indonesia), after expressing support for the draft resolution, said that progress towards nuclear disarmament had been too slow. With almost 18,000 nuclear warheads still in existence, nuclear powers needed to commit to disarmament and to submit to the United Nations annual reports on progress.

The IPU should invite States listed in Annex 2 to the CTBT to report on disarmament. Those countries should be encouraged to comply with the process, otherwise they would be seen as lacking the political resolve needed to build international peace and security. The New START Treaty, between the Russian Federation and United States of America, was a positive sign, but more evidence was needed of its implementation and both countries had to respect the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency.

Indonesia had recently ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and made great efforts to ensure the safe use of nuclear instruments; it was nevertheless aware that terrorist groups might try to use such instruments for their own interests, endangering society. It also stressed the importance of enforcing the protocol to the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, to provide a strong regional mechanism to prevent proliferation.

Mr. D.-E. KIM (Republic of Korea) said that despite the many treaties and agreements signed since the mid-1960s, efforts needed to be stepped up if global non-proliferation and disarmament were to be achieved. All States party to major conventions and treaties relating to nuclear weapons should share information and expertise and faithfully implement the relevant provisions, while countries that had not signed those conventions and treaties should endeavour to do so.

A particular concern to his country was that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had acceded to, but later withdrawn from, the NPT and gone on to conduct various nuclear tests. That country's nuclear weapons programme could not be condoned; the Republic of Korea continued to endeavour to resolve the issue through peaceful means, but all parliamentarians globally should pay close attention to the situation and encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt its weapons development.

The IPU should develop an integrated, global mechanism for oversight of the existing non-proliferation regime and help countries put non-proliferation into practice. All parliamentarians should ensure that their countries had the appropriate legislative systems and technical capacity to ensure nuclear safety.

Mr. H. SOBHANI NIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the thousands of nuclear weapons in existence around the world constituted the greatest threat to global security; as long as they existed, the threat of their use would remain. The only way to ensure that such weapons were never used was to eliminate all of them, without delay. In that regard, the current status of implementation of Article VI of the NPT by nuclear-weapon States was disappointing, as was their continued maintenance of such weapons as a deterrent.

In terms of achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world, parliamentarians in non-nuclear-weapon States and in nuclear-weapon States had different responsibilities. The latter needed to enact legal frameworks requiring their governments to fulfil their international commitments on disarmament. Any national plans for the modernization of existing weapons constituted a serious setback to those commitments and parliaments should prevent the allocation of budgetary resources for such purposes.

Parliamentarians also had a key role to play in maintaining the current momentum and support for an international nuclear weapons convention. They should pursue multilateral negotiations that would lead to the legal prohibition of the possession, development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and enable their destruction.

Mr. C. WINBÄCK (Sweden) recalled growing up under the immediate threat of a nuclear weapon attack and how he had always been fearful of seeing the distinct mushroom-shaped cloud. That threat still remained; small conflicts could escalate quickly and there was no knowing what any country holding nuclear weapons might choose to do in the midst of a conflict or war.

Parliamentarians needed to persuade their governments to sign treaties in support of non-proliferation and the eradication of nuclear weapons and he hoped that the draft resolution would contain robust recommendations in that regard. It was also important for parliamentarians to share their perspectives on and experiences of dealing with issues of nuclear weapons, peace and security. They served as links between civil society and governments and had a responsibility to assure both of the legality and legitimacy of policies. He encouraged all parliamentarians to join PNND, which was a valuable channel of cooperation and of regular information on nuclear issues.

Mr. T. KUNISHIGE (Japan) said that his country, as the only one to have experienced the atomic bomb, had a mission to speak out against the inhumane and barbaric nature of nuclear weapons and to show leadership in pursuing global denuclearization. Japan was currently drawing lessons from the nuclear accident in Fukushima, including on how to establish an international cooperative framework to deal with nuclear issues.

The IAEA was crucial in fostering such international cooperation, but Japan urged that the message of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons be spread widely, including by drawing on and sharing with younger generations the experience of those who had survived the atomic bomb in 1945. In April 2014, Hiroshima would, appropriately, host a meeting of foreign ministers under the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. With 2015 marking the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb, he called for an international summit to be held on denuclearization in either Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Denuclearization and international security were not conflicting concepts; security could be ensured without the existence of nuclear weapons by fostering greater international trust and friendship.

Mr. A. ALNUAIMI (United Arab Emirates) said that, despite the adoption of many resolutions against the use of nuclear weapons, the threat that they posed globally was growing, in large part due to the non-universal ratification of the NPT. There was still a great risk of those weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups and being used with devastating effect on international peace and security. Global expenditure on nuclear weapons was over US\$ 1 billion per year; States should instead use that amount for the purposes of development and parliaments should ensure the reorientation of those resources.

It was important to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and all States in the region, in particular Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran, should fulfil their international obligations regarding nuclear weapons. His country had implemented a national plan for the peaceful use of nuclear energy that set an example for others in the region, as it had been

implemented in accordance with international standards and in full transparency. There should be better transfers of technology to help facilitate the use of renewable nuclear energy, especially in developing countries.

Mr. J. KUNIČ (Slovenia), while agreeing that no great progress had been made in resolving the issue, said that it was encouraging that, through the draft resolution, countries could align their positions and commit to achieving common goals. Parliamentarians, as legislators, had an important role to play in the process of non-proliferation and disarmament and the present discussions and draft resolution provided a way for them to take the necessary steps forward.

Slovenia believed that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) should remain a nuclear alliance as long as nuclear weapons continued to exist in the world, but was aware that disarmament should be a tangible, long-term objective for the international community, as a nuclear-weapon-free world would guarantee security for smaller countries, including Slovenia.

Slovenia supported the efforts to begin negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, as banning such material would provide a legal basis for banning the production of new nuclear weapons. It also welcomed the discussions between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, which demonstrated the political willingness of the former to resolve issues pertaining to its nuclear programme.

Mr. M. GAROYAN (Cyprus) said that security imposed by any form of arms could never contribute to constructing a peaceful and reconciled world. Halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons should therefore be a priority for every country. All must work together to prevent other countries from acquiring such weapons and to reduce the availability of nuclear weapons with a view to their complete elimination. Adherence to the NPT was a key means of achieving that objective.

Parliamentarians could play a key role by generating the necessary political will and promoting appropriate legislative and political frameworks. They should also support the strengthening of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and the creation of additional zones. Parliamentarians also needed to intensify pressure on governments to proceed with their non-proliferation and disarmament agendas.

Given its geographical proximity to the Middle East, Cyprus welcomed the current reference in the draft resolution to the convening of a conference for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. V.E. LOMBANYA (Zambia) said that awareness had grown in the past decade or so of the need to take nuclear disarmament seriously, including among nuclear-weapon States. Those States, however, had strategic and political reasons for wanting to maintain their nuclear arsenals. Even if policies changed, progress would be slow, as there would still be many issues to resolve, such as security in a nuclear-weapon-free world, verification and enforcement, the relation between nuclear disarmament and nuclear energy, and security of fissile materials.

The ongoing stalemate in efforts to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world had, in part, been brought about by weaknesses in the current nuclear regime, which had failed to comprehensively prevent proliferation. Parliamentarians needed to use their position to advance the cause of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr. A. NIYAMAVEJA (Thailand) said that Thailand firmly believed that the way to achieve lasting international peace and security was to support the process of arms control and disarmament; the country was party to various international agreements in that regard. Thailand hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted and its provisions implemented as soon as possible and welcomed its references to the importance of the NPT and the CTBT.

Parliamentarians had a key contribution to make as they could implement relevant legislative measures for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world, including by enhancing accountability, transparency and mutual confidence and promoting international stability and security. They should call on governments to maintain existing moratoriums on nuclear tests, halt future production of nuclear weapons, and incorporate reductions in the number of such weapons into security policies.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) recognized his country's responsibility, as one of the two major nuclear States in the world, for peace and international security and said that the Russian Federation had been striving, in partnership with the United States of America, to reduce their respective arsenals.

The Russian Federation had enacted many laws to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and carriers. When people had lost jobs as a result of those reductions and of nuclear installations being closed down, it had made every effort to provide them with jobs elsewhere. However, much more still needed to be done and the Russian Federation remained concerned at the development by the United States of anti-missile systems.

His country looked forward to supporting the draft resolution, once consideration had been given to the amendments that it had proposed.

Mr. X. CHEN (China) said that while international security had generally improved thanks to increased cooperation, the situation remained complex, not least because of the effects of regional turmoil. Traditional and non-traditional security threats were intertwined and much still needed to be done to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, which had long been the aspiration of the international community and one of China's firm objectives.

The CTBT was an important step towards global non-proliferation and disarmament and States needed to work together to ensure that it could enter into force as soon as possible. All countries needed to push for complete disarmament, with the nuclear powers committing to that objective and taking the lead by drastically reducing their arsenals in a verifiable and legally binding manner. All countries also needed to abide by the principle of global security and stability for all.

China strongly advocated the complete destruction of nuclear weapons and had a nuclear strategy of self-defence and no first use, which included the commitment not to use or threaten to use its weapons against any non-nuclear-weapon State or nuclear-weapon-free zone and not to participate in any form of nuclear arms race.

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France) said that her delegation commended the draft resolution but had submitted a number of amendments aimed at clarifying or adding certain points. France wished to see the NPT mentioned in the early paragraphs of the text, signalling its essential role and the importance of its three pillars. The text should also stipulate the need for parliaments to follow the approach to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament outlined in the 2010 NPT Action Plan and to recognize the Conference on Disarmament as the most important forum for negotiations of multilateral agreements such as a fissile material cut-off treaty. However, it was not necessary to wait for such a treaty before taking action; France and other countries had already ceased production of fissile material and dismantled production plants. Such action helped to tackle the risk of proliferation at the source.

The best approach towards nuclear disarmament was that outlined in the 2010 NPT Action Plan; referring to any other approach in the draft resolution risked weakening the overall process. The draft resolution also needed to mention the key role of the IAEA and the importance of ensuring that its safeguards system remained effective, as well as recent, positive advances, such as the agreement reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany.

Mr. B. PUNJ (India) stated that India was fully committed to the goal of global non-proliferation and verifiable, irreversible disarmament, but believed that it could only be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by universal commitment and a non-discriminatory framework. India was ready to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention that prevented the development, production, stockpiling and use of such weapons and provided for their complete elimination. It had maintained its voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.

He commended the continued focus on the issue of disarmament within the IPU but expressed reservations on certain parts of the draft resolution. India was not a party to either the CTBT or the NPT, which it viewed as a discriminatory treaty, and did not believe that those treaties should be binding on non-State parties. India supported negotiations on a non-discriminatory and verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty but did not agree with the need for a moratorium on the production of such material, given its continued prioritization of global disarmament. India had submitted a number of amendments to the draft resolution reflecting its reservations.

Mr. D. McGUINTY (Canada) conveyed his delegation's support for the draft resolution, which made clear the unique role that parliamentarians could play in achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world and struck a good balance between addressing the need for full compliance with existing obligations and calling for faster progress. His delegation nevertheless wished to propose some amendments to the draft.

In particular, Canada wanted a more robust reference to the central and distinctive role of the NPT as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and for the draft resolution to urge parliaments to strengthen nuclear security by monitoring implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and ensuring the ratification of relevant multilateral treaties. Canada also wished to see stronger wording relating to the IAEA, which would strengthen the organization's ability to conduct its work by calling on parliaments to bring into force the comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocol as soon as possible. The text should also underline the long-sought goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the need for all States in the region to participate in a conference on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at.

Mr. T. IQBAL (Pakistan) said that his country had consistently supported the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world through a universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear weapons convention. Pakistan was committed to the objectives and principles enshrined in the Final document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I), which established by consensus the priority of nuclear disarmament. As a nuclear-weapon State, Pakistan's policy was one of restraint and responsibility and was aimed only at maintaining peace and stability and deterring aggression in the region. He reiterated Pakistan's readiness to work with the international community to eliminate nuclear weapons globally.

Noting that the draft resolution advocated the universalization of the NPT, he said that Pakistan was not a party to that treaty owing to the compelling need to maintain a credible minimum nuclear deterrent in South-east Asia in the light of security issues in the region. Pakistan was therefore not in a position to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. Further, Pakistan did not subscribe to a fissile material cut-off treaty that banned only future production of that material but believed in a broader approach that provided for a reduction in existing stockpiles.

He hoped that his country's concerns would be taken into account during the process of amending the draft resolution with a view to producing a text acceptable to all.

Mr. B. NAMWANDI (Namibia) said that Namibia's Constitution required the country to promote cooperation, peace and security, and respect for international law and treaty obligations as part of its international relations policy. Namibia was one of the largest producers of uranium worldwide, and strongly supported its use for peaceful purposes only. It regularly submitted reports to the IAEA on exports of uranium oxide from its territory and did not support use of that material for nuclear weapons.

His country strongly opposed nuclear weapon testing and welcomed the establishment of a nuclear testing monitoring system in Namibia. Parliament would continue to contribute to global efforts regarding non-proliferation and disarmament and to monitor national implementation of relevant agreements and treaties.

Mr. P. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe continued to contribute to worldwide efforts to achieve nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and was a party to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, which prohibited the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, testing and possession of nuclear weapons. Zimbabwe had also signed, but had yet to ratify, the CTBT and had acceded to the NPT.

The goal of a world without nuclear weapons was finally getting serious attention globally, and there was also recognition of the difficulties involved and the complexity of that goal. Parliaments had a vital role to play in advancing the goal, including by fulfilling their responsibilities to ratify treaties and implement relevant legislation.

He called on the IPU to denounce the sanctions on Zimbabwe and to call for their unconditional removal, as they caused suffering in the country on a scale with nuclear disasters.

Mr. A. WARE (PNND) welcomed the draft resolution and emphasized the vital role that parliamentarians needed to play. They needed to be aware of the position of their governments and of political realities but they also had a responsibility to their constituents, national legislatures, the global community and future generations. As such, they should push forward proposals that could help to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, including those outlined in the draft resolution.

He drew particular attention to the need to commence negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention and to support cooperative security mechanisms so that the role ascribed to nuclear weapons could be phased out. It was important to note that there was no one step that would achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons; instead, a mix of unilateral, bilateral and multilateral measures was needed. The draft resolution rightly focused on a range of measures, rather than the step-by-step approach that had blocked progress for many years in the Conference on Disarmament.

The PNND looked forward to assisting parliaments as they sought to implement the various measures outlined in the draft resolution.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) welcomed the attention given by the Committee to the issue of nuclear weapons, which continued to pose a threat to all people across the world. The need to eliminate nuclear arsenals was all the more pressing following the tensions between Ukraine and the Russian Federation and ongoing issues in the Middle East. Sudan fully supported the need for countries to develop renewable nuclear energy but not nuclear weapons.

Mr. Y. ASSAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, owing to continued conflict in the country, the Syrian Arab Republic was very aware of the importance of peace and international security. Parliaments needed to cooperate with governments to put an end to the arms race and all States, especially nuclear-weapon States, must ratify the NPT. He urged the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. All countries in the region with such weapons should give them up, voluntarily or otherwise.

Ms. A. WAHOME (Kenya) said that her country was committed to a nuclear-weapon-free world but was concerned by the rhetoric of other countries that seemed to boast of the continued development and size of their weapons arsenals. Despite the extension of the NPT in 1995 and the commitments made to pursue negotiations on effective measures for disarmament, countries continued to develop nuclear weapons and thus perpetuate the threat to the whole world.

Kenya continued to support a convention on the total elimination of nuclear weapons and hoped that all States would fulfil the agreement made at the NPT Review Conference in 2010 to begin negotiations on such a convention. Many countries in Africa were threatened by famine, floods or terrorist attacks and did not have the capacity or resources to counter the continued development by other countries of weapons of mass destruction. Kenya would not tolerate the threat posed to the African continent and its peace and security by those who continued to develop such weapons.

She called for the wording in the draft resolution to be strengthened so that it did not simply encourage but instead committed parliamentarians to take certain action.

Mr. T. BINO (Jordan) said that the Middle East was one of the regions in which tension ran highest; his country was particularly concerned by Israel's foreign policy, as Israel's nuclear weapons were a threat to the security of the whole region. He urged Israel to agree to nuclear non-proliferation so that people in the region could coexist peacefully. Jordan was also concerned by chemical weapons, which posed a great risk to many populations. States should not be allowed to use such weapons against their own citizens.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) stressed the importance of discussing such a delicate issue as nuclear weapons, especially for his country, which had suffered aggression and occupation for over 60 years and continued to advocate the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He called on the international community not to employ double standards when addressing nuclear weapon issues; it was not right to exert so much pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran but none on Israel.

The nuclear weapons held by Israel posed a threat to the whole region, and every effort needed to be made to ease the tension and risk of war and to achieve non-proliferation and global elimination of such weapons. All countries that had not yet done so should ratify the NPT as soon as possible.

Ms. S. BARAKZAI (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan had grave concerns about the nuclear capabilities of two of its neighbouring countries, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially because both had undue political influence in Afghanistan. Her country was also concerned about the wider regional threat posed by nuclear weapons and urged for there to be no double standards when dealing with nuclear-weapon States.

Ms. F. AL FARSI (Oman) underscored that her country had always had peace as a principal objective and had sought to engage with other countries in the region to promote peace and security. She urged all countries to accede to the NPT, which was a crucial step towards strengthening international peace and security. Robust and universal oversight mechanisms were also needed.

Ms. C. GOIC (Chile) expressed Chile's strong support for non-proliferation, the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, and the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as outlined in the NPT. Chile supported all international conventions and Security Council resolutions concerning non-proliferation and disarmament, as it was vital to prevent any weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorist groups.

Chile was disappointed that the work of the Conference on Disarmament had been stalemated for 16 years and that no effective work plan had been adopted. It believed that the Conference on Disarmament was an indispensable multilateral forum for developing universal norms on avoiding threats to peace and security. It had participated actively in many forums on the issue of disarmament but lamented the lack of a universal prohibition on nuclear weapons in international law. The continued threat of use of nuclear weapons contravened international humanitarian law and Chile was part of a working group that had examined that issue and called for the prohibition of those weapons on that basis.

Achieving the goal of non-proliferation and disarmament required the active participation and commitment of parliaments, which played a vital role in maintaining the momentum for and operationalizing government policies on the issue. Parliaments needed to formulate national security plans that incorporated the elimination of nuclear weapons and allocated funds to facilitate the establishment of a non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE, speaking at the request of the PRESIDENT, said that a drafting committee would be established to discuss the draft resolution and that representatives from Canada, Cuba, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mali, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Venezuela and Zambia had been nominated for membership of that committee. No nominations for membership of the drafting committee had been received from any country in the Arab Group.

The delegate from JORDAN asked if she could join the drafting committee.

The PRESIDENT welcomed her candidacy but said that it should be submitted formally in writing by her regional group. He understood that there were another two nominations to be submitted by the Arab Group.

In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Committee wished to endorse the composition of the drafting committee as it currently stood.

It was so decided.

The sitting rose at 12.15 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 18 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m., with Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution

(C-I/130/DR-cr)

Ms. C. GUITTET (France), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the drafting committee had met in the afternoon of 17 March and the morning of 18 March to discuss the draft resolution on *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments* and the amendments proposed to it. Mr. K. Graham (New Zealand) had chaired the committee. The committee had first agreed to a set of amendments that restructured the text, pursuant to a proposal to switch the order of the two main aims of the resolution so that disarmament would be the first goal and non-proliferation the second. The text also now referred to various recent agreements that showed that non-proliferation and disarmament were possible, including the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the interim agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany. It now also stressed the positive contributions of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

The committee had also approved amendments relating to the work of the IAEA, bolstering the references to the universal implementation of the IAEA's system of safeguards and to its additional protocol. More specific references had been added regarding the three NPT pillars and countries' disarmament obligations. Greater reference was also made to the CTBT and its Preparatory Commission, with all countries that had not yet signed the treaty being called on to do so. Additions had been made to the draft regarding fissile material, and parliaments were now urged to monitor implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and to call on governments to establish moratoriums on fissile material production. Lastly, amendments had been made to include a call for an international day on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Standing Committee wished to take note of the report presented by the rapporteur of the drafting committee.

It was so decided.

Mr. T. IQBAL (Pakistan) said that Pakistan had reservations on certain parts of the draft resolution. The country had a principled and long-standing position in favour of a treaty on universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament and could not support a discriminatory approach that ignored the legitimate security concerns of any State. The draft resolution ignored the regional security concerns that had compelled Pakistan to remain outside the NPT and contradicted the country's position on the issue.

The text also focused on the start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty, which would ban future production of such materials but would not take account of existing stockpiles. That approach would contribute only marginally to a nuclear-weapon-free world. Pakistan favoured a broader treaty that also provided for the reduction of existing stockpiles.

As a member of the drafting committee, Pakistan had highlighted its concerns but many of its proposed amendments had not been included in the final draft. Given its strong support for the main aim of the text, namely nuclear disarmament, Pakistan did not want to vote against its adoption but wished to formally record its reservations on paragraphs 7, 10 and 20 of the preamble and paragraphs 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 and 19 of the operative part of the draft resolution and to underscore that it would not be bound by the provisions of those paragraphs.

Lord JUDD (United Kingdom) said that there were still several in his country's Parliament who felt very strongly about the solemn undertaking by nuclear powers to reduce their arsenals, which was part of the commitment made under the NPT. The draft resolution was a firm reminder to all of that commitment and responsibility. However, the issue was not without its challenges; there was much talk in the United Kingdom about renewing its nuclear capabilities, which would be of no help given the current global context and commitments to international security. It was also lamentable that so much money was spent on nuclear weapons when even a fraction of that amount could contribute greatly to economic and social development in the world. The draft resolution went a long way towards giving voice to and strengthening the global criticism of existing nuclear policies. However, nobody should assume that the problem would be solved if the spirit of the resolution prevailed. War and conflict were the overarching issues and it was no good trying to ensure peace and security without simultaneously trying to overcome the causes of conflict.

Mr. B. PUNJ (India) said that, after reviewing the draft resolution, his country had serious reservations on certain parts. India was fully committed to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and believed that there was a need for a global, non-discriminatory framework. Unfortunately, the current approach remained discriminatory, especially against developing countries, and India continued to believe that the NPT was a discriminatory treaty. Nor was it a party to the CTBT, although it had been among the first to call for a ban on nuclear testing. The provisions of the treaties could not be binding on non-State parties, including India.

Further, India maintained its position on a fissile material cut-off treaty and continued to prioritize the objective of disarmament. Although it supported negotiations on the cut-off treaty, India did not agree with the need for a moratorium on the production of fissile material.

In the light of those concerns, India wished to formally record its reservations to paragraphs 6, 7 and 17 of the operative part of the draft resolution.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa) commended the work of the drafting committee and proposed that the Standing Committee should adopt the draft resolution by acclamation.

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia) expressed support for the draft resolution but said that the text would be stronger if it contained a reference to the right to security and safety of those peoples that lived in countries neighbouring nuclear-weapon States or those with nuclear reactors.

Mr. C. WINBÄCK (Sweden), after welcoming the work of the drafting committee, acknowledged that some delegations still wanted to see more from the text and others less; importantly, however, the final text was one that most parliamentarians could live with and represented a step towards a world with fewer nuclear weapons. He agreed with the proposal to adopt the draft resolution by acclamation.

Mr. H. SOBHANI NIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had reservations to certain parts of the draft resolution. It was not necessary to make reference in the text to the agreement between his country and the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany; such a reference was not consistent with the focus in the draft resolution on nuclear weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran had never sought nuclear weapons and its nuclear activities had remained peaceful, as confirmed by IAEA reports. It also disagreed with the reference to the IAEA's additional protocol; parliaments had the right to consider whether they wished to ratify that instrument.

The Islamic Republic of Iran prioritized the objective of nuclear disarmament and the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention, which would include a ban on fissile material production and stockpiling; it therefore did not agree to the references in the draft resolution to the negotiation of a separate treaty on fissile material.

Given those concerns, the Islamic Republic of Iran wished to formally record its reservations to paragraphs 11 and 21 of the preamble and paragraphs 11, 12, and 15 of the operative part of the draft resolution.

Mr. T. KUNISHIGE (Japan) expressed support for the draft resolution. Acknowledging the comments made about paragraph 14 and that several States, including nuclear powers, had not yet ratified the NPT, he stressed the need for concrete, realistic measures that would lead to a global reduction in the number of nuclear weapons.

Ms. A. WAHOME (Kenya) endorsed the suggestion that the draft resolution be adopted by acclamation. She said that parliamentarians should view themselves as belonging, not to government institutions, but to institutions of legislative support, oversight and implementation; they had a clear oversight role regarding all resolutions adopted, including the one under discussion.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico) expressed support for the draft resolution. She recommended that all countries should include parliamentarians and not just government representatives in their delegations at future international meetings on nuclear issues.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Standing Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution by acclamation, taking note of the reservations expressed by India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which would be included in footnotes to the text.

The Standing Committee adopted the resolution by consensus.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) commended the work of the drafting committee and the balanced resolution that had been the result of its discussions. Cuba had no formal reservations to any part of the resolution, but wished to place certain comments on record.

Her delegation was sorry that the committee had not accepted Cuba's proposed amendments regarding the need to initiate negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention that would ban the development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of such weapons. The wording subsequently agreed in the resolution watered down that objective and would slow progress towards a nuclear-weapon-free world. Cuba was also concerned by the references to mechanisms such as Security Council resolution 1540 and that the resolution could be viewed as trying to replace conventions and frameworks agreed in other forums. Finally, Cuba believed that negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty was a positive step but one that would be insufficient if all steps towards disarmament were not properly defined. Such a treaty should require the existence of all fissile material to be declared and should provide for the elimination of all such material and prohibition of its future production.

Appointment of a rapporteur to the 130th Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Ms. C. Guittet (France), who had acted as the rapporteur of the drafting committee, be appointed Rapporteur of the Committee to the 130th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparations for future Assemblies

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had met and considered four proposals for the subject to be discussed by the Standing Committee at the 131st and 132nd IPU Assemblies and had adopted by consensus the subject entitled *Cyber warfare: A serious threat to peace and global security*, proposed by Uruguay. In the absence of any comments or objections, he took it that the Committee approved the choice of the subject for discussion.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that, during its meeting, the Bureau had agreed that Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay) should serve as one co-Rapporteur, but no nominations had been received for the second co-Rapporteur. In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Standing Committee wished to approve the nomination of Mr. Mahía and to agree to a second co-rapporteur being appointed as soon as possible.

It was so decided.

(c) Proposals for the future work plan

The PRESIDENT explained that, as a result of the recent reform within the IPU, the Standing Committees now had more opportunities to conduct work between Assemblies and more flexibility in the type of work that they undertook. They could choose, for example, to hold hearings, carry out studies or arrange field trips.

In terms of a work plan, the Standing Committee Bureau had decided that it wanted to review one or two resolutions that had been adopted by the Committee in the past five to ten years. The objective would be to see what progress had been made in implementation, according to the reports submitted by countries, and to assess best practices, based on what had or had not worked. Further, at the 131st IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2014), a two-hour interactive session would be arranged for parliamentarians to discuss cyber warfare and how it threatened security, which was the subject that the Committee would be discussing at that Assembly.

He took it that the Standing Committee wished to endorse the proposed work plan, requesting the Bureau to report back to the Committee on its work at a future meeting.

It was so decided.

Election of the President and Vice-President of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had met and had agreed by consensus to nominate Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa) as President of the Standing Committee and to confer the vice-presidency on the Arab Group.

In the absence of any comments or objections, he took it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Schneeman as President and leave the Vice-Presidency open to the Arab Group.

It was so decided.

Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT, also speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve as President of the Standing Committee. He looked forward to working with all committee members and in particular the Bureau and the soon-to-be elected Vice-President. He extended his best wishes to the outgoing President, Mr. Chowdhury, and congratulated him on his excellent work during his term of office.

Mr. C. WINBÄCK (Sweden), after expressing thanks to the outgoing President for his work, said that, following the Standing Committee's adoption of the resolution, it was now that the work would really begin for parliamentarians as they returned to their own countries and constituencies. He urged them to put aside ideological differences to work with colleagues from other parties in spreading the message of no more nuclear weapons. It would be essential to share ideas with and get input from civil society and organizations such as the PNND.

Mr. T. IQBAL (Pakistan) thanked the outgoing President for his work and congratulated Mr. Schneeman on his election. He commended all those who had worked so hard on the resolution that had been adopted and hoped that the Standing Committee would pursue its efforts to eliminate all weapons in the world that threatened humanity's very existence.

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia) commended the outgoing President on his active involvement in the work of the Standing Committee during his term of office and wished the newly elected President every success.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security closed.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 18 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m., with Mr. F.-X. de Donnea, Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, in the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

(C-II/130/A.1)

The CHAIR introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-II/130/A.1), 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 128th IPU Assembly in Quito (March 2013)

The CHAIR said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Quito, Ecuador on 23 and 25 March 2013 had been posted on the IPU website as part of the overall summary records of proceedings of the 128th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions regarding the text, he would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

Election of the Standing Committee Bureau

The CHAIR explained that it was necessary for the Committee to elect new members of the Bureau. Bureau members would be elected for a term of two years and members could serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Those current members of the Bureau whose terms had not yet expired were thus eligible for re-election. In accordance with rule 7.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committees, members had to be elected by a majority vote.

The nominations received from the six geopolitical groups were as follows: for the African Group - Ms. C. Cerqueira (Angola), Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) and Mr. H.R. Mohamed (United Republic of Tanzania); for the Arab Group - Mr. J. Al Omar (Kuwait), Mr. Y. Jaber (Lebanon) and Ms. Z. Ely Salem (Mauritania); for the Asia-Pacific Group - Ms. N. Marino (Australia) and Mr. I.A. Bilour (Pakistan); for the Eurasia Group - Mr. K. Chshmaritian (Armenia) and Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation); for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean - Mr. R. León (Chile), Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador) and Ms. N. Huarachi Condori (Bolivia); and for the Twelve Plus Group - Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium), Mr. O. Hav (Denmark) and Ms. M. Obradović (Serbia). He took it that the Committee wished to approve the nominations.

It was so decided.

Presentation of the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-II/130/M, C-II/130/DR, C-II/130/DR-am and C-II/130/DR-am.1)

The CHAIR said that, at the 128th IPU Assembly, the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium) for the subject item to be considered at the present session, namely: *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*. The co-Rapporteurs had prepared the final version of the report that had been distributed to IPU Members on 31 January 2014. 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.

A preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion had also been prepared and distributed to IPU Members on 31 January 2014. Members had been able to submit amendments to the revised draft resolution until the statutory deadline of 2 March 2014. Although amendments were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted to the Secretariat in writing. The amendments received would be discussed in plenary the following day.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDURY, *co-Rapporteur*, explained that in his view, there was no such thing as a natural disaster. There were, however, natural hazards that became disasters as a result of a lack of resilience or capacity to respond to them. As such, disasters were directly linked to countries' planning and policy approaches. He drew attention to the explanatory note prepared by the co-Rapporteurs and the reference to the worrying trend of growing economic losses from disasters. He also noted that in the current international processes, such as the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, there were very limited chances for parliamentarians to provide their input. The role of parliamentarians was to represent the people, pass legislation, approve budgets and exercise oversight and by so doing, they had an opportunity to make a real difference to people's lives and improve socio-economic development. Disaster risk management was an important issue as it was a strategic entry point to other areas, such as food security, poverty alleviation, health, education and water.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, said that demography had to be seen as a fundamental element of natural disasters and sustainable development. The impact of natural disasters was linked to decisions taken by countries on general population issues meaning that demographics should be considered as a contributing factor. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians the previous day had made a number of comments related specifically to women, which should also be addressed by society as a whole. Disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and demographic policy were all interlinked and should be on the agenda of all countries. He drew attention to the possible consequences of demographic growth, including increased urbanization, such as the impact on health, particularly children's health and food insecurity.

Ms. M. WAHLSTRÖM (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNISDR) said that the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) provided an important opportunity because it was now clear that disasters did not have borders and also had human, social and economic impacts on other countries. The HFA established strong regional and global processes to address disasters and called on all countries to integrate disaster response planning into all development plans. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) had recognized in its Outcome Document that disasters were also a sustainable development issue as they had long-term consequences and could affect any country, regardless of their level of economic development. The aim of UNISDR was to help countries recognize that prevention was better than cure when it came to disasters and to incorporate disaster risk reduction and management into all of their policies. The scale of losses was increasing, making it a significant and pressing issue.

Discussions on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2 (HFA2) for the period after 2015 were ongoing based on the principles of inclusive and participatory dialogue. All of society needed to engage on the issue, particularly parliaments. UNISDR had a specific stream of work to engage with members of parliament as they had an instrumental role to play in leading national programmes and broadening perspectives. As such, they should play a visible role in the HFA2 consultation process. Regional consultations would take place in April 2014 and the subsequent 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) would include multi-stakeholder elements enabling parliamentarians to participate even if they were not part of their national delegations. 2015 was an important year and it was crucial for the disaster risk reduction agenda to be integrated into the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and future agreements on climate change. Activities to reduce disaster risk needed to prevent the acceleration of future risks, continue to reduce existing risks and to strengthen society's resilience to disasters. UNISDR had engaged with a number of different groups, including those representing women, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities in order to gain a clear understanding of the determinants of resilience.

Debate

Mr. S.H. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that risk-resilient development meant sustainable development; to achieve that, proper national policies and an international economic environment conducive to investment, employment and sustainable economic development were required. The full participation of developing countries in the global economy was also crucial. The majority of developing countries understood that a development-based approach to demographic issues had proven most effective over the years. More than half of the Iranian population was under the age of 30 and it was widely recognized that youth were the key to a better society. As such, the Government endeavoured to provide young people with opportunities to enable them to fully participate in society. The focus of national youth programmes in the coming years would be on poverty eradication, legal assistance and better support in emergency situations and following natural disasters. Although progress was being made, more needed to be done to create jobs and promote the importance of family. Although his country's population was young, many other countries had ageing populations, which would ultimately lead to a decline in workforce numbers and threaten sustainable and risk-resilient development. Such issues needed to be addressed, for example through efforts to boost fertility rates.

Ms. A. TORME PARDO (Spain) remarked that the increasing economic and human losses from climate change and disasters must be taken into account in all policy work. She expressed concern at the heightened vulnerability to disasters. Although the issue had been recognized as a priority and many lessons had been learned, humanity was still unable to contain and prevent such disasters. Another important issue that needed to be highlighted was the economic benefits of investment in risk reduction. According to a recent report by the World Bank, an investment of US\$ 1 in risk reduction measures enabled savings of US\$ 7. Lastly, including social development aspects in risk reduction approaches and policies, facilitated poverty reduction. There were strong links between sustainable development, good governance, poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction as they were mutually-supportive issues. More investment in disaster risk reduction was fundamental and parliamentarians should be able to participate in relevant discussions at the international level. She drew attention to the amendments proposed by Spain in document C-II/130/DR-am, the aim of which was to improve countries' capacities to address the issue through greater consultation with local communities, the scientific community and other relevant stakeholders and increased participation of members of parliament on the issue through dedicated parliamentary committees on subjects such as climate change, the environment and sustainable development.

Ms. A. OSTERMAN (Slovenia), recalling that her country had recently experienced adverse weather conditions that would have far-reaching consequences, welcomed the political will and commitment showed by the draft resolution. The current financial crisis provided an important opportunity to amend existing policies and introduce reforms. Green economic growth was a key reform that would help to create a new development paradigm. In the coming years, Slovenia would focus on developing its green economy, particularly with regard to local food supplies, green tourism, traditional know-how in rural areas, management of organic waste and development of renewable sources of energy. It was also committed to incorporating the sustainable development model into agricultural activities, thereby supporting self-sufficiency. Sustainable development was not only an extension of environmental policies, but a comprehensive approach to planning the future of society; parliamentarians played an important role through the adoption of legislation.

Ms. V. RATTANAPIAN (Thailand) observed that although it was impossible to stop disasters from occurring, it was possible to improve society's resilience to them, for example by recognizing existing vulnerabilities and educating the public. Sustainable development required the encouragement of economic growth while at the same time focusing on green policies. Development must be suitable to geographical and social conditions and economic growth must go hand in hand with the principles of sustainable conservation and development of natural resources. Countries that were reliant on agriculture faced a number of risks, such as drought, flooding, epidemics and destruction of forests, all of which could have far-reaching consequences for food security and supplies around the world. Moreover, in an increasingly globalized world, an economic crisis in one country had a significant impact on the surrounding region. Therefore, it was important to strengthen basic economic foundations before pursuing more advanced levels of economic development. As such, she welcomed the provisions of operative paragraph 8 regarding food security and sustainable agricultural development. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in laying the groundwork for sustainable development for future generations.

Mr. T. MIYAZAWA (Japan) opined that in addition to preparing themselves for disasters, cities must also be equipped with the capacity to assist surrounding areas which were affected. It was also important to have multiple cities that were able to function as the capital city in case the capital itself was severely affected by a disaster. Consideration should also be given to how countries would continue to function in the event of catastrophic damage to many cities. Making suburban areas appealing places to live would prevent overpopulation of cities and decentralize the risk of disaster. Proximity of cities to nuclear power stations was also a significant issue that could have wide-reaching impacts on the surrounding areas. Sustainable development was crucial for the future of the planet.

Ms. S.-O. CHUN (Republic of Korea) observed that despite international efforts to limit the impact of natural disasters, vulnerability to such events continued to increase as a result of political, social and economic factors such as political disputes and burgeoning populations. Risk-resilient development was vital to address the issue and parliaments needed to play an active role in any such endeavour. Countries should develop and strengthen national disaster response systems; collaboration and cooperation with other countries was also vital and regional consultative bodies should be set up to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices. Moreover, given the continuing threat of climate change, greater focus should be placed on mitigating the effects and impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Parliaments should conduct thorough reviews of processes to ensure that legislation was based on objective and accurate projections and use their oversight powers to ensure that the relevant legislation was being implemented throughout the country.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India) said that as a signatory to the HFA, India was committed to achieving the goals of the framework and was working with UNISDR to implement various activities in the area of disaster risk reduction. It had notably enacted legislation and introduced policies on the issue. Those efforts had been instrumental in India's response to cyclones and other disasters. Although it agreed with the majority of the draft resolution, India had proposed a number of amendments related to climate change and demographic dynamics and the development of a new climate change agreement. The outcome of the negotiations on the post-2015 climate change agenda would shape the future of the planet; as such, and taking into account current trends, it was crucial that disaster risk reduction was incorporated into all development work.

Mr. V.-A. STERIU (Romania) observed that in recent years, inefficient use of natural resources had put pressure on the planet; such pressure would continue if things did not change. Continued population growth and consumption of resources at current levels would lead to increased demand for goods and services which in turn would send the prices of essential raw materials and energy soaring, thereby generating more pollution and waste and causing greater environmental degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. Population dynamics had a direct effect on food security and the health of ecosystems and should therefore be taken into account in sustainable development efforts. The social dimension of such development should also be considered; existing inequalities and barriers reduced the effectiveness of poverty eradication efforts, harmed the sustainability of economic growth, increased the risk of instability and internal conflict and contributed to migration. Reducing those inequalities required an integrated approach based on efficient and participatory accountability mechanisms that would facilitate economic growth patterns linked to transparency, predictability, innovation and political courage. Knowledge, innovation and education were essential to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

Mr. L. LI (China) said that society had created material wealth surpassing all previous generations but had also faced population explosion, environmental degradation and depletion of resources. The aim of sustainable development was to promote harmony between humans and their natural environment and to coordinate economic growth with the use of resources and the environment. Given the current rates of environmental pollution, degradation and resource constraints, it was vital that protecting nature and ecosystems was a priority and was integrated into all social and political developments. China was committed to environmental protection and was giving priority to environmental recovery and green development. It would do everything it could to assist developing countries to achieve sustainable development. He hoped that in the implementation of activities related to sustainable development, the international community would uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities while at the same time taking into account the development stage of each country and striking a balance between economic, social and environmental needs. There must also be increased technological and scientific support for developing countries.

Mr. J. AL-OMAR (Kuwait), recalling that his country had recently organized a donor conference, encouraged developed nations to continue providing aid to developing countries so as to help them build the necessary infrastructure to contribute to the well-being of their people. He expressed concern at the activities of some States that used nuclear technology to threaten others. The United Nations should take measures against those States and against countries that were exploiting or stealing the resources of developing countries. The world was now a global village and disasters no longer only affected a single country. As such, the international community had a collective responsibility to protect the planet and ensure sustainable development. Political will and education would be vital in that regard.

Mr. H. LUCKS (Namibia) said that environment management was both an enabler and a driver of economic growth. The Namibian Constitution specifically provided that the ecosystem, ecological processes and biodiversity of the country must be maintained and be used in a sustainable manner. Legislation had also been adopted which included provisions for the establishment of disaster risk management institutions and a number of interventions had already been undertaken, including the establishment of conservation areas and activities related to water resource management. Namibia experienced annual disasters such as droughts, floods and wild fires, which threatened food security, caused substantial damage to infrastructure and disrupted the livelihoods of rural communities. Parliaments should ensure that adequate funding was allocated to relevant institutions to implement disaster risk management programmes. He welcomed the emphasis in the draft resolution on parliamentary oversight; however, it was important to note that effective oversight required knowledge of the issues and parliamentarians should therefore be empowered to acquire relevant knowledge. The IPU and well-resourced parliaments should provide assistance to parliaments with fewer resources to exercise oversight.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, welcoming the comments made, said that it was clear that many countries had already taken measures to achieve risk-resilient development for which sharing of experiences was important. It was clear that parliaments had a definite legislative and oversight role to play. He acknowledged the specific amendments that had been suggested and observed that some of them could be taken forward as sub-amendments if the Committee so decided.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDURY, *co-Rapporteur*, observed that a key challenge was how to achieve risk-resilient development. Speakers had highlighted common themes, such as governance, how to obtain maximum impact from the resolution, the cost-benefit ratio of actions and how to make existing legislation relevant to the issue at hand.

Mr. M. EDWARDS (Chile) explained that his country was particularly susceptible to natural disasters, especially earthquakes. As a result, Chile had taken steps to prepare for such events; it had legislation in place which stipulated that new buildings must be able to withstand an earthquake measuring 9.5 on the Richter Scale and the general public had been educated on what to do in case of an earthquake, including moving to higher ground in case a tsunami occurred. The sharing of experiences between countries was vital. The draft resolution should refer to other issues, such as construction, education, green tourism, renewable energy and exchange of good practices. It should also contain a more tangible link between the effect of a larger global population and sustainable development. The references to the outcomes of Rio+20 should not be included as they contained certain elements that were contentious for some countries, which could jeopardize adoption of the draft resolution.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that it was crucial that governments and parliaments introduced risk-resilient measures to protect countries from natural disasters. His country had introduced various measures, including legislation and an early warning system. It was important to ensure that implementation of sustainable development approaches took place at national, regional and international levels and countries should be encouraged to ensure proper use of resources and good governance. The sharing of experiences was crucial but it was important to take into account the specific needs of each individual country when developing policies and programmes. Steps should be taken to address the gaps in capacity that existed between countries and parliaments should endeavour to increase the funds allocated to sustainable development projects. Members of parliament should also bring pressure to bear on their governments to implement the relevant international agreements.

Ms. L. ALGAUD (Bahrain) observed that although many countries had made progress on the issue since the adoption of the HFA, other countries had not been able to implement the Framework due to lack of budgetary resources, expertise, training or knowledge. Those countries required urgent assistance, especially countries in the Gulf region, where lack of expertise was a particular problem. Another concern in the region was the work done by some countries on nuclear projects; she encouraged countries to unite on the issue in order to prevent non-peaceful nuclear projects and promote peaceful energy alternatives. Technical assistance for developing countries was also vital in that area. On the issue of risk-resilient development, Bahrain had introduced policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction and steps had been taken to ensure that the budget included funding for the issue. She encouraged countries to show solidarity and work together to reduce the risk of all types of disasters.

Ms. R. MAKRI (Greece) said that achieving sustainable development would require accurate risk assessment taking into account the experiences of and issues faced by local communities, together with an analysis of the geopolitical and economic development framework of a country. In Greece, the current economic crisis had led to significant budgetary restrictions, which, together with demographic changes such as urbanization and a low birth rate, limited the country's ability to mitigate climate change. Any sustainable development policies within the country would need to take into account all existing challenges, such as extreme poverty, climate change, economic crisis, debt, social inequality, demographic and immigration challenges, regional conflicts and security issues. Development must be directly linked to the green economy model and realistic and flexible goals must be set. The first priority would be to incorporate disaster risk reduction and resilience into all development plans and policies across all sectors. Political will and determination would be vital in that regard.

Mr. S. KOURBI (Syrian Arab Republic) remarked that the conflict in his country, which was caused by foreign extremists, had led to the devastation of the country's infrastructure, such as power plants, sanitation facilities, schools and factories. In addition, Syria had been the victim of oppressive economic policies, which had negatively impacted the country's sustainable development efforts. Despite the sanctions, the Government continued to provide support such as basic foodstuffs to those who had been displaced by the conflict and was seeking a peaceful solution.

Mr. D.R.A. NOERDIN (Indonesia) opined that members of parliament had a responsibility to ensure that development was always focused on the needs of the people and based on the concept of sustainable development. It was also important to focus on disaster response and risk management. The international community should focus on disaster risk reduction as a key priority, particularly with regard to preparedness, early warning systems and reducing exposure to hazards. The HFA established clear ideas and objectives, which continued to be relevant to the current global situation. Thus, any new agreement on disaster risk reduction should continue that mandate while at the same time incorporating fresh ideas. The preparatory process for the next WCDRR should be inclusive and include input from regional meetings on the subject. Lastly, the importance of linking the post-2015 development agenda and disaster risk reduction should not be forgotten, as the issue of disasters affected many sectors, such as water, health care and education.

Mr. B. SAKET (Jordan) explained that although his country had a labour surplus and limited natural resources, it had invested heavily in its people, particularly in its youth, with positive effects. However, it continued to face challenges, particularly with regard to the influx over the years of a large number of refugees from neighbouring countries, which had placed a heavy burden on Jordan's budget and socio-economic infrastructure. Despite the demographic, resource-related and climatic challenges faced by Jordan, the country had made significant progress as a result of its proactive preventive policies and a focus on risk resilience, thereby reducing its vulnerability to risks and hazards.

Mr. J. MWIIMBU (Zambia) observed that given the increasing occurrence of disasters that had a number of socio-economic impacts, a clear paradigm shift was needed to include disaster risk assessment as a prerequisite for development planning. Risk-resilient development was essential as it would enable countries to safeguard their socio-economic gains in the face of disasters. Zambia had undertaken a number of measures to address the impact of disasters, such as formulation of a national disaster management policy, implementation of the National Adaption Programme of Action and the establishment of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit within the Office of the Vice-President. Legislation had also been passed to provide a legal framework for all disaster management activities. Parliamentary committees and caucuses had also been set up

to exercise oversight of environmental issues and to build consensus on conservation and climate change issues. Risk-resilient development should be the goal of all countries and he encouraged all members of parliament to demonstrate their commitment to the issue and scale up financial investment in disaster risk reduction measures.

Ms. P. CARDOSO (Portugal) declared that the global financial crisis had highlighted the need for a different economic model; the current model had only served to widen the gap between the rich and the poor and any new model would need to promote social cohesion through correcting that imbalance. A sustainable economic model would also need to respect the environment, biodiversity, cultural diversity and human rights. In addition, it was important to achieve more efficient management and governance, with clear oversight and obvious decision-making procedures. A more regional rather than global economy would promote greater social development and increased investment in innovation was vital. Moreover, gender equality and the removal of wage gaps between men and women was crucial as if solutions to those problems were not found, countries would have low productivity and low birth rates. Parliamentarians had a significant role to play in reducing the risk of disasters and protecting their country from social, economic and environmental challenges.

Mr. A. ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) said that it was important to look at the concept of sustainable development from multiple angles, not just from the economic perspective. Although many developing countries were experiencing GDP growth, the quality of life did not necessarily improve at the same rate. In addition to natural disasters, man-made hazards such as armed violence and terrorism were having negative impacts on the ability of developing countries to achieve development goals. Despite their promises, few developed nations fulfilled their official ODA commitments and aid often came with conditionalities. Developing nations must be able to trade freely with developed nations, without the restrictions often placed on such trade by the developed world. Sustainable development required extensive economic reform and development programmes needed to be designed in a way that facilitated sustainable economic improvements, opened up more avenues for investment and reduced institutional bottlenecks and state ownership. Such an approach would help make economies more efficient and more innovative.

Ms. M.R. DOS REIS (Timor-Leste) acknowledged that climate change, disasters and population growth represented a significant challenge. As a result, she strongly supported the draft resolution and the call for all Member Parliaments to take urgent action to improve the situation in their countries.

Mr. A. CARDELLI (San Marino), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, said that disasters were a problem that affected all countries. More resources were necessary to address the issue; awareness-raising was particularly important. He asked what parliamentarians could do to involve their constituents in prevention activities.

Ms. S. KSANTINI (Tunisia) opined that parliamentarians had an important role to play in sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. In Tunisia, the drafting of a new constitution had enabled the country to focus on the sustainable use of natural resources. A dedicated institution for sustainable development had been set up and Tunisia was keen to learn from the experiences of other countries in that area. Her country was seeing increased population growth in some areas but there were not sufficient resources, such as water, to cope with that growth. In addition, more needed to be done to address and prevent man-made disasters. The media and civil society organizations both had important roles to play in disaster risk reduction, for example through awareness-raising. She hoped that the IPU would help developing countries to draw up national strategies and implement appropriate measures to address the issue of risk-resilient development.

Ms. C. MUKIITE (Kenya) observed that risk-resilient development was not only about protecting lives; it was also about ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability by integrating the concept of risk-resilient development into all policies and programmes. In addition, sustainable patterns of production and consumption were required, which were the hallmark of a green economy. Population growth and changing population distribution through urbanization heightened countries' vulnerability to disasters and had a direct impact on food security. In Kenya, measures had been introduced to encourage farmers to expand into agribusiness and young people and women were provided with easy access to microfinance to enable them to start their own businesses. She drew attention to the importance of the Beijing Platform for

Action, which was a development model that included social equity and gender empowerment as a way to address population dynamics. Parliaments had a significant legislative role to play in that issue.

Ms. M. WAHLSTRÖM (UNISDR) said that her Office stood ready to offer, in collaboration with the IPU and UN system partners, more technical briefings and information to parliamentarians on disaster risk reduction. She encouraged parliaments to use the geopolitical groups of the IPU as contact points to enable such engagement.

Mr. A. HASHIM AL MAHDI (Sudan) noted that the spread of urban areas was often at the expense of agricultural land; legislative institutions should work to find solutions to that issue. Welcoming the focus on poorer sectors of society, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, he said that measures should be taken to help persons that were negatively affected by climate change. There were many existing programmes in developing countries related to sustainable development, however many of those programmes were introduced by developed nations and funded by international organizations and the majority of the budgets for those programmes was set aside for administrative matters. He stressed the important role of the media in raising awareness of the issue.

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, said that the Meeting had proposed a number of amendments to the draft resolution that recognized that women were often most affected by disasters and should therefore be involved in discussions on priorities and policies. Women also had a central role to play in preventing population growth; it was therefore crucial for countries to guarantee and protect the reproductive rights of women, thereby enabling them to decide when and where to have children. In addition, women affected by disasters often had special requirements, particularly those who were pregnant or breastfeeding, which should be taken into account in all planning.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) said that if most disasters were the result of economic, social and human activities, then a new approach to those activities was needed; States needed to take responsibility for the issue, not just at the level of governments, but also at the level of the general public. Public consensus and participation were vital to meet the challenges ahead. Disaster risk management in Ecuador had been institutionalized, with prevention, reparation and rebuilding provisions in place. Parliament played an important oversight role over the National Secretariat of Risk Management, which had to report to parliament every three months. However, it was important to note that the issue could not only be looked at from a bureaucratic point of view, as it was directly related to the day-to-day lives of citizens.

Mr. E. DOMBO (Uganda) observed that the role of parliaments was to represent the people, allocate resources and shape the national agenda. One of the main problems with disaster risk resilience was that in many countries, parliaments did not play a significant role in shaping national policies on the issue. Another difficulty with disaster risk management was that disasters often had a transboundary effect. Parliaments should pursue regional agreements and approaches to enable countries to work together if that occurred. In addition, parliaments were often ignored by international, intergovernmental forums, even though they were ultimately responsible for passing relevant policies and allocating the necessary resources. He encouraged greater inclusion of members of parliaments at such forums.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon) observed that in addition to traditional disasters, new disasters were increasingly being seen that severely affected the stability of countries. For example, Lebanon was facing significant challenges as a result of the ever increasing number of Syrian refugees who were arriving in the country daily, the total number of which accounted for 20 per cent of the Lebanese population and placed considerable strain on the country's infrastructure and food security. He hoped that the issue of disasters arising from wars and conflict could be addressed by the IPU.

Mr. A.Q. SAHJADI (Afghanistan) said that as a developing country, Afghanistan had a number of risks that were the result of historical economic and social problems. Poverty and social issues such as terrorism constituted key challenges for the international community as a whole. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a key role to play in addressing those challenges. Justice and inter-country cooperation were both vital if global peace and stability were to be achieved and should form a central part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDURY, *co-Rapporteur*, welcoming the general agreement that disaster risk reduction had a central role to play in the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda, acknowledged that there was convergence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The role of parliamentarians was not solely related to legislation but also to policy shaping. Regional and cross-border communication and cooperation were also vital; it was important that countries considered the possible adverse effects of their actions on neighbouring States. In addition, it should be noted that disaster risk reduction was not only the responsibility of governments and parliaments; citizens had an important role to play as well. Lastly, it was expected that protection of persons from disasters would become the legal obligation of the State.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, *co-Rapporteur*, welcoming the richness of the discussion, agreed that cross-border and regional cooperation were vital; countries should not take measures that would lead or contribute to disasters in another country. However, activity at the local and national levels was also essential and local authorities should be included in planning prevention policies. There was also a need to find the right balance between collective measures and individual freedoms and he had noted with interest the amendments proposed in that area, for example with regard to abortion and family planning, which were health issues also linked to food security and children's issues. Those amendments clearly demonstrated the need for demographics to be taken into account with regard to maternal and child health and sustainable development policies. Awareness raising and education related to disaster risk management were crucial and the issue should be incorporated into political decisions and legislation.

The sitting rose at 12.35 p.m.

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 20 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m., with Mr. F.-X. de Donnea, Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, in the Chair.

The Standing Committee had also sat in plenary twice on Wednesday, 19 March, in the morning between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and in the afternoon between 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. During those two meetings, the Committee had considered the draft resolution prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs and the 47 amendments that had been proposed to it, with a view to finalizing the text ahead of its adoption at the present meeting. During the drafting process, the Standing Committee adopted about two-thirds of the amendments, either in full or in part.

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution (C-II/130/DR-cr)

The CHAIR, having ascertained that the Standing Committee concurred with his proposal to consider the draft resolution as a whole, took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution in its entirety.

It was so agreed.

The resolution as a whole was adopted.

Appointment of a rapporteur to the 130th Assembly

The CHAIR proposed that Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador) be appointed rapporteur of the Committee to the 130th Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparations for future Assemblies

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

The CHAIR said that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had met and considered the proposals for the subject to be discussed by the Committee at the 131st and 132nd Assemblies. Following an exchange of views, the Bureau had decided that, on account of their similar themes, the two proposals submitted by the delegations of Bhutan and Viet Nam should be combined into a single one entitled *Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water*, which the Bureau subsequently adopted. In the absence of any comments or objections he took it that the Standing Committee approved the choice of the subject for discussion.

It was so decided.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The CHAIR explained that two co-Rapporteurs should be appointed to draft the report and resolution on the subject for discussion at the 131st and 132nd IPU Assemblies. In line with standard practice, one should be appointed from a developing country and the other from a developed country.

Mr. J. MWIIMBU (Zambia) said that he wished to propose himself as one of the co-Rapporteurs.

The CHAIR took it that the Committee wished to appoint Mr. J. Mwiimbu as one of the co-Rapporteurs.

It was so agreed.

Ascertaining that there were no candidates for co-Rapporteur from a developed country, the CHAIR said that the second co-Rapporteur would be chosen at a later date.

(c) Proposals for the future work plan

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had discussed the work plan for the 131st Assembly, to be held in Geneva, at which the Standing Committee would have six hours in which to conduct its work. The Bureau proposed that the Committee should link its work to that of the World Investment Forum, to be held in October 2014 and organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), given the objective of the IPU to act as a parliamentary counterpart to public- and private-sector actors, such as those who would be attending that Forum.

In the absence of any objections or comments, he took it that the Standing Committee wished to accept the proposal.

It was so decided.

Election of the President and Vice-President

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had met and had agreed by consensus to re-elect Mr. R. León (Chile) as the President of the Standing Committee and to elect Mr. O. Hav (Denmark) as Vice-President.

In the absence of any comments or objections he took it that the Committee wished to approve the appointment of those individuals as President and Vice-President.

It was so decided.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIR declared the session of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade closed.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

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

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

SITTING OF MONDAY, 17 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.45 p.m, with the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), in the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda (C-III/130/A.1)

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-III/130/A.1). 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 128th IPU Assembly in Quito (March 2013)

The PRESIDENT said that the summary records of the Committee's session held in Quito, Ecuador on 23 and 26 March 2013 had been posted on the IPU website as part of the overall summary records of the proceedings of the 128th IPU Assembly. In the absence of any remarks or questions regarding the text, he would declare the summary records approved.

It was so decided.

Election of the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT explained that the Committee had to elect three members of the Bureau from each of the six geopolitical groups, for a total of 18 members. Bureau members would be elected for a term of two years and could serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. In accordance with Rule 7.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committees, members had to be elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

The nominations received from the six geopolitical groups were as follows: for the African Group, Mr. J.A. Agbre Touni (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. D.P. Losiakou (Kenya) and Ms. A. Diouf (Senegal); for the Arab Group, Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain), Mr. R. Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq) and Mr. Y. Assaad (Syrian Arab Republic); for the Asia-Pacific Group, Ms. F.Z. Naderi (Afghanistan), Mr. S. Mahmood (Pakistan) and Ms. K. Lork Kheng (Cambodia); for the Eurasia Group, Ms. A. Naumchik (Belarus) and Ms. E. Vtorygina (Russian Federation); for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. J.M. Galán Pachón (Colombia), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Misiekaba (Suriname); and for the Twelve Plus Group, Ms. K. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus), Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) and Mr. C. Janiak (Switzerland). He took it that the Committee wished to approve the nominations.

It was so decided.

Presentation of the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs (C-III/130/M, C-III/130/DR, C-III/130/DR-am and C-III/130/DR-am.1)

The PRESIDENT said that, at the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, March 2013), the Committee had appointed two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain) and Ms. G. Cuevas Barrón (Mexico), for the subject to be considered at the present session, namely *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. He stressed that the content of the explanatory memorandum submitted by the co-Rapporteurs was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as on past occasions, was intended to stimulate debate and provide background information 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. The proposed amendments would be discussed in a plenary session the following day.

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain), *co-Rapporteur*, explained that the draft resolution focused on violations of the rights of migrant children and on violations resulting from internal issues such as conflicts and peaceful or non-peaceful demonstrations, all of which often had a significant negative physical and psychological impact on children. The subject had been proposed in the wake of escalating conflict in a number of countries and the so-called Arab Spring. The co-Rapporteurs had also considered a recent report from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, according to which political parties and associations in some countries were exploiting children with a view to aiding their cause, for example through media exposure. In addition, some families also involved children in conflicts for reasons of religion or doctrine. In some cases children had been encouraged to spread slogans without understanding their meaning. The draft resolution also addressed the issue of child conscription, which was contrary to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and had negative educational, psychological and physical consequences for the children involved, who often went on to commit crimes as adults. It was crucial for countries to sign and respect international agreements related to children's rights; parliamentarians had a significant role to play in that regard. In addition, countries that exploited children should be held to account and all countries should develop legal provisions to punish individuals who exploited children. She encouraged members to call for the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict to be amended with a view to establishing the minimum age of voluntary conscription as 18.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the situation of migrant children was a delicate topic; many children around the world left their country of origin for better opportunities or to escape difficult situations. According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, migrant children faced significant discrimination and were often exposed to gender-based and domestic violence. Particular attention also needed to be given to refugee children, as they often lost their refugee status at the age of 18 and could be sent back to their country of origin. Other issues that needed to be addressed were the plight of children in armed conflicts, including child soldiers and children in prisons. According to a report by the UN Secretary-General, 12,000 children had been recruited into anti-government militias in 2012; it was vital that the international community gave those children a voice and helped to put an end to such practices. Although there were a number of international agreements and conventions related to children's rights, many countries did not properly implement them. There were a number of fundamental principles and rights that must be guaranteed to all children, especially unaccompanied migrant children, such as the right to life, the right to non-discrimination and family unity, the right to express an opinion and be heard, the right to due legal process and the right not to be recruited for illegal activities. The aim of the draft resolution was to address issues related to unaccompanied migrant children, such as the need to set an age limit for voluntary conscription, to identify problems and to facilitate the sharing of best practices. It was vital that efforts did not stop with the draft resolution; parliamentarians must commit to follow up on the issue within their own countries and to change and implement relevant legislation. Children were not able to vote or express political opinions; it was therefore important to give them a voice and act in their best interests.

Debate

Ms. M. JANKOWSKI (Namibia) noted that, despite provisions in international humanitarian law on the protection of children's rights during conflicts, children continued to be affected by such situations and were the most vulnerable sector of society. The situation of unaccompanied migrant children merited particular attention in all countries, even those that had not hosted such children, for example by ensuring that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were fully implemented and by allocating sufficient resources to the empowerment of relevant stakeholders, such as law enforcement and immigration officers. The Parliament of Namibia would soon consider the Child Care and Protection Bill, which would address issues such as inter-country adoption, child trafficking, child soldiers and forced marriage. Children were the future and it was the duty of parliamentarians to protect the rights of children, including unaccompanied children and children in situations of war and conflict.

Mr. Y. AMER (Syrian Arab Republic), highlighting the importance of international instruments that focused on children's rights, said that the situation in his country clearly demonstrated the impact of conflict on children, such as the violation of their right to education and physical and sexual abuse. He urged his fellow parliamentarians to encourage their governments to bring pressure to bear on those countries that had imposed sanctions on his country and to support the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that were active in the Syrian Arab Republic. He also encouraged those countries that were hosting Syrian child migrants to ensure that they had legislation in place to fully protect the rights of those children.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that although mention had been made of the types of situations in which children's rights were being infringed, no reference had been made to the situation of children in Palestine, who lived under occupation. That situation differed greatly from armed conflict and should be taken into account. For example, Palestinian schoolchildren were forced to follow the Israeli curriculum and those whose parents were in Israeli prisons were often forced to go to work to help their families survive, thereby missing out on their education. In addition, a large proportion of the Palestinian people had been expelled from their homeland and lived in camps in neighbouring countries where rights violations also occurred, particularly given the current situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. Palestinian children in that country and in other neighbouring countries often did not have the right to attend school and lived in difficult conditions.

Ms. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus) observed that children migrated for numerous reasons, such as to seek asylum, to join parents who had already migrated, to escape abusive conditions in their country of origin or as victims of child slavery or sex trafficking. Moreover, the number of unaccompanied migrant children was rising; such children were more vulnerable than adult migrants and it was important to encourage governments that had not yet signed the relevant conventions, particularly the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to do so as soon as possible. Parliamentarians also had a duty to enact legislation to establish effective protection systems and to ensure that any legislation complied with international standards for the protection of unaccompanied children and included the principles of non-discrimination, prevention of inappropriate imprisonment of children, the child's best interests and the right of children to have a say in decisions that affected them. To that end, cooperation between parliaments and UN bodies, NGOs and civil society as a whole was vital, particularly with regard to the collection of accurate and consistent data. Memorandums of understanding and bilateral and multilateral agreements could also be an important tool, together with the exchange of best practices. The IPU could provide assistance by developing relevant model legislation and should closely monitor the observations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on national reports.

Ms. I.-S. NAM (Republic of Korea) remarked that exploitation of children in situations of war and conflict had also been a problem in the past; many women, including young girls, had been subjected to sexual slavery as so-called comfort women by the Japanese military during World War II. In recent years, recommendations had been issued by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Committee against Torture regarding the protection of victims' rights and condemning the Japanese Government's effort to deny the facts about such slavery, yet Japan continued to do so. The IPU should play a more active role in resolving issues concerning the sexual exploitation of young women in situations of war and conflict and encourage Member Parliaments to address them through legislation.

Mr. M. AL-HAJIRI (Kuwait) noted that protection of children's rights was of particular importance because it had a direct impact on a country's future. Despite numerous international agreements on the issue, violations of the human rights of children and forced child labour continued to be prevalent in many developing countries. In addition, it was crucial for the international community to take steps to protect Syrian refugees, particularly women, children and the elderly. Parliamentarians had a vital role to play in protecting children's rights, such as the right to education, and in creating a viable economic situation so that children did not have to work to support their families. Kuwait planned to adopt legislation to protect children's rights.

Ms. K. LORK KHENG (Cambodia), drawing attention to the relevant international conventions to which Cambodia was a party, said that her country had legislation in place to prevent exploitation of children and their involvement in armed conflicts. Cambodia was a poor country and it was common for families to send their children to work, for example in agriculture, from an early age to help earn an income. However, the Labour Code contained provisions

governing the types of work they could do; for example, children under the age of 15 were not permitted to work in salaried positions and those under the age of 18 were not permitted to work in hazardous conditions unless their well-being could be guaranteed. In addition, children under the age of 12 were only permitted to do light work. Legislation had also been passed to prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and legal provisions were in place to prevent children under the age of 18 from being conscripted into the armed forces. The National Assembly had also undertaken to engage young people in politics and the democratic process. She supported the draft resolution.

Mr. A. SANZ PÉREZ (Spain) said that, although progress had been made on the protection of children's rights, much remained to be done, particularly with regard to child migrants. Increasing numbers of child soldiers continued to be recruited and the number of unaccompanied migrants fleeing situations of conflict also continued to rise. He drew attention to the amendments already proposed by Spain, which encouraged parliamentarians to push for an international protocol on unaccompanied migrant children, promoted an international register for unaccompanied migrant children and those separated from their families, and advocated human rights-related training for relevant officials, including members of the armed forces. The double standards that currently existed in the area of children's rights were unacceptable; more needed to be done to ensure that countries implemented the international agreements they signed at the national level. It was crucial that international commitments related to recruitment of children by the armed forces or militias were taken into account in all peace and demobilization negotiations, so that those who committed such crimes could be brought to justice.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) observed that children represented the future of humanity and yet not enough was being done to protect them from all forms of violence and assist those who were forced to flee their homes. UNICEF had recently released a report stating that the Syrian Arab Republic was one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a child; over one million children were in need of help and an entire generation had been marked for life. At least 5,000 unaccompanied children had already arrived at Syrian borders to leave the country and not enough was being done to protect them. As member of the Committee on Middle East Questions, she also wished to highlight the plight of children in Palestine. Much more needed to be done to protect the rights of children all over the world; as such, the topic would make an excellent emergency item for discussion by the IPU Assembly.

Mr. M. MERŠOL (Slovenia) explained that implementation of relevant legislation was the key challenge in his country. Slovenia was often a transit country for unaccompanied migrant children on their journey to countries in Northern and Western Europe. Despite having legislation in place, his country often experienced difficulties related to the education, accommodation and guardianship of unaccompanied migrant children as a result of lengthy administrative procedures. In addition, child trafficking was a growing global issue that required more systematic data collection, adequate budgetary resources and awareness-raising to alert children to the dangers. He therefore welcomed the draft resolution, particularly the focus on the best interests of the child. Close cooperation and a coordinated approach between countries of origin, transit and destination were key in that regard; parliamentarians could and must play an active role in such activities.

Ms. T. BOONTONG (Thailand) said that, as a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, Thailand had amended and enacted many laws related to children's rights. It had also withdrawn its reservations to Article 7 of the Convention, concerning the right to acquire nationality and birth registration. Thailand was working in close cooperation with international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and UNICEF to address the situation of illegal immigration. Although there had been no reports of unaccompanied migrant children in the country, children of migrant workers were all registered and were entitled to receive up to 12 years of mandatory education. Her country welcomed the draft resolution, particularly its reference to collaboration with all sectors of the United Nations. Although collaboration should be mainly regional in nature, Thailand was willing to work with all relevant stakeholders to address such an important issue.

Mr. A.-R. MESRI (Islamic Republic of Iran) remarked that, despite numerous international agreements on the issue, the situation of many children around the world remained unacceptable. Protection of children in times of war and conflict should be a primary responsibility of governments; migrant children in refugee camps outside their country of origin were often better

protected than those that remained in the country, as UNHCR could be present in those camps but could not interfere in the internal affairs of countries experiencing conflict. The importance of NGO assistance in helping children affected by conflict could not be underestimated. In addition, governments should develop programmes to quickly respond to children's needs and include appropriate responses to emergency and special situations. The Islamic Republic of Iran was a signatory to many international treaties on children's rights and its legislation included provisions to help migrant children, including the education of Afghani and Iraqi children living in the country. War was the main cause of refugee and migration flows and the current situation of Palestinian and Syrian children should not be ignored.

Mr. B. GATOBU (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, said that the Forum supported the draft resolution; protecting the rights of children was of utmost importance, especially with regard to access to quality health care and education. Welcoming the amendment proposed by Sweden to operative paragraph 25, he also highlighted the importance of the provisions of the draft resolution related to birth registration.

Ms. A.R. AGA (India) suggested that any relevant UN programmes and funds should focus on the protection of all children and on the safe return and reintegration into society of migrant children. Although it was not experiencing any situation of war or conflict, India had created a protection mandate for children, including those affected by armed conflict. Indian legislation defined a child as a person under the age of 18, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; however, a person could be recruited into the armed forces at the age of 16 and a half and would undergo training until the age of 18, meaning no soldier under that age could be deployed. Nevertheless, the Constitution contained safeguards to prevent citizens from being coerced into joining the armed forces. India was committed to protecting the rights of children and had allocated more and more budgetary resources for that purpose over the years.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) noted that past discussions of children's rights had focused on issues such as hunger and disease. However, the growing number of migrant children meant that protection of their rights was becoming a more prominent issue, particularly with regard to the victims of armed conflicts and occupation, as children in those situations often suffered from rights violations such as sexual violence and trafficking. The draft resolution was a useful document as it appealed to governments and parliaments to take action and adopt legislation on the issue.

Mr. G. CERONI (Chile) said that, although on the whole he welcomed the draft resolution, he had concerns regarding operative paragraph 9, which contained unclear language that could lead to confusion. It was important to ensure that children had the right to decide to participate in demonstrations while at the same time protecting them from being used by political parties to further their agendas without the children's understanding or knowledge. Young people were often very active in protest movements and their right to do so and to work towards change in their country should be protected.

Ms. D. DLAKUDE (South Africa) stated that her country placed great emphasis on the well-being of children, with a dedicated ministry to deal with issues that affected women, children and persons with disabilities. Parliamentarians around the world should ensure that any legislation that was adopted in their countries regarding the rights of children was properly implemented. It was also important to publically condemn groups that used children as soldiers or as labour. It was important to ensure that the courts and relevant officials were fully empowered and had sufficient resources to prosecute persons who violated the rights of children. The IPU should play a greater role in helping to focus international efforts to address the plight of children in Palestine and help to protect them from human rights violations.

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) explained that children were protected in Japan based on the philosophy of human security, which constituted one pillar of the country's diplomatic approach. Human security was a concept based on caring for each individual and ensuring their sustainable independence and their individual rights and dignity through protection or empowerment. In 1998, Japan had established the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, which was used to support projects carried out by UN agencies to address ongoing threats to human beings, such as hunger and poverty. The concept of human security was an important one and he therefore hoped that it could be included in the draft resolution.

Mr. I. ALKOOHEJI (Bahrain) remarked that children represented the future of all countries; if their rights were not protected and it was not possible to ensure a safe future for them, then parliamentarians were not fulfilling their responsibilities as lawmakers. He welcomed the draft resolution, as it was important to state clearly that Member Parliaments would not accept any violation of children's rights.

Mr. S. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) stated that his country was in a region that had experienced conflict for many years and was also experiencing internal conflict; the issues affecting children referenced in the explanatory memorandum and the draft resolution were not just abstract concepts but a reality in the region and in Pakistan. There were child soldiers, children were being used as suicide bombers and there was known trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The internal conflict in the country and the presence of more than one million Afghani refugees put an enormous strain on resources. However, despite the challenges, Pakistan endeavoured to provide access to education and health care to all children, including refugee children. He urged the international community to provide assistance so that Pakistan could help care for the refugees and create conditions to facilitate their repatriation.

Mr. Y. DURAND (France) welcomed the references in the explanatory memorandum and draft resolution to the importance of respecting relevant international conventions that provided parliaments with tangible provisions to implement in their own countries through the adoption of legislation. France had submitted a number of amendments within the statutory deadline designed to further strengthen child protection efforts. He drew attention to those amendments, which were related to the need for an independent official to coordinate child protection systems, the right to seek asylum for children fleeing illegal recruitment into armed forces, the release of child combatants or prisoners of war without waiting for peace accords or ceasefires, and increased awareness-raising activities within the scope of Universal Children's Day.

Mr. K. KIYINGI BBOSA (Uganda) stressed the importance of ensuring that all children, especially unaccompanied migrant children, received an education. It was not possible to fully protect the rights of children if their right to education was not fulfilled. Education was particularly important for unaccompanied migrant children as they frequently migrated to countries whose language they did not speak.

Ms. L. ALANSARI (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, explained that the Meeting had discussed the draft resolution and agreed on the amendments proposed in document C-III/130/DR-am.1. It had agreed that the draft resolution should clearly recognize the special vulnerability of unaccompanied migrant children in situations of armed conflict and should highlight the rights of young girls to be protected from trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of violation such as forced and early marriage and female genital mutilation. The Meeting had also highlighted the urgent need to address the issue of sexual exploitation of children over the Internet and in child pornography. It was important to have efficient procedures in place to find and identify unaccompanied migrant children and the draft resolution should include a broader list of children's rights, including access to education, health care, psychological support, reintegration assistance and legal aid. It had also been suggested that countries should put in place rapid response systems to address emergency and crisis situations. Parliaments had a crucial role to play in addressing those issues by reviewing and amending existing legislation and ensuring effective implementation of those laws and the availability of sufficient resources. The role of the media in raising awareness of the plight of unaccompanied migrant children had also been discussed. It had been suggested that parliaments could consider establishing specific caucuses comprising both men and women that would address the issue by building partnerships with government agencies and NGOs and sharing best practices with other parliaments.

Mr. D.R.A. NOERDIN (Indonesia) observed that children were more vulnerable to exploitation and violence in times of war and conflict; they could be used as human shields or subjected to sexual exploitation or violence, in violation of their human rights. Parliamentarians should therefore ensure that protecting the rights of children was high on their government's agenda. The ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict was a vital step in that regard and Indonesia had already taken steps in that direction. He encouraged all countries to develop immigration policies that

ensured fulfilment of the rights of all migrants, including unaccompanied migrant children. In addition, with regard to migrant workers, States of origin, transit and employment should cooperate more closely in order to protect the rights of such workers and their families.

Ms. S. RAKOTOMALALA (UNICEF, UN Child Protection Working Group), expressing support for the draft resolution, explained that the Child Protection Working Group worked with NGOs and UN agencies to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse in all countries. Although humanitarians had an important role to play in that sphere, the ultimate responsibility lay with governments and hence with members of parliament. She therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted and that the amendments proposed in document C-III/130/DR-am would be accepted, as they added important dimensions to the text.

Ms. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria), recalling that her country was party to a number of relevant international conventions, said that Algeria had legislation in place to protect children from abuse. The Penal Code, for example, included provisions that condemned and punished all forms of mistreatment and abuse of, and violence against, children in schools and sporting institutions. One recently adopted law penalized parents who exploited their children for commercial gain and another established the maximum term of life imprisonment for those who kidnapped children, an alarmingly frequent occurrence in her country.

Ms. F.Z. NADERI (Afghanistan) said that it was shocking that in the twenty-first century, children were being used as weapons for political gain and she therefore welcomed the reference in the draft resolution to the issue. The IPU should encourage members of parliament to establish parliamentary relations with neighbouring countries to enable States to work together to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was implemented in all countries.

Mr. F. NDJAMONO (Gabon) expressed concern that the focus on exploitation of children in times of war and conflict implied that children were not exploited in times of peace. It was important to recognize that exploitation of children was not limited to wartime. He suggested that any legislation on the rights of children should include a provision on preventing child labour, including in times of war and conflict.

Mr. B.V. NEATOBEI (Chad) recalled that the Standing Committee had held a fruitful discussion at the 129th IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2013) on the applicability of legislation and ways to prevent the exploitation of children. Most of the views expressed during that discussion were reflected in the explanatory memorandum and draft resolution; he nevertheless had reservations regarding the language of operative paragraph 9, which was open to different interpretations and should therefore be amended or deleted.

Ms. S. BOTCHWEY (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States), noting that the World Declaration on the Survival, Development and Protection of Children made it clear that children should be given the chance to find their identity and realize their worth in a safe and supportive environment, said that governments had some responsibility in that regard but that the primary responsibility lay with families. Governments should provide families with the support needed to create an enabling environment for their children. Countries were often quick to sign conventions and protocols but more needed to be done to ensure that the provisions of such agreements were incorporated into national laws, policies and programmes. A number of countries in West Africa had already developed national social protection strategies, but funding remained an issue. Parliaments should analyse laws, policies and programmes to protect the rights of children and ensure that budgets were scrutinized from both a gender and children's rights perspective.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN PACHÓN (Colombia) explained that concern had been voiced in his country that the rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), was continuing to recruit child soldiers despite the ongoing peace process. It was important to address the situation as soon as possible and he therefore welcomed the Standing Committee's timely discussion of the subject.

Ms. K. SOSA (El Salvador) said that, as a country that had previously been affected by war, El Salvador had a large number of citizens living outside its borders. Although the country was now at peace, emigration continued to be a significant issue; it was therefore crucial to continue to address the root causes of migration and to protect the rights of migrants. She welcomed the text of the draft resolution, as it was clear and accurately reflected the concerns and views of countries experiencing conflict and those receiving migrants. However, it was important to also take into account the situation of children in Palestine. She shared the concerns expressed by previous

speakers regarding operative paragraph 9, as the language was unclear and could be used to restrict the rights of children to freedom of expression and to participate in decisions that affected them laid out in Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. R.M. ALBERNAZ (Portugal) said that parliaments had a fundamental prevention and coordination role to play in the protection of children's rights. To that end, it was vital to address the root causes of the issue, such as poverty and discrimination. Discrimination based on ethnicity, sex, age, economic condition or sexual orientation remained prevalent in many countries, and she wished to reiterate the appeal that she had made at the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, March-April 2012) regarding the criminalization of homosexuality in certain countries. It would always be unacceptable to punish a person for giving free rein to their personality; such punishment was not part of a free and inclusive society. In addition, the use of religious arguments to justify such criminalization distorted the messages of inclusion and peace found in religious texts. Members of parliament, as representatives of the people, should echo those who called for justice and respect for all human beings. It was up to parliamentarians to legislate for a fair and just society that was free from discrimination.

Mr. D.P. LOSIAKOU (Kenya) said that his country had made significant efforts to protect the rights of children. The Constitution of Kenya was comprehensive and contained many provisions related to the protection of children, and multiple pieces of legislation had also been enacted. Kenya was endeavouring to provide food and education to refugees and street children and to ensure the protection of their rights. He welcomed the text of the draft resolution.

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain), *co-Rapporteur*, referring to the comments made by the representative of Palestine, said that although there was broad support for the aid being given to children in Palestine, particularly imprisoned children, the draft resolution referred to general rather than specific situations and therefore covered all children, including Palestinian children. During the statutory period allowed for amendments to be submitted, no comments had been received on the specific issue of children in Palestine. With regard to the comments on operative paragraph 9, she suggested that the scope of the paragraph had been misunderstood; the aim of the paragraph was to condemn those who exploited children for political or military gain without the understanding of the children in question. It did not restrict the right of a child to freedom of expression.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRÓN (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the comments made by speakers and acknowledged the importance of the statement made by the representative of Palestine. With regard to the comment made by the representative of Cyprus regarding data collection, she admitted that there was limited data available on unaccompanied migrant children, children in situations of armed conflict and those living under occupation. The GRULAC had been working to collect information on the situation in the region. With regard to the comment made by the representative of the UN Child Protection Working Group regarding protection systems, she recalled that one of the amendments contained in document C-III/130/DR-am addressed that specific issue.

The sitting rose at 5.45 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m., with Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

The Standing Committee had sat in plenary twice on Tuesday, 18 March, in the morning between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. and in the afternoon between 2.30. and 6.30 p.m. During those two meetings, it had considered the draft resolution prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs and the 68 amendments that had been proposed to it, with a view to finalizing the text ahead of its adoption at the present meeting. It had adopted a significant proportion of those amendments and made further sub-amendments to the text. One amendment adopted was a proposal to modify the title of the resolution, by replacing the words "in situations of war and conflict" with "in situations of armed conflict".

Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution
(C-III/130/DR-cr)

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRÓN (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the amendments that had been proposed and the many constructive comments made on the draft resolution. She welcomed the incorporation of the gender perspective and of fundamental principles of human rights into the text, stating that the final draft was a document that could be appropriately applied in all countries and legislatures.

She drew attention to the panel discussion, entitled *Promoting the child's best interest: The case of migrant children*, held earlier that day. One important concept that had been raised during that discussion by UNICEF and IOM was that of the non-detention of child migrants. UNICEF and IOM had underscored that a person should not be detained and deprived of their liberty by any country simply because they were a migrant, especially when that person was a child. Noting that that principle had not been included in the draft resolution, she proposed that “non-detention” should therefore be inserted in the third paragraph of the preamble, specifically in the list of fundamental principles already outlined in that paragraph.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Standing Committee agreed to the proposed amendment to the third paragraph of the preamble.

It was so decided.

The delegate of GABON said that there was an issue of consistency in the text; the term “children” was defined in the first paragraph of the preamble and used throughout the resolution, but the term “minor” was also used. The wording should be harmonized so that only the terms “children” or “child” were used throughout.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRÓN (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, said that such a change was not necessary as “children” was already defined in the draft resolution, in accordance with the definition in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and there was no ambiguity over the intended meaning of either term.

The PRESIDENT noted that the terms “children” and “minors” were used interchangeably in other treaties and conventions. He proposed that the Standing Committee agree to consider the draft resolution as a whole, rather than paragraph by paragraph, before approving it in its entirety.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) seconded that proposal.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft resolution in its entirety.

It was so agreed.

The resolution as a whole was approved by the Standing Committee.

Appointment of a rapporteur to the 130th IPU Assembly

The PRESIDENT proposed that Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain) be appointed as Rapporteur of the Committee to the 130th IPU Assembly.

It was so decided.

Preparations for future Assemblies

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee Bureau had met and considered the proposals for the subject to be discussed by the Committee at the 131st and 132nd IPU Assemblies. It had decided to submit three proposals to the Committee for its consideration, namely *Parliaments against domestic violence*, proposed by Viet Nam, *Privacy in the 21st century and the future of democracy*, proposed by Iceland, and *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights*, proposed by the United Arab Emirates. The Standing Committee would decide on the subject through a vote.

Noting that no representative from Viet Nam was present, he invited the proponents of the other subject items to speak about them.

Ms. B. JONSDÖTTIR (Iceland) said that, without privacy, there could be no functional democracies. The IPU was an appropriate platform from which to inform and educate parliamentarians about current capacities for probing into people's private lives from across the borders of any State. It was an issue that needed to be discussed at all levels, with a view to protecting the fundamental value upheld by the IPU of furthering democracy in all parts of the world.

She recalled that her own private life had been probed into by a foreign government, despite the position she held as a parliamentarian serving on the foreign affairs committee in Iceland, and that the case had been examined by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. A person's privacy could be compromised not only through social media but also through their mobile phone and computer, including via webcams, and the information gathered now risked being used as an instrument of warfare.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that the issues of human rights and interference in national sovereignty had been blurred, with a number of States participating in discussions at the international level and interfering in the internal affairs of other countries on the pretext of protecting human rights. Such action did not serve to protect human rights, but rather often negatively affected both human rights and national sovereignty.

The right to national sovereignty was set down in international human rights law and was endorsed in all international instruments. The relationship between domestic, international and human rights law was an extremely important one and it was vital to uphold the balance between all three. However, recent events had affected that balance, with the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States being undermined in various bilateral or multilateral agreements. Parliamentarians needed to work to ensure that any interference was prohibited by law.

Mr. C. GAMOU (Uruguay) welcomed the proposal of the United Arab Emirates, as it was a complex issue that required further consideration, especially in the light of recent events.

The PRESIDENT urged delegates not to speak on the individual proposals but to listen to their proponents and read the relevant explanatory memorandums.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) questioned whether the subject item proposed by the United Arab Emirates was best suited to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights; it seemed to be more appropriate for the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs to discuss, as it had already been raised within the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT said that the areas of responsibility of the Standing Committees sometimes overlapped. When the Bureau had considered the possible subject items, it had judged the proposal by the United Arab Emirates to fit well with the functions and responsibilities of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD (United Arab Emirates), noting that the Standing Committee had not heard from the proponent of the Vietnamese proposal, asked whether the Committee would be voting on all three proposals, or just those from Iceland and the United Arab Emirates.

The PRESIDENT said that the proposal from Viet Nam would be included in the vote, as per the suggestion of the Bureau.

The Standing Committee voted to accept the proposal by the United Arab Emirates, "International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights", as the subject item to be considered at the 131st and 132nd IPU Assemblies.

(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs

The PRESIDENT said that two co-Rapporteurs had to be appointed and that the need for geographical balance, including between developed and developing countries, should be borne in mind.

Mr. A.J. AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that he wished to nominate himself as a candidate for co-Rapporteur.

The PRESIDENT said that, if his candidacy was approved, consultations would need to be held to nominate another candidate, to ensure that there was a balance between developed and developing country representatives.

Mr. S. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) wished to know whether the United Arab Emirates was classified as a developing or developed country.

The PRESIDENT said that it was a developing country.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) asked whether he could nominate himself as a candidate for co-Rapporteur.

The PRESIDENT said that, as one nomination had already been received, further consultations would be needed before additional nominations could be considered.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) said he understood that co-Rapporteurs should simply be appointed from different regions, rather than with a specific distinction needing to be made between representatives of developed and developing countries.

The PRESIDENT recalled that it was a convention that was usually followed by the Standing Committees to ensure an appropriate balance. He took it that the Standing Committee wished to appoint Mr. Ahmad as a co-Rapporteur, on the understanding that a second co-Rapporteur would be appointed in due course.

It was so decided.

Election of the President and Vice-President of the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had met and agreed by consensus to nominate Ms. F.Z. Naderi (Afghanistan) and Mr. J.M. Galán Pachón (Colombia) as the President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Standing Committee. In the absence of any comments or objections he took it that the Committee wished to approve the nominations and to elect those individuals as President and Vice-President.

It was so decided.

Ms. F.Z. NADERI (Afghanistan) thanked the Standing Committee for her election as President of the Committee and commended the good work that had been done to adopt the resolution and protect children around the world. It was a pleasure for her to be able to represent her country in her new capacity as President, not least because it helped to show how far Afghanistan had come in recent years and how it could be involved in helping to advance democracy and human rights and how all countries could work together to make the world a safer and more peaceful place for all people.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN PACHÓN (Colombia) thanked the Committee for his appointment. He said that the issues of democracy and human rights were very close to his heart, as Colombia had suffered internal armed conflict for many years, and he believed that a focus on democracy and human rights was integral to the country's path to peace. He looked forward to working with Ms. F.Z. Naderi and the Bureau in the months ahead.

Any other business

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) said that he wished to express Japan's position regarding the comments made by the Republic of Korea at the first sitting of the Standing Committee regarding comfort women. The Japanese Government had long acknowledged and expressed heartfelt regret for the considerable damage and suffering that had been inflicted by the country during the Second World War. His country had paid tribute to the victims of the conflict and had dealt with issues of compensation and property claims through the Treaty of Peace with Japan and other bilateral peace treaties.

The issues relating to comfort women had also been settled through such agreements with the Republic of Korea and Japan had made efforts to offer realistic and practical assistance to former comfort women through claims agreements between the two countries. The Asia Women's Fund had been established in order for the Japanese Government to make contributions for the provision of medical and social welfare assistance to those women, and the Prime Minister at the time of the Fund's establishment had sent letters to them expressing deep regret for what had happened during the war.

He hoped that the Republic of Korea would recognize the sincere feelings of regret of Japan and its citizens and would view the actions that had been taken to make amends in a positive light.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights closed.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso), President of the Committee, in the Chair. He welcomed all participants to what was the Committee's first meeting since it had been granted Standing Committee status as part of the IPU's recent reforms.

Adoption of the agenda (C-IV/130/A.1.rev)

The PRESIDENT took it that, in the absence of any comments, the Standing Committee wished to adopt the agenda.

It was so decided.

Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 129th IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2013)

The PRESIDENT took it that, in the absence of any comments or questions thereon, the summary records of the Committee's last meeting could be approved.

It was so decided.

Election of the Standing Committee Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with its new status and the IPU Statutes and Rules, the Standing Committee needed to elect a Bureau. He announced that the African Group had nominated Mr. A. Bouchouareb (Algeria), Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso) and Ms. C.N. Mukiite (Kenya); the Arab Group had nominated Ms. R. Benmassaoud (Morocco), Mr. M. El Hassan Al Amin (Sudan) and Mr. A.O. Al Mansouri (United Arab Emirates); the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), Mr. A. Budimanta (Indonesia) and Ms. V. Rattanapian (Thailand); the Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. M. Margelov (Russian Federation); the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had nominated Ms. G. Ortiz González (Mexico), Ms. I. Montenegro (Nicaragua) and Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay); and, lastly, the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Mr. D. Dawson (Canada), Ms. K. Komi (Finland) and Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece).

In the absence of any objections, he took it that the Committee wished to approve the election of the named individuals to membership of the Bureau.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT added that the Bureau would meet for the first time later that day and would then nominate a President and Vice-President of the Standing Committee.

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU

The PRESIDENT introduced Mr. M. Møller, Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who would be speaking about his perspective on relations between the United Nations, IPU and national parliaments.

Mr. M. MØLLER, *Special Guest*, recalling his earlier statement at the opening of the General Debate at the present Assembly, reiterated the essential role of parliaments and the IPU in promoting peace, development, democracy and human rights globally. It was an objective that the United Nations shared and he believed that parliamentarians would play a particular role in determining and later implementing the post-2015 development framework. Parliamentarians provided a key link between his Organization and the people that it served, as they passed the national legislation that put international commitments into practice and held governments accountable for those commitments.

The relationship between the United Nations and the IPU had continued to grow since the signing of their cooperation agreement nearly two decades previously. Since that time, the IPU had done much to inject a parliamentary dimension into the work of the United Nations at all levels. More progress was now needed in injecting a United Nations dimension into the work of parliaments. The IPU had an important role as a catalyst for information and action on the United Nations agenda but, crucially, parliamentarians needed to help their constituents to understand exactly what it was that the United Nations did for them and how it affected their daily lives in a real and practical way. Better ways needed to be found of explaining to citizens and decision-makers the impact of the Organization's work in order to reverse the weakening perception of its legitimacy and usefulness.

Turning to the post-2015 development agenda, he underscored the importance of the parliamentary contribution if the United Nations were to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be anchored in robust national ownership. All intergovernmental processes relating to the goals had gained traction and there was increasing consensus that a business-as-usual approach to development was neither desirable nor feasible. The post-2015 agenda allowed for a paradigm shift: building on the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but addressing the eradication of poverty and other important issues in the context of the three core pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The UN Secretary-General had outlined his vision for the post-2015 development agenda, which had six key elements: universality; sustainable development, including a clear focus on ending extreme poverty in all its forms; inclusive economic transformation; peace and governance, based on the rule of law and sound institutions; a new global partnership; and, lastly, the need to be “fit for purpose”, ensuring that the international community had the right institutions and tools to meet the challenges of that agenda.

In the coming year, much work would be done by the Open Working Group on SDGs and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. Member States would also discuss a number of critical issues, including common but differentiated responsibilities, the means of implementation and the role of trade and ODA. Those discussions would happen in parallel to negotiations on climate change. It was hoped that all inputs would be received by September 2014 ahead of the formal launch by the General Assembly of the final phase of intergovernmental negotiations, which would lead, eventually, to a summit in 2015.

In defining and implementing the post-2015 agenda, parliamentarians should work to mobilize resources for development, enhance accountability through legislative oversight and give voice to the most vulnerable through proper representation. Ultimately, all stakeholders needed to arrive at a single, cohesive development agenda for 2015 and beyond, with sustainable development at its core and incorporating key principles of human rights, equality and sustainability.

There were many opportunities for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments, both through the IPU and directly at national level. He looked forward to continued discussions on how they could address common challenges and meet shared goals.

Update on recent activities

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Møller for his very positive and comprehensive statement, and underscored the huge potential of the partnership between the IPU and the United Nations both in bringing a parliamentary voice to global talks, but also in helping to transform international commitments into national realities.

There were several ways in which this could be accomplished: among these, of particular relevance was the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which was designed to inform ongoing UN processes from a parliamentary perspective. The most recent Hearing, in November 2013, had focused on defining the objectives of the SDGs as part of the post-2015 agenda. Parliaments needed to continue to actively contribute to the setting of those objectives, including by calling for good governance to be among the goals.

The President also welcomed the fact that the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs was now a fully-fledged Standing Committee of the IPU. The Committee was called upon to play a particularly important role by providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and senior UN officials, reviewing the implementation of major international commitments and shaping a parliamentary input to global talks and negotiations. The Committee would also be expected to submit proposals to the other Standing Committees as to issues that were high on the UN agenda and which warranted a parliamentary contribution.

Discussion

Mr. F. ROSSI (Chile) said that in the light of the post-2015 development agenda, international cooperation needed to be strengthened. The IPU and parliamentarians needed to design public policies and frameworks that accounted for the SDGs and reflected both the need to improve people's well-being and the challenges that would need to be met in attaining the goals. In particular, economic models needed to support sustainable development.

The IPU, at its 128th Assembly, had focused on the issue of the well-being of humanity and had previously worked on a project that focused on developing policies to ensure the integration of social and economic development and environmental sustainability. Despite the attention paid to the issue, there was not yet a clear way forward to the next stage of the process.

A number of countries around the world had unsuitable, or no, electoral processes and the fundamental human rights of their peoples were frequently flouted. The international community therefore needed to ensure that people's human rights and the right to self-determination were not abused and that global agreements ensured that common goals could be met, ultimately instilling the values of democracy, human rights and sustainability.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) requested clarification on who was envisaged as taking leadership of the global agenda on sustainable development and expressed concern that developed countries were not sufficiently encouraged to transfer knowledge and technology to developing countries, in order for the latter to build up their capacities and expertise across sectors. There were still many regulations that prevented such transfer, some legitimate, some not, and more needed to be done to promote genuine partnerships between countries. It was important not to look at the technical aspects alone, as political participation and the economic and humanitarian aspects of development also needed to be encouraged.

Mr. D. XIMENES (Timor-Leste) urged the international community to think about the situation in Guinea-Bissau, as ensuring sustainable development could only be achieved when people lived in peace, which meant that safety and security also needed to be ensured.

Mr. M. MERŠOL (Slovenia) expressed concern that, while a number of the MDGs set for achievement by 2015 would be attained, various others would not, especially in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. Slovenia had become a donor country for development aid in 2004 and had assumed its share of the responsibility for balanced global development. The country focused in particular on enhancing the role of women, protecting the environment and strengthening good governance and the rule of law. Regarding the post-2015 development agenda, Slovenia hoped for a global framework that would eradicate poverty in a balanced manner and ensure sustainable development.

Slovenia was pleased that the Committee on United Nations Affairs had been designated as the IPU's Fourth Standing Committee as it would allow parliamentarians to engage in more in-depth debates on global development issues and provided an opportunity for the speedier resolution of the issues at hand. Parliamentarians had a special responsibility to develop legislative solutions to issues and Slovenia welcomed the IPU's role as the only global parliamentary organization and an important partner in bringing a parliamentary dimension to the United Nations.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) said that ensuring the early participation of parliamentarians was vital to achieving the SDGs and requested clarification from Mr. Møller on the date by which governments needed to give their approval regarding those goals. Knowing that date would allow parliamentarians to schedule debates on the development agenda as early as possible. It would also allow a debate to be scheduled within the IPU at the appropriate time on how parliaments were participating in the process.

Mr. K. GRAHAM (New Zealand) questioned whether the IPU, in the draft resolution it hoped to adopt on the matter, should be focusing on strengthening its contribution to the United Nations rather than pushing for a relationship based on mutual engagement between the two organizations. It should not be forgotten that the IPU pre-dated both the United Nations and its predecessor, the League of Nations, and, to suggest a relationship based on contribution seemed to imply that one party was subordinate to the other, which should not be the message of the draft resolution.

During the present Assembly, much focus had been given to the three inter-related pillars of peace, democracy and human rights but no explicit attention had been paid to the prevention of dangerous climate change, except passing references in the discussions and draft resolution of the

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade. He believed that the United Nations had been wrestling with where dangerous climate change prevention should fall among its range, or hierarchy, of major thematic issues, meaning that it had received less coverage to date than it should have. The same was true within the IPU, which would be well-advised to place climate change higher up its agenda and not to confine it to discussions within the Second Standing Committee; the issue was far broader than that. Indeed, the UN Secretary-General had described it as a threat to international peace and security. The issue should either be designated as a fourth thematic pillar, or as a precondition for attaining the other three.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) said that peace and security were priority issues as, without those, development could not be achieved. Furthermore, developed countries should not be allowed to leave the rest of the world behind, as it would have a detrimental effect on development, with more and more migrants seeking to move to the developed world. Affluent countries needed to assist developing countries in the process of development so that all peoples of the world could live in dignity and not have to risk their lives by migrating under dangerous conditions.

All discussions and interventions should take place on the basis of neutrality, with no State contravening the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries or the right to national sovereignty and self-determination. Parliamentarians needed to participate in all forums within the United Nations to ensure the strengthening of human rights and truly equal global cooperation on the issue of sustainable development.

Ms. A. AL-MUBARAK (Bahrain) said the Standing Committee should encourage the establishment of specialized parliamentary committees on United Nations affairs within national parliaments. Such a move would allow for greater links between the United Nations and national parliaments, in line with the SDGs and as supported by Mr. Møller. It was essential that those goals were in line with parliamentary activity and legislation at the national level.

Mr. M. MØLLER, *Special Guest*, responding to the various comments from delegates, said that it was Member States that had leadership of the process regarding the post-2015 development agenda; the Secretariat, Secretary-General's Office and wider United Nations system were on hand to facilitate that. There would be very complex negotiations in the coming two years, however, and he believed that the parliamentary aspect and parliamentary oversight would be important contributions.

Speakers had raised various issues that should be addressed in order to narrow development gaps globally, in particular the need for transfer of knowledge and technology. All such issues needed to be injected into the debate as it progressed in the coming months and he encouraged parliamentarians to ensure that their governments considered and raised those issues. Nineteen indicators were already being looked at and he underlined that there would be an extensive and complex negotiation process before the final set of measures was agreed.

He could not respond to the delegate of France with a fixed date but thought his suggestion was a good and logical one and agreed that parliaments should be provided with a timetable as soon as possible on the key stages of the discussion and negotiation process over the coming months. It would also be useful to hold parliamentary debates on the role of parliamentarians in that process as soon as possible, so that they could ensure that their points of view were included in the discussions.

Regarding comments made by New Zealand, he agreed that the aim should be greater engagement and the strengthening of the partnership between the IPU and United Nations. Governance structures were changing globally and no longer focused solely on governments; the voices of parliaments, civil society and other stakeholders also needed to be heard and taken into account when setting policies. Parliaments would have a pivotal role in setting the development agenda. They should, however, consider reinforcing their own national mechanisms for addressing issues and strengthening the flows of information and decision-making processes so as to increase their ability to influence discussions in New York.

Parliaments also had an important role to play in making sure that climate change was appropriately prioritized on the United Nations agenda. It was governments that ultimately decided how much importance should be attached to various issues but parliaments could ensure that their own governments were responding to the desires of the people and that their input at the global level was aligned with their priorities and commitments at the national level. He agreed that more needed to be done regarding the issue of climate change and urged parliamentarians to participate in the summit that the Secretary-General was calling for later in the year.

The PRESIDENT, referring to the statement made by Timor-Leste on Guinea-Bissau, said that the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) had sent a number of missions to the country with a view to strengthening peace and security and the stability of the political system.

He recalled the field visit to Haiti that had been undertaken in February 2014 by the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs to see what the United Nations was doing in the field. He then introduced Mr. S.D. Desras, Speaker of the Haitian Senate, and invited him to provide an update on the progress that had been made in rebuilding the country following the earthquake it suffered in 2010, as well as to elaborate on the challenges currently faced.

Discussion on Interaction between parliaments and UN country teams at the national level

Mr. S.D. DESRAS (Haiti), *Special Guest*, said that the Haitian Parliament had been pleased to host the Advisory Group to the Committee on United Nations Affairs when it visited the country earlier in order to consult with various bodies there.

The United Nations had been present in Haiti for 20 years and, thanks to its support, there had been some progress in improving political stability over that period but, following the earthquake in 2010, the levels of political instability had risen considerably. There had now been a four-year wait for legislative and local elections, leading to a void in government, no functioning Senate and obvious difficulties for parliamentarians. There were cases of mayors or municipal representatives being appointed without elections, which was not acceptable. Cooperation with UN agencies needed to be further improved, as there was a great need for increased institutional support in Haiti, particularly in strengthening democratic institutions so that elections could be held as soon as possible. Such action would, in turn, strengthen peace and stability in the country.

Four years on from the earthquake, there were still many internally displaced persons and many living in tents. The IOM and UNICEF, alongside various United Nations agencies, continued to monitor the situation and to try to address those issues and others relating to reconstruction efforts in Haiti. In spite of the efforts made, there had still been very little progress in reconstruction, not least because of problems relating to property titles and an absence of laws for resolving those problems.

The PRESIDENT said that, following its visit to Haiti, the Advisory Group had produced a report containing a number of recommendations and conclusions. The Group had acknowledged the difficult situation and political instability referred to by Mr. Desras and underscored the importance of the political dialogue that was now developing and its potential for success, especially as it would help the relations between parliament and the executive branch.

Mr. M.M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) wished to know what sort of arrangements could be established between the United Nations and the IPU to ensure that conventions, treaties and other international instruments adopted within the United Nations received the ratification of parliaments and were able to enter into force. He stressed that imposing economic sanctions on States was counter to the aims of the MDGs, as such sanctions had their most adverse effect on health and education systems. The goals could not be achieved unless sanctions were prohibited.

Ms. H. SINDI (Saudi Arabia) said that she was one of the scientists whom the United Nations Secretary-General had chosen to serve on his recently created Scientific Advisory Board, which sought to address how to connect science with social impact, policy and sustainability. As a scientist she saw that the world and its demands and needs were changing. She wished to know what Mr. Møller's vision was for reforming the way of thinking within the United Nations, so that it no longer risked being disconnected from society and its work and many initiatives could be properly implemented.

Mr. G. SILVA (Portugal), after expressing support for the comments made by the delegate of Timor-Leste regarding Guinea-Bissau, asked in what way UN reform could strengthen cooperation with the IPU and with national parliaments. He wondered whether or how such a process could contribute to the better democratization of all States.

Mr. M. MØLLER, *Special Guest*, responding first to the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that it was essential that parliaments did what they could to ensure the ratification of international agreements as quickly as possible. That was especially important in areas such as

weapons disarmament. He underscored that any decision to impose sanctions on countries was taken by Member States; the Secretariat did not endorse sanctions as they often did not achieve their objectives and had a disproportionate effect on the wrong people, but the issue needed to be addressed by the Security Council.

He agreed with the Saudi Arabian delegate on the need to start thinking outside the box. Understanding had certainly increased regarding the complexity of problems and their solutions but much more needed to be done to ensure that the United Nations structures were able to initiate those solutions. Political will was needed on the part of Member States to ensure that fundamental reforms were undertaken so that the whole international system could tackle present and future challenges. He noted that the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Board was one example of how to do that.

A strengthened role for parliaments went far beyond their responsibilities for oversight; they needed to be active partners in setting the agendas on the major issues. Climate change was an example of an issue too vast for any country to tackle alone and parliaments needed to be a part of the discussions on finding innovative solutions.

There were ongoing efforts to strengthen relations between the United Nations and the IPU but he believed the process could be accelerated. It was the responsibility of both organizations to continue building on the cooperation agreement that they had signed 20 years previously. Such cooperation was particularly important as discussions continued on ensuring that the post-2015 agenda was anchored as much as possible in the wishes and aspirations of the people

Update on the draft United Nations General Assembly Resolution on *Interaction between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU*

Ms. A. FILIP, *Secretary of the Committee*, said that every two years the United Nations General Assembly considered, as a stand-alone agenda item, interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU and adopted a related resolution. The most recent debate had been held in May 2012, which had seen the adoption of a consensus resolution that consolidated the key idea that there needed to be parliamentary input into major United Nations processes relating to the significant global issues of the day. The resolution recognized that, for that to happen, parliamentarians needed to be part of national delegations to United Nations conferences and referred to the annual parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which brought the voice of parliamentarians directly to the Organization. The resolution also called for parliamentary input in the process of formulating the new generation of SDGs.

The IPU Executive Committee had, a few days previously, considered the text of the new draft resolution, which was now being shared with the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. Once the text was discussed and endorsed at the IPU Assembly, it would be handed over to the Permanent Mission of Morocco, as the country which currently held the Presidency of the IPU, to be conveyed to the General Assembly for consideration.

The IPU Secretariat had been working with the United Nations on the Secretary-General's draft report on the agenda item, which would be issued to Member States in the coming weeks. The previous resolution had been taken as the basis for the new draft and a number of new elements had been introduced into the text, reflecting developments over the previous two years. The additions included reference to the ongoing need for parliamentary input into the post-2015 development agenda; the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, to be held in 2015, and the opportunity it would provide to take forward the relationship between the United Nations, IPU and parliaments; the developing relationship between the IPU and the UN Human Rights Council; and the annual parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, which served as a formal mechanism by which parliaments could influence United Nations processes.

It was a two-way relationship between the United Nations and the IPU, but a careful balance needed to be struck between two aspects. On one hand there was still a need for greater awareness and greater mobilization among parliaments to meet the various international commitments that had been made by States. Parliaments had a clear and growing responsibility to translate those international commitments into national realities. On the other hand, more needed to be done to bring the parliamentary voice into the global conversation, especially on issues such as the SDGs, which provided the opportunity for parliaments to help define global priorities based on what was important to communities around the world.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India) said that the United Nations played a vital role in supporting the development efforts of countries, particularly in the developing world, and parliaments therefore had a responsibility to coordinate with and share development responsibilities with the United

Nations to achieve better results in the areas of peace, security and development. Parliaments' primary responsibility was to frame laws and ensure proper monitoring and oversight of all development efforts.

They should also put forward suggestions on how to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, especially as 2015 and the deadline for achieving the MDGs was fast approaching. With the discussions being held within the United Nations on the proposed SDGs, parliaments should also resolve to provide all the necessary legislative aid to governments in achieving those goals as part of the post-2015 development agenda.

The annual Parliamentary Hearing held at the United Nations had been extremely useful in promoting and facilitating interaction between the United Nations, IPU and national parliaments. Such interaction and cooperation were vital to securing peace, security and development globally.

Ms. A. IBRO NA-ALLA (Niger) said that it was difficult to control the porous borders of countries in the Sahara; weapons-trafficking was endemic and governments were constantly trying to catch up in order to ensure peace and security for their citizens. The United Nations and the IPU needed to be more closely involved in working to achieve that security because, without it, those countries would not be able to enjoy economic and sustainable development.

Mr. K. GRAHAM (New Zealand) requested clarification on whether the Standing Committee should be providing comments that could be taken into consideration by the United Nations on the draft resolution.

Ms. A. FILIP; *Secretary of the Committee*, clarified that the Standing Committee was welcome to share comments on the text but should do so before the following morning, as the Governing Council would be discussing the matter at its sitting the following day. Based on all the feedback received, the IPU would finalize the text of its submission to be considered during the negotiations in New York.

Mr. K. GRAHAM (New Zealand) said that he had two suggestions for consideration. The first was that the first operative paragraph of the draft resolution should be made more consistent with the preambular part and should refer to General Assembly Resolution 66/261 and the need to pursue more systematic engagement. His second suggestion was that it would be useful to mention dialogue between the IPU and United Nations on the issue of climate change in the context of the thematic pillars.

Discussion of the parliamentary contribution to the UN process of devising the next generation of sustainable development goals (SDGs)

The PRESIDENT introduced the three panellists who would address the Standing Committee on the topic of the parliamentary contribution to the UN process of devising the sustainable development goals. They were Mr. F. Bustamante and Mr. D. McGuinty, parliamentarians from Ecuador and Canada, respectively, and Mr. C. Chauvel, who was a parliamentary adviser for the UNDP Democratic Governance Group

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador), *Panellist*, said that one of the most important outcomes of the 128th IPU Assembly had been the consensus reached on the idea that the current strategies and models for development needed to be reviewed and revised. The Quito Communiqué had made it clear that it was impossible to maintain current models of development and that the whole concept of development needed to be reconsidered if all people around the world were to be able to enjoy the same levels of development in the future. The western, capitalist model was not applicable worldwide and risked destroying the environment and the viability of habitats and resources for future generations.

Everybody held an ideal of what was a truly desirable and good type of life for all humanity, which meant that objectives for development needed to provide basic parameters for that "good" life, whereby each civilization could provide a suitable lifestyle for its people based on its own history and traditions. Unfettered material and economic growth could no longer be an objective in itself; growth needed to promote fairness and fulfil a function, namely to enable people globally to realize a lifestyle considered desirable by all.

The challenge lay not in knowing that change was needed but in knowing how to enable societies, governments and wider political systems to urgently make that change. The post-2015 development goals would be a part of that, but it was essential that they were not simply a

continuation of the pre-2015 goals; they needed to be different both in nature and in scale. An important question to ask was how parliamentarians could contribute constructively to the development of the new goals and a new vision for a good life and then how that contribution could be incorporated into the actions to be taken by governments.

Parliamentarians needed to seize the opportunity to break the institutional status quo and step into roles traditionally taken by the executive or technocrats in order to establish new norms for society and development. Parliamentary diplomacy, including in foreign policy, was a vital tool as parliamentarians needed to be part of the international processes relating to development.

Mr. D. McGUINTY (Canada), *Panellist*, said that the most important thing to remember about the SDGs was that they were global in nature and would have to inform policies equally in both developed and developing countries. He welcomed the recognition by the United Nations and other multilateral organizations that parliaments would be critical to the success of implementing the processes necessary for achieving the goals. The key question for parliaments was how they were going to fulfil that role and ensure that governments undertook meaningful implementation activities. Tough questions needed to be asked, including whether the goals were realistic, whether parliamentarians could sell them to their constituents and whether those people understood the need for change.

What had been confirmed through the many discussions on the matter was that there needed to be a major shift from thinking that economic growth was an end in itself. If the international community was going to move away from GDP as an indicator, new forms of wealth management and measurement needed to be found. Legislators would face a difficult task in finding ways to implement natural capital wealth measurement, which is why it was so important to ask the types of probing questions that his Ecuadorian colleague had mentioned.

Parliamentarians should not fall into the trap set by economists when they asked for legislators to set a value for, or “monetize”, ecosystem services and resources. Instead they should reverse the question and ask the economists to prove that ecosystem services, such as free water and air filtration systems, had no value. That was how the conversation would begin on natural capital wealth measurement.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (UNDP), *Panellist*, said that he wished to address how UNDP could work with parliaments through its parliamentary strengthening programmes to ensure that they could hold governments to account on the achievement of the SDGs once that framework had been agreed. The first key issue related to whether parliamentarians and existing parliamentary structures were well-equipped to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development. It could be that there were artificial barriers between committees on the environment, social issues and the economy, which would hamper the achievement of the goals. The question was how parliaments could work with UNDP and others to overcome those structural obstacles.

The second issue was whether parliaments were well-equipped to incorporate the post-2015 agenda into legislative and budgetary processes. If they did not exist already, parliaments needed to ensure that the appropriate committees or structures were put in place in a timely manner. The final issue he wished to raise was how closely parliamentarians were involved in the design of a national sustainable development strategy that would incorporate the new SDGs and how well-equipped they were to monitor the implementation of those goals by their governments. Lessons could be learned from the MDGs process, particularly regarding the need to find new methods for measuring progress towards the achievement of those goals and making sure that parliaments were able to put pressure on governments to ensure that the necessary progress was being made.

Ms. V. RATTANAPIAN (Thailand) said that Thailand had embarked upon an “MDG-Plus” programme, whereby it sought to achieve targets at the national level that went beyond the international targets. However, a number of the MDG-Plus targets would not be achieved in the set time frame. Thailand had therefore conducted research and had found that the top six priorities selected by focus groups were a good education; better health care; an honest and responsive government; freedom from discrimination and persecution and political freedom.

The data suggested that marginalized people wanted the government to provide education of a better quality and which was more inclusive for ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the poor. In the case of health care, the focus group data found that, while universal health-care coverage was desirable, people also wanted better quality care. Health care was still seen as inadequate for pregnant, women, people with disabilities, migrant workers and the poor.

Regarding governance, people wanted a reduction in corruption and the government to take greater responsibility for protecting people's interests and ensuring their basic rights. Welfare needed to be prioritized above private-sector interests and provided on the basis of equality.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India) said that the SDGs would play a central role in the post-2015 development agenda and needed to be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, aspirational and universally applicable. They also needed to take account of national realities, capacities and levels of development. The Rio+20 Conference Outcome Document had unequivocally reaffirmed the principles outlined in the first Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, notably that of common but differentiated responsibilities, and those principles now needed to form the basis of the new development agenda. This must also remain rooted in poverty eradication as, despite impressive gains, the issue continued to pose a major challenge around the world.

The primary focus should be on facilitating rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth, as that would help eradicate poverty, assist human development and protect the environment. There needed to be, however, clear commitments regarding ODA, public financing, technology transfer and capacity-building. Crucially, systemic and structural issues needed to be addressed as part of the global agenda while policies needed to incorporate macro-economic stability, debt settlement mechanisms, strengthening of the rules-based trading regime and reform of the UN system.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that one of the key challenges in sustainable development was not the formulation of ideas and initiatives but how to customize them for implementation in different situations. Development initiatives also needed to be balanced and should not have too great a focus on political processes. They needed to take full account of economic, social and cultural aspects, the latter being particularly important, as they were what provided a sense of citizenship, inclusion and the provision of opportunities for all. The key to any effective development programme was strong commitment followed by coordination at all levels, ensuring that development was balanced across all sectors.

Transfer of knowledge and technology remained a serious challenge. Many developed countries holding particular technologies did not always share them with developing countries. The issue was compounded by an unwillingness to share expertise and knowledge in terms of developing the necessary infrastructure in some sectors. There therefore needed to be greater commitment from the developed world to help poorer countries, which should go beyond selling them the services of consultants.

Parliamentarians needed to ensure that civil society was involved in the monitoring of development programmes and that monitoring added value to the process, going beyond simply drawing attention to errors that might have been made. Furthermore, legislation and policies in many countries needed to be reviewed to ensure that the gap could be narrowed between what was supposed to be achieved and what national legislation would allow. It was crucial that bureaucracy did not get in the way of countries' efforts for innovation.

Mr. S. AL-AZEMI (Kuwait) said that a new era would begin in 2015, with the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs. It should not be forgotten, however, that there was at present terrible deterioration of the environment, growing poverty and an ever-greater need to reduce the burden of debt faced by poorer countries. Kuwait hoped that, with the support of more affluent countries, the countries that still suffered from serious hunger and poverty, the majority of which were in Africa, would be able to provide their people with a reasonable standard of living, with all the necessary information and technological infrastructure.

Through respect for the United Nations Charter, Kuwait was determined to strengthen sustainable democracy. The country promoted the involvement of both parliamentarians and civil society in defining responses to current global challenges. Kuwait hoped that the SDGs would lead to the combatting of terrorism, persecution and discrimination in all its forms and greater human dignity, peace and prosperity for all.

Ms. G. ORTIZ GONZÁLEZ (Mexico), recalling the earlier discussion on strengthening cooperation with the United Nations, said that parliamentary events needed to be extended to all processes and sessions of relevant bodies, not only the Commission on the Status of Women.

Regarding the SDGs, she said that Mexico and other countries in Central America and the Caribbean were working with UNDP to develop a regional parliamentary consultation process, which would help in forming the regional contribution to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Ms. C. MUKIITE (Kenya) said that it would not be easy to formulate the post-MDG agenda; underestimating the complexity of the task would be a serious error. The donor perspective and country perspective needed to be equally presented and documented in order to ensure that the global debate was balanced and the outcome was desirable for all. Parliaments were crucial but often overlooked partners in the development process and, owing to that, they risked falling short at the country level. Their contributions to the process needed to adequately represent the voice of the people if the success of the next generation of development goals was to be assured. Furthermore, they needed to hold governments to account for their development commitments. With their combined law-making, oversight and representation roles, parliaments had a duty to ensure that the post-2015 agenda was properly reflected in national policies, legislation and budgets.

Effective parliaments were the cornerstone of good governance, given their roles in monitoring the design and implementation of policies and in holding their governments to account. It was therefore essential to facilitate their participation, including through the IPU and at the regional level. Without defining the role of parliaments in the post-2015 agenda and enabling them to turn words into enforceable legislation, the new development goals would never be realized.

Ms. L. ALANSARI (Saudi Arabia) echoed the comments made by other speakers on the need for clear indicators for the SDGs that were due to be set. Similarly, the IPU should seek to set indicators for the work of the standing committees. Such indicators would not need to be mandatory but they would help in strengthening the IPU's influence on parliaments, especially if there was a clear reporting mechanism.

Parliamentarians, as legislators, should take the lead in devising indicators on interaction with governments and in assessing strategic plans, as it would ensure that those indicators were comprehensive and less subject to bias or conflict of interest. The IPU should provide guidance to parliaments on how to equip themselves for that role and to ensure that all ministries could be properly monitored in terms of structure and skills.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) said that it was clear that, on the matter of agreeing indicators, there was a lot of work ahead for the IPU and parliaments. Different countries could not have different indicators as it would be impossible to have proper oversight. It would be useful to establish within the IPU a small working group on the issue, in particular how to improve the indicators and ensure that they were comparable and that all countries shared the same benchmarks for assuring the successful implementation and achievement of the objectives.

Mr. M. MULDER (Peru) said that the post-2015 objectives needed to be different to the MDGs, as they should take proper account of the political, social and economic changes that had occurred in the intervening period. An unsustainable model of growth had developed globally and a significant challenge would be how to respond to the problem and change the concept of well-being. There were poorer people, however, who were still seeking material growth and wealth. It would not be appropriate to tell them that material growth was not a substantive objective; the question was how to explain that material growth could lead to other problems. Discussions were needed on how to promote development through the post-2015 objectives but in a way that was different to and more sustainable than with the MDGs.

The objectives would ultimately not be set by politicians but by technocrats, or technical specialists, once they had received all inputs from politicians. Such a process was employed in the formulation of the Human Development Index, which encouraged competition between countries but gave the impression that wealth was the only objective of development. A more progressive, indeed radical, approach was needed if the targets were to address issues such as gender equality and combatting disease.

Mr. F. NDJAMONO (Gabon) said that a study had been carried out on the level of poverty and precariousness in Gabon and, as a result of that study, the executive branch had adopted a "social pact", namely a plan to ensure that Gabon met a number of targets by 2025. The social pact included a poverty eradication strategy and, in the coming days, the Government of Gabon was due to present to Parliament the principles that would govern the strategy.

Mr. R. SATTLER (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions - INTOSAI) agreed that the contribution of parliaments would be key to the success of the post-2015 development agenda. His organization was a natural partner for parliaments when it came to monitoring governments and holding them to account for the implementation of the sustainable

development goals. The success of those goals would indeed depend on the level of monitoring undertaken and lessons should be drawn from the elements that had been missing in monitoring the MDGs, including a lack of transparency, accountability and measuring.

Parliaments and supreme audit institutions together had a key role to play in promoting transparency and accountability. That had been underscored by a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011, which defined eight preconditions for the proper work of supreme audit institutions, including full access to information on government activities, the right to report publicly and to present reports to parliament, and a sufficiently broad legislative mandate. Through such preconditions, his organization could greatly assist parliaments in monitoring and implementing the SDGs.

Mr. J. LEÓN RIVERA (Peru) wished to endorse the comments made by his Peruvian colleague, given the difficulties that had been encountered in meeting the objectives set for 2015. In many Latin American and Caribbean countries, it was clear that what was being proposed for the post-2015 agenda had not taken into account the fact that the MDGs would fail to be met. That issue needed to be taken into consideration when looking at the strategies that would be needed for achieving the next goals.

One issue that parliaments should look at as part of their commitments was the need to devise a food systems strategy. There had been a number of declarations and resolutions in recent times that addressed the issue but he believed that a new resolution was necessary which would set a clear strategy for incorporating the issue of food safety, not only in terms of the quantity but also the quality of food, so as to address the wider issues of nutrition and hunger.

Mr. E. KAWILARANG (Indonesia) said that his country had closely followed the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and had established a task force on that development agenda. Through the task force, Indonesia collaborated with the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The task force's activities were limited and its recommendations were non-binding but efforts were currently underway, including through legislative amendments, to strengthen the role of parliamentary organs and ensure that the outputs of standing committees, ad hoc committees, other committees or bodies and the task force were all binding. Indonesia believed that there should be a global parliamentary monitoring mechanism in place for the post-2015 development agenda, provided and overseen by the IPU and other parliamentary bodies.

Mr. D. McGUINTY, *Panellist*, acknowledged the many comments on the need for strategies and initiatives to be applicable and practicable in all settings, whether it was Canada, Burkina Faso or elsewhere. However, it was not realistic to expect to be able to put representatives from governments, industry, civil society, academia and others in a room together and see them reach full agreement on how to move forward. Instead they should be asked to assess areas of agreement and disagreement and, most importantly, why they disagreed. Doing so would identify the obstacles to progress and allow for a discussion on solutions that would be acceptable to all.

Noting that speakers had raised various important issues that they believed should be addressed, he drew attention to the already substantial list of issues that had been identified by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals for consideration as part of the post-2015 development agenda. He encouraged all parliamentarians to call on their governments to allow debates on those issues so that they could voice their perspectives or concerns before the government representatives and technocrats took responsibility for agreeing the final post-2015 framework.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE, *Panellist*, reiterated his earlier comment that it was wrong to think of development as a vehicle for producing only material goods and not well-being. It was pointless to simply state how much had been spent on various development initiatives; it was also important to state what had been achieved through that spending. Indicators and outcomes needed to be based on values, not material goods. Conducting that sort of measurement, however, was far from easy; implementation needed to be about promoting investigation, research and innovation by transferring curiosity and imagination, rather than just transferring methods and processes.

The types of indicators that parliaments needed to look at related to how to effectively measure output. There were people trying to measure happiness levels around the world; the complexity of the task was in how to measure or assign a value to well-being, family ties and the social fabric. In finding a way to assign a value to family solidarity, for example, it became easier to see what the output and benefit for society was. Furthermore, in his country there was an indicator

on how often parliamentarians made speeches in the House. The weakness was that the indicator did not measure the value of what was said; the person who took the floor the most number of times would have best indicator but may never have said anything of use or value.

It was essential that the international community therefore understood that any indicators could not focus solely on quantifying material wealth and goods. Parliamentarians needed to push for goals and related indicators that would promote well-being. They needed to make sure that the technocrats heard their calls before they met together to agree a new agenda based solely on their own views of the world and what was meant by development.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, *Panellist*, said that many delegates had touched upon the issues he had raised in his introductory remarks regarding implementation and measurement and their comments had been very useful. There was agreement on the importance of parliaments being able to measure progress towards the attainment of the SDGs in a holistic manner. UNDP would continue to work with the IPU and others on that matter and on others that had been raised, such as the particular indicators that parliaments might want to adopt.

Recalling the comments made by the representative of INTOSAI, he also acknowledged the need for careful work to be done on the way in which parliaments obtained information on whether or how governments were making progress towards achieving the SDGs. He agreed on the need for parliaments to cooperate with supreme audit institutions to ensure the proper flow of that information.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) drew attention to two successful programmes known as the productivity triangle and the growth triangle. The first comprised cooperation between government, industry and academia and sought to resolve issues that the SDGs would address. The second comprised cooperation among three countries, whereby one had the technology, a second the engineering capacity and a third the human resources. Such programmes helped bolster development and meant that people did not have to move away from their countries to be involved or to benefit.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the session of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs closed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

SITTING OF MONDAY, 17 MARCH

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Mr. D. Vintimilla (Ecuador) in the chair.

Adoption of the agenda

In the absence of any comments, the CHAIR took it that the Forum wished to adopt the agenda.

It was so decided.

Delegates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and to highlight issues they considered to be important. The areas mentioned included ensuring that the voices of youth were heard, achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world, achieving gender equality, encouraging youth participation in politics and youth empowerment.

Contribution to the work of the 130th Assembly

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, explained that three Standing Committees would be discussing a draft resolution; although the Forum of Young Parliamentarians did not have the opportunity to propose amendments at that stage, it would be useful if a representative of the Forum could present a summary of its discussions on each draft resolution at the relevant Standing Committee meeting. The draft Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum would be adopted by the Governing Council during the current Assembly; once they had been adopted, the Forum would be able, at subsequent Assemblies, to submit youth overview reports to the Standing Committee co-Rapporteurs on the issues under discussion so that the youth perspective could be taken into account during the drafting process.

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments (Subject item before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

The members of the Forum agreed that achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world was of utmost importance for the future of the planet and required further discussion. It was a particularly significant issue for young people and it was vital that a youth perspective was taken into account during all discussions. Ms. F.Z. Naderi (Afghanistan) agreed to report back on the Forum's deliberations to the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints (Subject item before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)

There was general agreement that, since young people comprised 70 per cent of the global population, it was vital that they had an opportunity to contribute to decision-making activities related to sustainable development. The challenge was how to include young people in those processes. Issues such as the overexploitation of natural resources and disasters that resulted from human activities were of particular significance. In addition, when discussing the issue of demographics and natural disasters, it was important to take into account access to housing and urbanization. The IPU, as an inter-parliamentary body, should facilitate discussions on such issues. One delegate observed that there was a mismatch between the amount of funding allocated to countries by the United Nations and the demographic trends of countries; although the youth population was increasing, less money was being spent on youth empowerment. Governments should be encouraged to allocate more resources to the issue. Mr. A. Cardelli (San Marino) agreed to report back on the Forum's deliberations to the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

**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
(*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)**

The representative from Bahrain, who was a co-Rapporteur for the subject item before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, explained that the draft resolution covered two separate issues, namely: unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of conflict. It also considered the use of children in propaganda by different groups, particularly in demonstrations. Despite numerous international agreements on children's rights, those rights continued to be violated in many countries, particularly those experiencing conflict. More needed to be done in that regard. In recent times, there had been an increase in the number of cases of children being exploited by political parties for propaganda purposes, for example by being taken along to demonstrations by their families without understanding what the protest was about and showcased in the media. Conscripting of children into armed forces and militias was also of particular concern, as it could have a long-term psychological impact on children, normalizing violence for them.

There was strong support within the Forum for the draft resolution. One representative observed that the issue of unaccompanied migrant children in situations of war and conflict was important as it currently affected a number of countries in the world, including the Central African Republic. As a result, his country had proposed that the situation in that country be discussed as the emergency item during the current Assembly. Other members agreed that the protection of children's rights, particularly in times of conflict, was fundamental as children were often the first to suffer in wars. In addition, children who experienced situations of conflict, particularly those conscripted into the armed forces or militias, often experienced long-term psychological consequences, including violent behaviour, after the end of the conflict. Therefore, providing education to migrant children and children in situations of conflict was crucial. One representative also suggested that governments should be encouraged to develop bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries on the issue, which would provide extra protection and also help countries to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was also suggested that parliamentarians needed to do more to address the root causes of conflict and that there should be legislation in place in countries to prevent groups from using children as pawns in political demonstrations. Mr. B Gatobu (Kenya) agreed to report back on the Forum's deliberations to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

**Implementation of the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum
at the 131st Assembly in October 2014**

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, drew attention to the draft Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum as contained in document CL/194/14(c)-P.1.rev, which had been drafted at the request of the Governing Council following the formal establishment of the Forum at the 128th Assembly in 2013. The Taskforce of Young Parliamentarians had drafted the rules, which had been approved by the Forum at the 129th Assembly and had been submitted to the Governing Council for approval at the current Assembly.

One representative asked whether youth overview reports would be drafted for the topics discussed by the Committees. Another said that the objectives of the Forum were too general; it was important to define clear and precise goals for the work of the Forum, such as establishing links with youth organizations and enabling delegates to report on the youth-related challenges in their individual countries. It was agreed that such specific goals for the work of the Forum would be detailed in an IPU programme on youth participation in parliament.

Update and discussion on the Forum's activities in 2014

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, congratulating members of the Forum for its establishment, explained that the previous Chair, Mr. K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands), had been elected to the Executive Committee of the IPU, meaning that the youth perspective would be incorporated into that Committee's discussions. In addition, in the convocation document for each Assembly, parliaments were encouraged to include young parliamentarians as part of their delegation. A specific section of the new IPU website would be dedicated to the work of the Forum and she encouraged delegates to use social media, such as Twitter, to raise awareness of the Forum and its work. The IPU had allocated funds to youth-related activities and donors were beginning to show heightened interest in the work of the Forum. The plan for 2014 was for the IPU to carry out

research into youth participation in parliaments. In addition, the first Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians would also be held later in the year and discussions were underway on holding it in Japan.

The CHAIR explained that the composition of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians would be decided in October; he encouraged those interested to submit their candidature to their respective geopolitical groups as soon as possible.

Question-and-answer session with the candidates for the post of Secretary General of the IPU

The Forum held a brief question-and-answer session with the three candidates for the post of Secretary General of the IPU, namely: Mr. M. Chungong (Cameroon, Deputy Secretary General), Ms. S. Rafi (Pakistan) and Mr. G. Versnick (Belgium). The candidates were given the opportunity to present themselves and their vision for the IPU and were then asked questions that related specifically to their proposed engagement with youth and the Forum.

Any other business

The CHAIR explained that the Forum needed to choose three rapporteurs who would prepare the youth overview reports for the subject items under discussion by the Standing Committees at the next Assembly. The CHAIR volunteered to be the rapporteur for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, with Mr. B. Gatobu (Kenya) volunteering for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and Ms. F. Thiam (Senegal) for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

Panel discussion on *Promoting the child's best interest: The case of migrant children*

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.10 p.m., with Ms. G. Guevara Espinosa (Mexico), Chairperson of the Migration Committee of the Senate of Mexico, in the Chair acting as Moderator.

The MODERATOR, introducing the panel discussion on the item under consideration by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, informed participants that she and fellow parliamentarians had participated in a field visit the previous day to a Swiss centre for unaccompanied migrant children. During the visit, they had learned about the centre's daily operations and discussed issues such as changing migrant flows and the impact of migration on countries of destination and origin.

She introduced the first of the three panellists, Ms. A. Fonseca, Senior Specialist, Migrant Assistance Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM), to open the discussion.

Ms. A. FONSECA, *Panellist*, illustrating her presentation with slides, said that IOM was an intergovernmental organization with 155 Member States representing countries of origin, destination and transit for migrants. It had 8,400 staff, thousands of projects worldwide and an operating expenditure that had increased over the past decade to US\$ 1.3 billion. Founded in 1951, its aims were to help governments meet the international challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage socio-economic development through migration; and uphold the dignity and well-being of migrants.

Unaccompanied child migrants were a particularly vulnerable group and now formed a significant proportion of the millions of children migrating across borders or internally every year. Despite their numbers, those children remained absent from debates on migration and development, which went hand in hand with human rights, migrant protection and child protection, areas in which further international cooperation was required to ensure comprehensive and effective policies. It was difficult to ascertain how many of the 33 million international migrants under 20 years of age were unaccompanied. Of the 35 per cent of children from among the 25,000 trafficking victims assisted by IOM since 1997, however, the majority were unaccompanied migrants.

The search for educational and economic opportunities and escape from conflict and natural disasters were among the reasons for migration, which increasingly entailed crossing borders, whether through regular or irregular means. Undocumented child migrants were at particular risk of detention, exploitation and abuse, while unaccompanied child migrants were notably subject to highly politicized debates in destination countries on the subject of immigration policies and child welfare systems. All policies should take into account the non-homogeneous nature of child migrants as a group, who indeed faced challenges and opportunities throughout the entire migration cycle.

Key implementation challenges were often entailed in IOM's many field and other projects, which covered matters relating to resettlement; international migration law; migration research and publications; migrant health; former combatants; internally displaced persons; emergency and humanitarian assistance; counter-trafficking; migrant processing and integration; assisted voluntary return and reintegration; and technical cooperation.

For destination countries, challenges included those of managing migration while also ensuring protection of unaccompanied minors in the light of their vulnerability; adapting assistance provided in terms of protection, reception and treatment; reconciling international child protection obligations with State responsibilities to address irregular migration; identifying legal guardians; strengthening child protection systems; and determining the age of individuals, particularly older children. In best interest determination processes, lack of information on countries of origin and unsuccessful family tracing were obstacles to the assessment of prospective candidates for

integration or reintegration. A consistent approach was also difficult on account of the varying country-specific nature of legal guardianship, which could be assumed inter alia by social services, private tutors, shelter management or immigration authorities.

For origin countries, the challenges were to retain their youth; link development with child migration; ensure protection for their nationals abroad and for migrant children who did not return; guarantee local care facilities capable of meeting the basic needs of children who did return; and facilitate age-appropriate, meaningful and sustainable reintegration.

Sustainable actions demanded comprehensive approaches including all countries involved in the entire migration circle; capacity-building for States, civil society and young migrant networks; and partnership-building for a coordinated vision. Key recommendations that parliamentarians might wish to consider pertained to the development of additional international forums of discussion, sharing of good practices among countries, and transnational approaches; greater links between development and child migration; clearer standards and guidelines for legal guardians; greater operational cooperation between guardians in host and origin countries for more tailored responses and comprehensive solutions; participation of migrant children in policy decisions and processes via adequate participatory systems; and improvement of research and statistics.

The MODERATOR thanked Ms. Fonseca for her valuable contribution, which highlighted the challenges facing parliamentarians in addressing migration in their countries. She welcomed the second panellist, Mr. David Ponet, Parliamentary Specialist, UNICEF, and invited him to address participants.

Mr. D. PONET, *Panellist*, setting out the UNICEF perspective of children's rights in the migration context, reported that, according to the latest data collected by UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, nearly 35 million international migrants were under the age of 20, representing some 15 per cent of the total migrant population. Disaggregated by age, 11 million of that number were between 15 and 19 years of age, 9 million between 10 and 14; 8 million between 5 and 9; and 7 million between 0 and 4. Millions more also migrated within countries and migrant numbers would furthermore continue to rise as a corollary of ongoing rapid urbanization. Girls migrated in almost the same numbers as boys and 22 million, or over 60 per cent, of all migrant children lived in developing countries. Unprecedented numbers of young persons were expected to shift population dynamics further by following the massive exodus driven by factors including, in addition to those mentioned by the other panellist, failed States, forced marriage, poverty and resource and environmental pressures, especially climate change.

Migration could be a positive experience for children but they might also face serious challenges while migrating. Unregistered migrants in particular could face institutionalized exclusion through being denied essential public services, social protection and even emergency health care. Child migrants were therefore vulnerable to exploitation in trafficking and in agricultural and domestic labour, especially if unaccompanied. A significant number of children moved within countries alone in response to a combination of the factors already cited, with unstable or difficult family circumstances often playing a role, or as a way of declaring independence. All migration situations, however, entailed risks demanding age-appropriate protection measures for the children involved. Without support networks, they might have difficulty coping emotionally or suffer other hardships if excluded from assistance because their status was unofficial.

Over one half of the world's registered migrants were urban dwellers, with women and children among them at risk of not only exploitation and trafficking but also harassment and gender-based violence. Especially vulnerable during the resettlement phase were refugee and asylum-seeking children and adolescents, particularly those unaccompanied by adults, while children born to migrant parents could end up stateless and unable to enjoy citizenship rights. Internally displaced persons might also find themselves without economic resources and be seen as competing with the urban poor for social services. In such scenarios, it was particularly challenging for host communities, national governments and the international community to provide effective assistance. Children left behind by migrating parents also suffered physical, educational and psychosocial distress, which could be mitigated by adequate care, counselling and other support measures.

Migration was a truly universal phenomenon requiring attention by all States. International agreements and multilateral cooperation were therefore crucial to ensuring coherent, consistent and rights-based standards, as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, for policies and procedures relating to child migration. UNICEF wholeheartedly supported the commitment made in October 2013 by UN Member States to protect the human rights of migrant children and provide for their health, education and psychosocial development.

Underpinning all actions aimed at realizing that pledge was first that policy responses must target all children in the migration context, treat all such children above all as children and take into account the protection needs of specific categories, but with no hierarchy of protection of rights. Second, child migration must be framed as a public policy and equity issue by providing for children in migration policies and reforming social policies explicitly to include as a target group migrant children who, regardless of status, had the right to access health care, education, housing, social protection and birth registration. Third, the empowerment and participation of children in the migration context must be promoted by treating them as active rights holders and enabling them to claim their rights, challenge discrimination and seize all opportunities associated with migration.

He drew attention to five of the many recommendations providing a good roadmap for upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child through concrete actions and set out in the report of the 2012 General Day of Discussion of the Committee of the Rights of the Child on the rights of all children in the context of international migration.

The first such recommendation concerned the need for the inclusion of measures relating to children affected by migration in the periodic reporting to the Committee and for monitoring of their situation by national human rights institutions. The second stated that migrant children must never be detained and that family reunification must never serve as an argument for placing children in detention facilities. UNICEF was in fact part of a campaign mounted by the International Detention Coalition to end the detention of migrant children and a State Pledge to that effect was to be launched at the forthcoming Human Rights Council session in June 2014.

The third recommendation he had singled out underlined respect for the right of the child to family life in migration policies, legislation and measures and a guarantee that no child would be separated from his/her parents by State action or inaction. The fourth related to the availability of resources for the conduct of child rights impact assessments, the child-friendliness of the exercise, due process safeguards, free legal aid and the right of children to express their views in all decisions affecting them or their parents. The fifth pertained to the establishment of national child protection systems guaranteeing the primacy of the best interests of all exploited and abused children and children deprived of parental care.

The formulation of evidence-based policies was, however, jeopardized by the lack of data on the situation of children left behind, children in an irregular situation and children born to migrant parents. It was therefore important to collect better evidence of how migration affected the lives, rights and well-being of all such children.

Parliamentarians played a critical role in securing the rights of migrant children by adopting legislation guaranteeing access to basic services for all children, ratifying budgets with adequate resource allocations and ensuring the satisfactory implementation of government policies and commitments. Parliamentarians should also be involved in the periodic reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and ensure that migrant children were taken into account.

Children played no part in the creation of bases for differentiation and were born into deeply unequal societies but must not be regarded as victims of forces beyond their control. Instead, they must be given the opportunity to shape their lives. He expressed the hope that parliamentarians would use their influence in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda to draw attention to the needs and rights of migrant children.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Ponet for his comprehensive presentation, remarking also UNICEF's consistently reliable support to countries in the area of child migration and agreeing that parliamentarians must swiftly address the issues raised.

She welcomed the third and final panellist, Mr. Rolf Widmer, who had served as Director of the Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service (SSI - www.ssiss.ch) for the past 10 years, was in charge of a Swiss adoption centre Schweizerische Fachstelle für Adoption (www.adoption.ch). Since 1986, he had been President of the International Federation of Educative Communities (FICE) Switzerland (www.fice-inter.net). She invited him to join in the discussion.

Mr. R. WIDMER, *Panellist*, said that SSI operated on the premise that all children had the right to grow up in a safe and stable environment and that it was the responsibility of society to create a framework for enabling all children to determine their own futures. Covering 140 countries, the SSI network had been providing support for the past 90 years to children and families across borders on the basis of cooperation rather than financial capacity. The needs of the children concerned were the primary consideration, irrespective of their status, and the SSI network indeed promoted application of the Convention of the Rights of the Child to migrant children. It was also actively engaged in setting up in-country support services for children in difficulty.

Through its expert teams, the SSI network worked to provide children in host countries with access to care, information on their rights, basic living requirements and education and vocational training to facilitate integration. It was important to assign a local contact person to help children adapt to life in the host country and to ensure family reunification in the country of origin or, where necessary, in either the host country or a third country. Procedures must be adapted to the situation and needs of the individual child, for whom a legal guardian must also be appointed to safeguard his or her rights. Children must be involved in all decisions relating to their future, be it integration in the host country or reintegration in the country of origin or a third country, which was never a question of repatriation.

Citing examples of good practice, he stated that Finland requested social assessment reports from SSI to assist with its decision-making on asylum requests; and that Spain, under its Constitution, reviewed the situation of protected minors in terms of their capacity to integrate once they reached 18 years of age. Children arriving in host countries should be welcomed personally and in an age-appropriate manner; have the same access to education and training as other children; be given a youth-oriented information pack; undergo a skills assessment; and receive subsidies. There should also be a website for contact with their diaspora and, as already mentioned, they should each be assigned a legal representative and also a contact person, who might be a volunteer.

Concerning reintegration, programmes should be established for carrying out social assessments and preparing each individual child for what lay ahead; efforts made to capitalize on the added value of migration; follow-up carried out to help children cope once back in their countries of origin; and attention devoted in particular to children who arrived in host countries as minors and returned to their countries of origin as adults. SSI had in recent years assisted over 3,000 children through a West African network it had set up to provide reintegration support (www.resao.ch). In short, the key issue was how to best coordinate actions among countries in order to achieve the best interests of the child. The creation of a secure environment enabling children to forge a better future was inherently a collective responsibility.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. Widmer for his informative insight and invited comments and questions from the floor.

Ms. T. BOONTONG (Thailand) related that, according to a recent IOM report, some 15 per cent of the total migrant population in Thailand were children, including 128,000 children of registered migrant workers, 54,000 children of displaced persons and 82,000 children of unregistered migrants. Thailand was currently adapting its migration policy in preparation for the economic integration of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2015, which would facilitate the movement of workers between ASEAN Member States. As a leading migrant destination, it had sought to implement policies promoting the rights of its estimated 2.5 million migrant workers, who received some protection under its labour laws through a national verification programme.

All children born in the country were now entitled to birth registration, even if their parents were non-Thai nationals. Although registration did not confer nationality, it established a legal record of place of birth and parents, thereby helping to prevent statelessness among refugee children, who could use the birth certificate for acquiring nationality on return to their home country. Children of displaced persons also had non-discriminatory access to protection services and other rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms. A.R. AGA (India) wondered whether children would not be better off in a detention centre if it meant being with their parents and assured of education, health and security. She also asked about the centrality of counselling for children to prevent psychological scarring that might interfere with their education. Furthermore, while agreeing that the best interests of the child were paramount, the attention devoted to achieving those interests was resource-dependent and she therefore pondered whether developing countries would be justified in affording more attention to the rights of migrant children than to the rights of their own children.

Mr. D. PONET, *Panellist*, replied that family reunification in detention centres could be used as a pretext for detention. Avoiding the slippery slope was therefore preferable. Moreover, any description of such centres as healthy reunifying environments providing basic services was altogether misleading. He agreed that psychosocial counselling should be a paramount service provided to migrant children, who were likely to be in a state of emotional distress that could indeed hamper them in benefiting from education and other opportunities.

Mr. E. KAWILARANG (Indonesia) asked what the minimum acceptable requirements were for detention centres and about the scope for further collaboration on migration issues between origin, transit and destination countries.

Ms. A. NAUMCHIK (Belarus), outlining the Belarusian experience, said that under a law adopted in 1995, refugees had the same social and economic rights as citizens and refugee children were entitled to education and health care free of charge. Numerous centres had been established to provide social services for families and children in extreme situations and there was a body of legislation and presidential decrees dedicated to such matters as marriage and the family, assistance for families with children, children's rights and children without parents. Under a plan of action for improving the situation of children and protecting their rights, public authorities were obliged to ensure the rights of refugee children to education and oversee their living arrangements.

Ms. N. TOKASHIKI (Japan) suggested that it might be useful to incorporate a traditional Japanese concept known as "wa", meaning harmony, into the draft resolution on the present topic of discussion. Relating to the primacy of community interests, that concept had been instrumental in enabling the Japanese nation to cope with the aftermath of the terrible earthquake suffered three years earlier. Raising awareness of the "wa" concept among communities would enhance the protection of vulnerable children.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) noted that there had been no mention of those coerced into migrating by brute force, as in the case of the Palestinian people at the time of Israel's establishment on a large part of Palestinian territory in 1948. Palestinians had been forcibly dispersed to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as to neighbouring countries, where families and their offspring remained languishing in refugee camps to the present day. Several hundred Palestinian children were in Israeli prisons, while countless others were either denied access to education through restrictions on movement or forced to abandon education to take over from family breadwinners serving Israeli prison sentences.

Mr. R. NOROUZI (Islamic Republic of Iran), highlighting the situations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic as examples, wondered what kind of protection should be provided for migrant children in urgent need of assistance. His own country was host to 250,000 child migrants whose social, educational, health and other rights must be protected, which was a challenge for parliamentarians, who were responsible for ensuring such protection.

Ms. A. KHALID PERVEZ (Pakistan) asked about the type of subsidies and counselling that developing countries such as hers might provide to migrant children, especially those returning. Furthermore, who would monitor counselling and ensure that it was appropriate?

Mrs. E. CHAPIDZE (Georgia) said that the 300,000 persons internally displaced in her country from its Russian-occupied territories prompted her to ask how best to protect the educational and other rights of migrant children living in poor economic circumstances.

Mr. M. ANIH (ECOWAS Parliament) asked whether IOM exerted pressure on countries that assisted the movement of unaccompanied migrants by, for example, allowing African children to board overcrowded vessels bound for Europe only for them to perish on the journey. Second, was policy-making assistance provided to developing countries with a view to discouraging rural-to-urban migration in order to minimize the problems associated with it?

Ms. F. ALJAMANI (Arab Parliament) remarked that the number of child migrants of all categories was only bound to increase for all the reasons cited by the panellists and that they were more at risk without support. Already the Middle East crises had produced an upsurge in child migrants, who were working at a young age to feed and assist their families. In Jordan alone, there were 323,044 migrant children from the Syrian Arab Republic subsisting in camps on minimal assistance and without education or health care. The Arab Parliament would seek to ensure that international instruments relating to migrant children were properly implemented in its region and called for international assistance and support in order to protect those children.

Mr. D. PONET, *Panellist*, responding to the question about detention centre standards, said that UNICEF was opposed to all confinement of children in detention centres on principle; it was a form of institutionalizing children, who were particularly vulnerable and exploitable and did not fare well in such centres. It was nonetheless the case that children did find themselves in detention centres, which should therefore as a minimum be staffed by professionals delivering psychosocial, health and educational services that were both culturally and child-sensitive and protected children against the vulnerabilities associated with institutionalized care.

Concerning coordination between countries of origin, transit and destination, it was often non-existent and furthermore complicated by the variations in the driving forces of migration and the unpredictability of the circumstances that led children from one place to another. Coordination was inevitably limited in crisis situations, where migration could be interpreted as an emergency mechanism for coping with difficult circumstances. As one speaker had indicated, however, some countries were also concerned to prevent out-migration.

With respect to migrant children in particularly needy circumstances, free health care, education and school meals were examples of services that parliamentarians could legislate to provide, bearing in mind that in some countries children born to migrants were stateless and in others not. Legislative remedies must, however, be underpinned by financial commitments.

Mr. R. WIDMER, *Panellist*, added that no ideal solution had yet been found for dealing with crisis situations that produced vast numbers of migrant children, who must each be treated as individuals, remain fed and also have access to recreational and other facilities enabling them simply to enjoy their childhood. Global solidarity was the way forward. Support could be extended to countries in difficulty through, for example, the establishment of partnerships with affluent countries possessing the wherewithal to assist with various situations.

Concerning disincentives to migration, they would be promoted by better coordination at the domestic level to identify local needs and accordingly develop and implement appropriate strategies for addressing those needs. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in establishing such coordination to avoid wasted energy, enhance efficiency and accomplish the goal of delivering support to children, including access to play areas and toys, which was a simple and cost-effective investment.

Ms. A. FONSECA, *Panellist*, also reacting to issues raised during the discussion, re-emphasized the key role of parliamentarians in changing the negative perceptions of migration, which was a first step towards finding bolder and more sustainable solutions to a process that was complex and inevitable. Restrictive policies did not necessarily achieve their intended purpose of halting migrant outflows. A case in point mentioned was the migration to Europe that continued despite such policies and the number of deaths among those attempting to cross the Mediterranean, which IOM repeatedly highlighted. A more constructive approach was to identify future migrant flows and their expected composition, including children.

Suggested actions were to work for a better understanding of migrant flows between origin and destination countries and develop a dialogue for tackling the root causes of migration; identify genuine alternatives to placing migrants, particularly children, in detention, which ran counter to international human rights principles and precluded the pursuit of educational and other rights; determine the best interests of migrant children; and promote preparedness by engaging civil protection actors in the field to assist the most vulnerable in times of crisis.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists and participants for an enlightening discussion on an intricate subject. With the support of organizations, stakeholders and actors on the ground, progress in the tremendous amount of work still ahead could be achieved.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

Panel discussion on: *Reasons for the high turnover of parliamentarians at elections*

SITTING OF THURSDAY, 20 MARCH

(Afternoon)

The panel discussion was opened at 2.35 p.m., with Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay) in the Chair.

The MODERATOR said that the topic under discussion was an important one, as it related to the functioning of parliaments in a democratic system and had various positive and negative implications. He welcomed all participants and introduced the two panellists, Ms. M.-A. Rose and Mr. A. Burt, Parliamentarians from the Seychelles and United Kingdom, respectively.

Ms. M.-A. ROSE (Seychelles), *Panellist*, said that in her country, it was not uncommon for parliamentarians to choose not to stand for re-election because of the complexity of the job and the opportunities available in the private sector. One issue to ponder was whether the package available to members of parliaments, in terms of salary and other benefits, was a factor in their decision on whether to run for another term. In the Seychelles, individuals were elected on a party ticket and the political parties were often not willing to field candidates, including incumbent members, who risked losing their seat.

The most recent elections in the country had seen 71 per cent of candidates being elected to parliament for the first time; such a high turnover meant that there was, in effect, virtually an entirely new parliament. Contributing factors included the natural replacement of older members by younger candidates and the fact that voters had chosen candidates with formal, professional backgrounds and qualifications to replace traditional party activists. Furthermore, the number of women elected as members had risen to 43 per cent, in part because more female candidates had been fielded to replace male candidates. The proportion of young parliamentarians had also increased.

The Seychelles had noted both advantages and disadvantages to the high turnover rate. One obvious impact was a loss of institutional memory and a lack of continuity in parliamentary work, especially at the committee level. Greater resources also needed to be spent on training and increasing the exposure of new members. However, with the higher proportion of women and young parliamentarians, the parliament was now much more inclusive and reflected a greater range of interests and views. It had provided an opportunity to consider and appreciate both new and traditional perspectives and practices and weigh their merits against each other.

With a greater number of interest groups represented in parliament, including business, the private sector, NGOs, local activists and environmental activists, there was also, crucially, greater oversight of the government's actions and performance.

Mr. A. BURT (United Kingdom), *Panellist*, said that, in the United Kingdom, the average turnover of parliamentarians at elections or in the course of the parliament was much less dramatic than the figure from the Seychelles, and stood at about 25 per cent. However, it was occasionally heavily influenced by other factors; a parliamentary expenses scandal had led to a 35 per cent turnover at the last general election in 2010.

That election had provided an opportunity for new and fresh perspectives to enter parliament in the wake of the scandal and had given renewed impetus to the parliamentary committee system. For the first time, committee membership was not decided by the party whips but by other members of parliament. That change boosted the status of the committees and weakened the power of patronage that had been present before. He agreed with the previous panellist on the need to strike a balance between new ideas and traditional practices, underscoring that modern parliaments should not be afraid of change but should also be willing to defend older practices if they continued to produce the desired results. Of the new members elected, 22 per cent had been women, which had helped achieve the highest proportion of women in parliament than ever before, although the total was still much lower than desired.

A key question on the subject of turnover was whether more people were choosing to leave parliament rather than waiting to be re-elected or removed by voters at an election. There were various reasons why an individual might choose to leave, including the issue of the public

perception of politicians. When that perception worsened and politicians became less popular, people were sometimes persuaded not to enter politics in the first place or, if they were already in parliament, they decided not to stand for re-election. Parliamentarians often contributed to their own unpopularity and should always strive to ensure that the necessary standards of conduct were met, including by holding each other to account and continuing to represent the interests of the constituents who had voted them into office.

MPs' salaries and allowances were another contributing factor. In the United Kingdom, there was great public pressure to ensure that parliamentarians' pay was reasonable but not glorious, that was to say, in line with a mid-range civil service salary. It was therefore higher than the average salary nationwide, but not nearly as high as what individuals could earn by working at a comparative level outside of politics, including in the private sector. That caused concern on occasion, but judging what an appropriate parliamentary salary should be continued to be a difficult task.

Another factor was whether people saw a parliamentary career as a job for life. Increasingly, new members who came from a business or private sector background were used to an environment where, after three years, they either moved up in the company or moved on. In parliament there was, by its nature, much less opportunity for promotion and some individuals would choose to leave if they did not see a chance to enhance their role. Others coming from outside politics might simply decide at the outset to only commit to one or two terms in parliament before returning to the sector in which they had worked before. While it had an impact on turnover, there were benefits to having a combination of those who saw parliamentary service as a lifelong career and built up considerable experience as a result and those who came from, and quickly returned to, the private sector and were able to suggest new ideas or ways of doing things without running the risk of becoming institutionalized.

A final issue related to the particular situation of female parliamentarians, who were often not favoured by candidate selection processes. Furthermore, recently in the United Kingdom, a number of women who had been elected for the first time at the last election had declared that they would not be seeking re-election for various reasons. It prompted speculation that parliament was aggressive and had an uncomfortable atmosphere for women; there was some evidence to support that claim, although it was contested by others, including other women who believed that, male or female, a person had to be tough to survive in politics and nobody could expect special treatment. However, it was clear that there were difficulties associated with the caring responsibilities that tended to fall more to women than to men. Women often bore the burden of caring for children as well as elderly parents, the pressures of which were not always conducive to a parliamentary career.

Debate

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that, compared with countries with very advanced political sectors, there was still a trend in his country's political system towards traditional practices. One key example was that historically, leaders had always adopted an open-door policy, which meant that when it came to elections, the public was more critical in their appraisal of candidates, questioning why they should vote for a certain individual when they had direct access to the leader. However, while older parliaments in other countries might be hindered by the bureaucracy and practices that had built up over time, in his country there was more scope for change, including in the way that alliances might be formed between smaller groups and parties.

Various factors affected parliamentary participation in the United Arab Emirates. As the country continued to develop and different sectors were built up, the same trends were appearing as has been mentioned by others, with people deciding that they had a better chance of landing a good job in the private or non-political sectors, where the financial reward was greater. There were two levels of government, however, federal and local, and the former had no jurisdiction over the latter, which had helped greatly to reduce levels of corruption.

In comparing the national government and parliament, the government arguably had greater responsibilities, but it also had greater and more varied tools at its disposal, including in terms of establishing strategies. That meant that as the government sought to lead change, it enjoyed more stability than parliament did. That was in part because the public's expectations of both differed; expectations of parliamentarians were higher as they sometimes made promises relating to their legislative or oversight role that they could then not fulfil as they did not have the necessary tools at their disposal.

Parliamentary participation was also affected by the stereotyping of politicians. They seemed to have a poor reputation in every culture but, often, it stemmed from people entering politics with good intentions about what they wanted to do, only to find once they got there that they simply could not. Sometimes they did not have the art of compromise or the ability to balance the interests of different groups and manage conflict. People then found that they could not always accept the system and left again.

There was a difference in turnover between countries with more or less stable parliamentary systems. Some countries also experienced revolutions and, compounded by globalization, people's expectations tended to be higher and they expected to have more power to communicate what they wanted from governments and to achieve their goals. The concept note for the discussion had stated that parliamentarians often became more skilled after the first term. In order to ensure re-election, they therefore needed to be provided with all necessary information and training, including in how to temper expectations and learn to compromise.

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) said that the rate of turnover of parliamentarians varied between countries as the relevant factors differed depending on each country's system and culture. Electoral systems had a significant impact on the composition of parliaments; it had been said that a single-member constituency system tended to create a two-party system, giving rise to more frequent government change.

The most recent election for the House of Representatives, the lower house, in Japan in 2012, had seen a turnover of roughly 40 per cent. With such a high number of incumbents losing their seats to new members, there were considerable consequences in terms of parliament's ability to oversee the government. Furthermore, the strength of legislation in the House also diminished. The IPU should consider studying electoral systems, including how candidates were authorized and quotas allocated to constituencies, to ensure that incumbents with specialist knowledge were able to continue their work in parliament.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India) agreed with other speakers that, while the reasons for the high turnover of parliamentarians differed between countries, it could have both positive and negative effects. It created space for new generations of representatives to enter parliament, bring new energy to the institution, and also provided the opportunity for increased representation of women, young people and minority groups. However, there were concerns that high turnover could negatively impact the effectiveness of the work being done by parliament. There needed to be a careful balance of experienced parliamentarians and new members who brought fresh vigour and new ideas to the institution.

There were no limits in India on the number of times an individual could stand for re-election, although the political parties played a major role in selecting candidates, prioritizing the winning prospects of a candidate above their age, experience, gender and social status. However, at the forthcoming general election in India in April and May 2014, there would be an increase in the number of voters who were 18 and 19 years old to about 2.88 per cent of the total electorate and the political parties had to take that into consideration as they selected their candidates.

When India first achieved independence, concerns had been raised globally about how poor and illiterate sectors of the population would be able to judge who was a better candidate and vote in elections. That point of view had now been completely dismissed; the highest percentage of votes had long come from poorer sectors of society that believed that they had a high stake in democracy in India. Indeed, at the most recent elections, some of the richest constituencies had some of the lowest voter turnout rates.

Women were now voting in ever-greater numbers and there had been a movement in recent years to reserve approximately 30 per cent of parliamentary seats for women. A bill making provision for that had already been passed in the upper house of parliament, but no consensus had yet been reached in the lower house as there were many diverse views on the issue. Some women did not accept the principle that political parties should be forced to reserve a third of seats for women as they believed that the parties would then assign them riskier seats that would be harder to win.

Regarding younger voters, increased use of social media had had a considerable impact on their political participation, which would no doubt be seen during the next election. It was likely that the proportion of young parliamentarians elected to replace older parliamentarians would increase. However, there were also some unhealthy trends in India. Sometimes, when an older parliamentarian retired from his seat, his son or daughter was put forward as a candidate in the same seat. Despite there being a younger candidate, which on the face of it was not a bad thing, the seats often became, in effect, pocket boroughs. Elsewhere, when politicians lost power or did

not believe they could win a seat, they drafted in famous faces, such as cricket players or film stars, who would go on to win the seat. While they arguably added glamour to parliament, they did not always add value to its debates.

Mr. C. GAMOU (Uruguay) said that he found it interesting that women in parliament in the United Kingdom had said that they only wanted one term of office because it was “tough”. He was personally opposed to a positive discrimination law about to take effect in Uruguay that required one third of parliamentary candidates to be of a different gender, namely female. He did not believe that the legitimacy of a legislature had anything to do with being a man or a woman and there was a risk of people assuming that an MP was only there because she was a woman rather than because she was skilled enough to do the job.

In Uruguay, there was also concern among both government and opposition parties over the poor perception of parliamentarians, which seemed to be exacerbated by the increased use of social media. However, when Uruguay’s military dictatorship ended, there was what might be termed a “democratic spring” and a considerable increase in the public’s positive perception of politicians and parliament. The same had also been seen in other countries in similar situations, such as Spain following the death of Franco. That high level of approval and trust then dwindled and plateaued. There had never been any serious studies on the public’s opinion of parliamentarians but he did not believe that people had a worse opinion at present than they had had previously, rather that the perception of politicians had always been roughly the same, with a considerable improvement in opinion at the end of a dictatorship, for example, which peaked before falling back to an average level.

Strong democratic institutions would guarantee institutional continuity regardless of turnover rates. Parliaments should neither fear nor force greater youth participation; new ideas were good, but an overemphasis on the youth perspective would have deprived the world of many great parliamentarians, including Nelson Mandela and Ho Chi Minh.

Mr. A. VIEIRA (Trinidad and Tobago) said that parliamentary proceedings in his country were broadcast live and repeats of the broadcasts were shown regularly, which had greatly boosted public awareness of the parliamentary process. He underscored the importance of parliamentary support staff; his own parliament had the benefit of excellent clerks and general secretaries, who provided vital institutional memory. Investment in new technologies and in strengthening support staff would help to improve the functioning of parliament regardless of the levels of turnover of members.

He expressed concern over the trend in some countries for the electorate to no longer vote on the basis of the individual candidate, but on a partisan or fixed-bloc basis.

Mr. A. RIVADENEYRA HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico) said that the electoral system in his country prevented him from commenting on the turnover of parliamentarians at elections. Re-election would not be permitted in Mexico until the constitutional amendments brought earlier that year came into effect in 2018, reversing the ban on re-election that had followed the revolution in the country in the early 20th century.

His own political party had called for many years for re-election to be allowed, as it was a tool of citizenship power. It was not the right of politicians but of the voter to determine whether a parliamentarian merited another term in office. He believed that reforming the constitution to include provisions on re-election would bring various benefits to the Mexican parliament, including making it a more professional and transparent institution.

Ms. M.-A. ROSE (Seychelles), *Panellist*, said that an interesting issue had been raised by the speaker from Trinidad and Tobago on increasing public participation in the parliamentary process. With increased use of social media and people becoming more informed and more concerned about that process than before, parliamentarians needed to find new ways to persuade voters to elect and re-elect them.

There had been several references to increasing women’s participation in parliament. She agreed with the Uruguayan speaker; in the Seychelles they had achieved a significant proportion of women in parliament but had managed to do so without a quota system or any type of affirmative action. Much of it came down to those women showing themselves to be effective and efficient. Mr. Burt had mentioned reports of women finding it tough in politics; she believed however, that it should be tough, not only for women but also for men. Regardless of who they were, no individual should seek re-election if they were not up to the task as a parliamentarian.

It was important to make parliaments more effective institutions, including through strengthening the support staff. It also needed to be recognized that the dynamics of politics, although not the underlying principles, changed over time. One element was the extent to which parliamentarians encouraged citizens to take responsibility and to foster an attitude of engagement among the public. It was true that parliamentarians did not wish to be seen as unpopular, which often meant that they would tell the electorate what it wanted to hear. It was, however, more important to be honest about particular issues and to take the hard decisions that were ultimately in the best interests of the citizens and the country.

Mr. A. BURT (United Kingdom), *Panellist*, said that it was clear that the nature of the job of a parliamentarian had changed. The idea, at least in the United Kingdom, that members of parliament were always making significant national or international decisions had diminished as the expectations of constituents regarding activity at the local level had become much greater and would only continue to grow with increased use of social media. Parliamentarians could not forget that their primary responsibility was to their local constituents. Indeed, some now felt that their job was as much, or sometimes more, about being a super local-authority councillor or social worker as being a national figure. Some found that more fulfilling, while others found it less so, especially when it was combined with the increasingly high expectations of the electorate.

He agreed that parliamentarians had a duty to communicate honestly with the public. Party politics often led to a competition for votes and popularity. If there was an issue that one party was failing to resolve according to expectations, their opposition party often compounded the problem by claiming that it could solve it, only to try at a later stage and also fail. The expectations of the public would be more realistic and better served if all parties were honest and agreed that the issue could not be resolved, or at least not by one party alone.

Japan had rightly raised the point that turnover varied according to the different electoral systems of countries. Statistics had shown, however, that it did not as much as one might expect, although that did not preclude the need to select a voting system that was appropriate to a national context and which allowed as much balance between continuity and change in parliament as was desired. India has also raised an interesting point about the changing nature of political participation in the country, which was supported by a recent article in the *New York Times*. Many people who previously felt outside the political class now believed that they were able to participate; they did not come from political backgrounds but from professional or technical backgrounds, which reflected the type of people that the electorate wanted to see more of in parliament. As that trend continued, there would be a clear impact on the rate of turnover of parliamentarians.

Regarding women's participation, he clarified that he had not meant that all women in politics in the United Kingdom found it tough. The debate was ongoing, with some women agreeing and others disagreeing with that notion. The important issue to address was why the proportion of women in the parliament was still as low as it was, a key element of which was the relative advantages or disadvantages of all-women shortlists. Some parties favoured them while others were strongly opposed to them. If such shortlists or quotas were not to be used the question remained, in the United Kingdom at least, over how to encourage greater participation by women.

He agreed with the comment by Trinidad and Tobago on the need for a strong support staff within parliament, especially as modern parliaments needed to function much like other companies by ensuring proper personnel management and career development, which would help to strengthen the institution.

The MODERATOR thanked the two panellists and other speakers for their many insights into the subject, which would provide a good basis for continuing to review trends in turnover rates and whether or how parliaments were able to adapt to changes in the way that political activities were carried out.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

Sitting of Thursday, 20 March (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 3.55 p.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

A commemorative video, “Reflections on the IPU”, was screened, in which parliamentarians from around the world spoke of the IPU’s work and achievements over its 125-year history.

Item 3 of the agenda

Resumption of the debate

General Debate on The IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy

The PRESIDENT delivered his summary of the General Debate, as contained in document A/130/3-R.

The summary of the debate was unanimously endorsed by the Assembly.

Item 9 of the agenda

Emergency item on *Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU*

Ms. T. MUSHELENGA (Namibia), rapporteur for the emergency item, said that the drafting committee on the emergency item resolution had met the previous day. The plenary discussion on the item had provided an opportunity for participants to exchange genuine concerns, in particular on the current situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic. There had been a call for the immediate cessation of armed violence, with many emphasizing the need to urgently establish an environment conducive to negotiating peace in the country.

The resolution, which was the outcome of the drafting committee’s work, reflected the genuine alarm of the international community regarding the increasingly serious humanitarian plight that affected the people of the Central African Republic, particularly the proliferation of human rights violations. The text also recognized the burden placed on neighbouring countries that were hosting refugees and the need for the international community to provide sufficient support to those countries.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Assembly could adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 4 of the agenda

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)

Mr. J.A. AGBRE TOUNI (Côte d’Ivoire), speaking on behalf of MS C. GUITTET (France), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that the drafting committee had met in the afternoon of 17 March and the morning of 18 March to consider the First Standing Committee’s draft resolution. A number of important changes to the text were made during the drafting process.

First, a set of amendments had been agreed to change the order of the two main aims of the resolution. Thus, disarmament was the first objective and non-proliferation the second. The text also stressed the positive contributions of the conferences held on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and made reference to various recent agreements that showed that the path to non-proliferation and disarmament was possible, including the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the Russian Federation and United States of America and the interim agreement made between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany. Furthermore, amendments were approved on references to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the need for the universal implementation of the IAEA's system of safeguards and to its additional protocol.

Strong references were included to the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and countries' obligations regarding disarmament and under the CTBT, its Preparatory Commission and surveillance system. The resolution also called on all States that had not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so and further called on States to respect existing moratoria on testing. Additions were made to the draft regarding fissile material, urging parliaments to monitor implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 and calling on governments to establish moratoria on fissile material production. Lastly, amendments were made to include a call for an international day on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus by the Standing Committee, but reservations were expressed on certain paragraphs by the delegations of Cuba, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

Mr. H.K. DUA (India), confirming his delegation's reservations to paragraphs 6, 7, and 17 of the operative part of the resolution, underscored India's full commitment to global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and support for the references in the resolution to global disarmament, reducing the role of nuclear weapons and combatting nuclear terrorism. There was a need, however, for a multilateral, non-discriminatory framework.

His country had a longstanding, consistent position against the NPT, viewing it as a discriminatory treaty. Despite not being a party to that treaty, India was committed to global, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament within a specified timeframe. India was also not a party to the CTBT, although it had been one of the first States to call for a ban on nuclear testing. India believed that such a text should be anchored in the framework of disarmament.

India had also taken a longstanding position on the fissile material cut-off treaty; the country supported negotiations on such a cut-off within the Conference on Disarmament and therefore saw no need for a moratorium on the production of fissile material, pending further negotiations within that forum.

Mr. T. IQBAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation had explained its position on aspects of the draft resolution in detail during the Standing Committee meetings and wished to reiterate Pakistan's reservations on paragraphs 7, 10 and 20 of the preamble and paragraphs 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 and 19 of the operative part. Pakistan would not be bound by the provisions of those paragraphs.

His country remained unwaveringly committed to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world but believed it could only be achieved through non-discriminatory measures that provided equal and undiminished security for all States.

Mr. M.M. ZAHEDI (Islamic Republic of Iran), after commending the hard work that had gone into drafting the resolution, said that his delegation had expressed the rationale behind its reservations in the Standing Committee meetings. He wished to place on record his delegation's reservations on paragraphs 11 and 21 of the preamble and paragraphs 11, 12, and 15 of the operative part of the text.

The delegate of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that, while his delegation supported the spirit of the resolution, it had reservations on paragraphs 1 and 2 of the operative part.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus and the reservations expressed were noted.

Item 5 of the agenda**Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints**
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)

Mr. H.R. MOHAMED (United Republic of Tanzania), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that the drafting of the resolution by the Second Standing Committee had taken place in plenary the previous day. The Committee had considered 42 amendments proposed by member parliaments and an additional five by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and had done its best to accommodate as many as possible. Overall, two-thirds were incorporated into the final draft. The Committee had worked efficiently and cooperatively and had adopted the text of the resolution as a whole at its final meeting earlier that day. He commended the resolution to the Assembly for adoption.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda**The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of armed conflict**
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)

Ms. J. NASSIF (Bahrain), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that there were 45 million child migrants around the world who faced threats to their lives and futures every day. They suffered discrimination, exploitation, religious extremism and sexual abuse, did not have access to education or health services and were not able to live like normal children. The resolution before the Assembly aimed to send a clear message affirming the rights of children, particularly migrant children, and to prevent their exploitation in conflict situations.

Many of the written comments submitted by delegations had been incorporated into the draft and all delegations present at the Committee's meetings had been actively involved in finalizing the text and resolving any remaining issues. One significant change that had been made to the resolution was its title; members of the Committee agreed it was more appropriate to refer to situations of "armed conflict" rather than of situations of "war and conflict".

The resolution went on to call upon States that had not yet done so to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It also recommended that the minimum age for military service be set at 18 years and called on parliaments to prohibit discrimination against children. Further, the text urged parliaments to ensure the provision of necessary services, including medical treatment and counselling, to children; it was particularly important for those who had been separated from their families. Lastly, the resolution called on parliaments to work closely with the IPU, in particular its geopolitical groups, to develop and strengthen systems to ensure the protection of children and their rights.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the resolution and amend its title.

It was so decided.

The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

Item 7 of the agenda**Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Mr. M. TRAORE (Burkina Faso), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that the Committee had met for the first time the previous day as the newly established fourth Standing Committee, rather than as an ad hoc IPU committee. The Bureau of the Committee had also been established during that meeting, after which it met and agreed to appoint Ms. D.-T. Avgerinopoulou (Greece) and Mr. M. El Hassan Al Amin (Sudan) as President and Vice-President of the Standing Committee, respectively.

The Standing Committee had chosen to discuss the interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU and had heard from Mr. M. Møller, Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, on his perspective on that subject. It was underscored during that discussion that parliaments were a key factor in the commitments entered into by governments, as it was they who put those commitments into effect, through legislation and monitoring implementation. The Committee also discussed the draft resolution on “Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU”, which was due to be considered by the General Assembly later in the year.

The United Nations and its agencies did a great deal of work in the field; the Committee heard from Mr. S.D. Desras, the Speaker of the Haitian Senate, who reported on the situation in his country and what the United Nations was doing on the ground there to help rebuild the country following the earthquake in 2010. The discussion also looked at the findings of a mission that the Committee had sent to Haiti earlier in the year, including on the state of the recovery of the parliamentary system.

The Committee also discussed the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals that were due to be adopted. Three panellists, Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador), Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada) and Mr. C. Chauvel (UNDP) had spoken on the subject. Various points had emerged from the discussion, in particular that both the IPU and national parliaments needed to have clear involvement in setting the objectives, that a holistic approach was needed to sustainable development and that the goals needed to be universal in their reach, but appropriately tailored to regional or national needs or contexts. Governance was also vital to achieving the goals and countries should ensure that robust governance systems were in place. Lastly, the crucial role of women needed to be recognized in a specific goal.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Item 8 of the agenda**Approval of the subject items to be taken up by the Standing Committees and appointment of the Rapporteurs**

The PRESIDENT said that the four Standing Committees had met and endorsed the items and Rapporteurs for the 131st and 132nd Assemblies, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, and Hanoi, Viet Nam, respectively. A second co-Rapporteur would be announced in due course for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

The proposed subject items for the 131st and 132nd Assemblies were approved, together with a list of Rapporteurs.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly had concluded its formal business. He declared that the debates during the Assembly had been marked by a number of crises and many statements had been made in particular about the situations in the Central African Republic, Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. While the Assembly had voted to include the proposal on the Central African Republic as its emergency item, the other crises remained no less urgent.

The IPU had called for restraint in the Syrian Arab Republic since the start of that crisis and continued to condemn the acts of violence that were being committed. The organization had urged the international community to provide assistance to the millions of persons who had been displaced by the conflict and regularly reiterated the need for all parties to negotiate a peaceful solution and end the hostilities. Inclusive political dialogue alone would bring an end to the war and destruction and alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.

The unfolding events in Ukraine were deeply worrying. The IPU had been founded on the notion that crises needed peaceful resolutions and the organization continued to advocate inclusive dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding, which was no less important in Ukraine than anywhere else.

The debates during the Assembly had shown that Members remained committed to those fundamental principles and the IPU therefore continued to call for peaceful solutions to the three crises.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, paid tribute to the President of the Assembly, Mr. Radi, for having steered the week's work so well. The Arab Group also congratulated Mr. Chungong on his election as the next Secretary General of the IPU and affirmed its commitment to working with him to meet the organization's objectives. The Arab Group commended the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Johnsson, for all that he had done while in office and wished him every success for his future.

Mr. P.-F. VEILLON (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, first congratulated Mr. Chungong on his election as Secretary General, and then went on to commend the valuable debate during the Assembly on the IPU as it celebrated 125 years and its continued focus on peace and democracy. Recalling the reforms to the organization that had recently taken effect, he underscored the need for greater effectiveness, which was the responsibility of the Bureaux, and for greater professionalism and visibility, which was the responsibility of the Secretariat. The IPU needed to ensure that the results and resolutions of its Assemblies were better marketed.

The Group welcomed the quality of the document on the mid-term review of the IPU Strategy for 2012–2017 and noted that the IPU must avoid spreading itself too thin, focusing only on what was essential to its mission in order to create a stronger organization. Regarding the budget, the Twelve Plus Group called for greater efforts to bring down the costs and expenditure of the IPU and thanked the Executive Committee for the work it was already doing on the budget.

Ms. B. BOUPHA (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, commended the work of the Group's members during the Assembly and its related meetings, which had been undertaken in a spirit of mutual understanding, trust, parliamentary solidarity and cooperation. She called, however, for greater cooperation between countries and the IPU Secretariat and for information on particular matters to be made available as early as possible.

The Group remained committed to promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including within the framework of the IPU.

The delegate of MEXICO, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, warmly congratulated Mr. Chungong on his appointment as the next Secretary General of the IPU before paying tribute to Mr. Johnsson for all the work he had done while in that role and for the support he had shown to the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean over the years.

The Group welcomed the selection of the subject item proposed by Uruguay, namely "Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security", which would be discussed by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security at the subsequent Assembly and expressed thanks for the support that had been shown at the present session to the Mexican co-Rapporteur in the discussions by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights on migrant children.

Mr. V. SENKO (Belarus), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, welcomed the productive work done by Members during the Assembly, which had shown that the IPU was on the right track in making the organization both more effective and visible and in enhancing the role of parliaments in finding solutions to key international issues.

By acting in a spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, dialogue and tolerance, the IPU and parliamentarians everywhere would play an increasingly significant role in securing peace and stability and promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Eurasia Group paid tribute to Mr. Johnsson for all he had achieved in his time as Secretary General and congratulated his successor, Mr. Chungong on his election.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, congratulated the IPU on its 125th anniversary, stating that the debates in recent days had underscored the invaluable role that the organization played in pursuing peace, democracy and freedom globally. The African Group paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. Johnsson, for his outstanding contribution to the IPU, including helping to modernize the organization and to promote diversity and balanced gender representation. The Group welcomed in particular the leading role he had played in strengthening African parliaments, emphasizing that strong democracies needed strong democratic institutions, including parliaments.

The African Group noted with concern the conflicts that were ongoing around the world, including in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Central African Republic. They were tragic reminders of the value of dialogue in peace and democracy. The IPU must continue to play its important role in the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace and democracy.

The Group congratulated Mr. Chungong on his election not just as Secretary General but as the first African Secretary General of the IPU and assured him of the Group's full support. With the experience that he would bring to the position, the organization was in good hands.

The IPU SECRETARY GENERAL, Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, congratulated his successor, Mr. Chungong, who was not only a colleague but also a friend; he would undoubtedly be a very capable and successful Secretary General. He assured the Assembly that there would be an appropriate period of overlap between the two and he would help Mr. Chungong in every way he could so that there was a smooth transfer of power on 1 July 2014.

He had been humbled at the present Assembly by the many kind and heartfelt words that had been addressed to him in his time as Secretary General. He would leave the IPU remembering the friendship that had been extended to him by so many.

The PRESIDENT echoed the congratulations expressed to Mr. Chungong on his election as the new Secretary General and said that he looked forward to working with him before his own term as President of the IPU came to an end. He commended the outgoing Secretary General for the valuable work he had done for the organization and wished him and his family every happiness.

The Assembly was closed at 5.25 p.m.

The IPU at 125: renewing our commitment to peace and democracy

Chair's summary of the debate

*Endorsed by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

On the occasion of the 130th IPU Assembly (17–20 March 2014), 715 parliamentarians from 150 national parliaments met in Geneva, Switzerland. They reflected on the work of the IPU since its establishment in 1889 and expressed their unflinching commitment to peace and democracy.

Over the past 125 years, the world has witnessed two world wars, chemical and nuclear attacks, revolution, insurgency and terrorism. During that time, the IPU has worked tirelessly to promote peace and stability through dialogue and negotiation and to support new democracies.

Throughout its history, the IPU's membership has grown to 164 parliaments from all over the world; its sphere of activity has broadened significantly. From its beginnings as the first example of institutionalized multilateral cooperation, the IPU has become the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue – an essential forum for the world's parliamentarians to interact, share ideas and experiences, and initiate joint action – advocating peace and cooperation among peoples, and striving for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

As the world organization of national parliaments, the IPU brings a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations. It provides a unique venue for parliamentarians to discuss global issues, and bring the voice of members of parliament to UN decision-making bodies. This strong and strategic two-way partnership, which is based on dialogue and exchange, sets a solid foundation for peace and democracy the world over. This vision is embodied in the IPU Strategy for 2012-2017, *Better parliaments, stronger democracies*.

In an increasingly globalized world, no individual is an island. Rapid advances in information and communication technology mean that people around the world are increasingly interconnected. Citizens are demanding more and better responses from their elected representatives. When their rights are flouted and freedoms denied, people lose their trust in governance structures and will put their lives on the line in protest. Recent popular uprisings serve to illustrate the strength of "people power". The world over, people want responsible governments and accountable leaders, stability and peace. Parliaments must meet that challenge. To ensure success, democracy must be home-grown and adapted to national realities.

The world is no safer than it was 125 years ago: transnational organized crime, cybercrime, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are but some of the serious threats to peace, security and fundamental rights. Peace is more than just the absence of conflict and violence; peace is the guarantee of the right of all citizens to participate in the development of society through representative democracy. The majority of operations to restore peace and security in post-conflict situations therefore share key goals: to elect a parliament that can ensure government by the people, for the people, and to build peace on a foundation of dialogue, cooperation and understanding.

Disarmament is the cornerstone of a safe world and parliamentarians have a key role to play in achieving it by assessing risks, legislating to mitigate those risks, and monitoring government compliance with domestic law and international obligations. Parliamentarians can build the legislative framework for a weapons-free world. Peace and security cannot be achieved through threats and the abuse of power; they must be carefully cultivated through dialogue, understanding, mutual respect and democracy.

Violations of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech, freedom of association and the freedom to travel, are violations of democracy. Freedom is not free: it comes at the price of respect, trust and equality. Poverty, hunger and marginalization lead to dissatisfaction and unrest, and leave people vulnerable to exploitation under the guise of promises of a better life.

Trafficking in persons, labour exploitation and sexual exploitation and brutality are, unfortunately, widespread. These modern-day forms of slavery constitute a grave violation of the basic rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The promotion and protection of human rights at the national level must therefore be driven by parliaments as a basic principle of democracy. Parliamentarians can legislate for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, they can monitor the executive's compliance with international obligations, and they must speak out on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society. Parliamentarians, as the voice of the people, entrusted by the people to strive for a just and equitable society, must fulfil that responsibility.

Sadly, in some countries, the human rights of parliamentarians themselves are not respected. Their freedom of expression is denied. They are victimized, imprisoned, or even murdered for speaking out on behalf of their people. The IPU plays a crucial role, through the work of its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, in bringing an end to these injustices. Using peaceful dialogue and negotiation the IPU obtains remarkable results, securing the release of political prisoners and redress for victims of violations.

True democracy simply cannot exist without equality and mutual respect. Women's participation in politics is essential. Unfortunately, women remain largely underrepresented in politics in many countries. The IPU's efforts to promote the inclusion of women in parliament have been invaluable and must continue. Similarly, the rights of indigenous peoples must be respected. Many indigenous peoples' livelihoods are endangered. Parliamentarians must uphold their responsibility to be the voice of all people, especially underrepresented minorities. The inclusion of all groups in society – indigenous peoples, women and young people – in political processes and decision-making, is the only way to ensure true equality, enhancing security, stability and peace.

Good governance and democracy are fundamental for progress in all areas of life and parliaments have a critical role to play in promoting a better world for all. Parliamentary input is needed now more than ever, as the international community embarks on the establishment of a new internationally agreed framework for development. Parliamentarians must pick up the gauntlet and play a central role in that process. They must steer efforts to attain the sustainable development goals, as a basis for equality, protection of basic civil, political, social and economic rights, and ultimately peace and security.

The post-2015 sustainable development goals must ensure democratic governance is a key commitment. Transparency, accountability, representative democracy and respect are components of the new development agenda, which must be linked to the world's parliaments to ensure its success for all people.

International democracy has evolved considerably since 1889, largely due to the central role played by the IPU in supporting the establishment of democratic forms of governance at the national and international levels alike. Throughout its history, the IPU has shown unwavering commitment to the promotion of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

In a changing world, 125 years after the IPU's inception, the vision of its founding fathers is as valid and true as ever. Many important lessons have been learned, not least that lasting peace and security can only be achieved through inclusive and participatory processes, and embodied in a representative and elected parliament.

Parliaments are the voice of the people. Now is the time to take up the lessons learned over 125 years of IPU history and use them to drive the next generation of change. The Member Parliaments of the IPU therefore renew their commitment to peace in the world, based on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

The 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Convinced of the need to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Affirming the key role of parliaments and parliamentarians in addressing nuclear risks and building the legislative and political framework needed to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Recalling previous IPU resolutions on the disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, in particular the resolution adopted by the 120th IPU Assembly (Addis Ababa, April 2009),

Noting with grave concern that more than 17,000 nuclear weapons exist worldwide, constituting a serious threat to international peace and security, and that any use of nuclear weapons, whether by accident, miscalculation or intent, would have devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences,

Welcoming the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo, Norway, in 2013 and in Narayit, Mexico, in February 2014, and the conference to be held in Vienna, Austria, in 2014,

Underscoring the mutually reinforcing nature of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Recognizing the importance of the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which embodies the international consensus on the need to pursue the interrelated pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy,

Reaffirming that all States must ensure compliance with their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations, especially those under the Non-Proliferation Treaty,

Also reaffirming the nuclear disarmament obligations of nuclear-weapon States under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, notably to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to urgent cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament, and the obligation of all NPT States Parties to pursue negotiations on general and complete disarmament,

Mindful of the 64-point Action Plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which, inter alia, "calls on all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts and affirms that all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons",

Noting its strong support for the essential work of the International Atomic Energy Agency and for the universal implementation of its system of safeguard agreements and their additional protocols as essential tools for strengthening the non-proliferation regime,

Also noting its strong support for the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and its monitoring system,

Further noting the partial contribution made by unilateral and bilateral disarmament initiatives, *reaffirming* the continued importance and relevance of multilateral frameworks and action, and *underlining* the urgent need for progress,

* The delegation of the Russian Federation expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 1 and 2. The delegation of India expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 6, 7 and 17. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 11 and 21 and on operative paragraphs 11, 12 and 15. The delegation of Pakistan expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 7, 10 and 20 and on operative paragraphs 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 and 19.

Noting the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament and his address on nuclear disarmament, of the opening Public Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament, held on 21 January 2014,

Also noting the New START Treaty and efforts made by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to implement it,

Affirming the key role of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of multilateral agreements to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Acknowledging the significant contribution made by a number of countries to realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament by establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and voluntarily renouncing nuclear weapon programmes or withdrawing all nuclear weapons from their territories,

Affirming that all States must ensure unconditional respect for such nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Welcoming the first ever High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament, held on 26 September 2013,

Encouraged by the emergence of other multilateral initiatives, including the United Nations General Assembly's decision to establish a group of governmental experts to begin discussion of possible elements of a fissile material cut-off treaty and to set up the United Nations Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations,

Welcoming the Geneva interim agreement of 24 November 2013 between the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the one hand, and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany, on the other, which paves the way for the gradual lifting of economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic in exchange for an in-depth review of its nuclear programme; *inviting* all the parties to the agreement to apply all its provisions faithfully and speedily,

Determined to work with governments and civil society to generate and mobilize the political will needed to achieve a world without nuclear weapons,

1. *Calls on* all Member Parliaments and parliamentarians to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as objectives of the highest priority and urgency;
2. *Encourages* parliamentarians to engage in dialogue and to build multiparty networks and coalitions at all levels in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation;
3. *Appeals* to parliamentarians to educate citizens and raise awareness about the continuing dangers of nuclear weapons and the need for and benefits of their total elimination;
4. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to promote and commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons each year on 26 September, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/32;
5. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage their governments to advance the goal of a sustainable nuclear-weapon-free world in all appropriate international forums and treaty bodies and to take the necessary concrete steps to that end;
6. *Calls for* the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and *appeals* to parliaments to ensure that States that have not signed and ratified the Treaty do so without further delay or any conditions;
7. *Highlights* the importance of securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and *urges* those States identified in Annex 2 of the Treaty, in particular nuclear weapon States, that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of signing and ratifying it, as a matter of priority and an indication of their political will and commitment to international peace and security, and in the meantime to respect their moratoria on nuclear tests;
8. *Calls on* all States to refrain from conducting any kind of nuclear weapon test;
9. *Stresses* the need for parliamentarians to work with their governments to ensure full compliance with all provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and all commitments under the 2000 NPT Review Conference (the 13 practical steps) and the 2010 NPT Review Conference (the Action Plan);

10. *Calls on* parliaments to work together and with governments and civil society to build momentum for a constructive NPT Review Conference in 2015;
11. *Urges* parliaments to strengthen the safety of all nuclear materials, including those intended for military use, notably by monitoring the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and by ensuring the ratification of relevant multilateral treaties such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment;
12. *Calls on* parliaments in States that have not yet done so to bring into force, as soon as possible, a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol, which, together, constitute essential elements of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards system;
13. *Calls on* parliamentarians to use all available tools, including committees, closely to monitor national implementation of the above commitments, including by scrutinizing legislation, budgets and progress reports;
14. *Recommends* that parliaments urge their governments to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or on a package of agreements to help achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, as outlined in the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point proposal and noted in the 2010 NPT Review Conference Action Plan;
15. *Also recommends* that parliaments urge their governments to start multilateral negotiations on a verifiable, robust, non-discriminatory and multilateral treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
16. *Encourages* parliaments in States possessing nuclear weapons to demand, in keeping with Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, deeper and faster action on disarmament and increased transparency from their governments in relation to nuclear weapons arsenals, stockpiled fissile material, and information on related programmes and spending;
17. *Invites* parliaments, pending a fissile material cut-off treaty, to encourage their governments who have not yet done so to establish a moratorium on the production of fissile material by unilaterally ceasing such production and dismantling their production facilities;
18. *Encourages* parliaments to work with their governments in the pursuit of confidence-building measures, including by eliminating the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and policies;
19. *Also encourages* the parliaments of nuclear-weapon-possessing States to demand, in accordance with Action 5(e) of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a reduction in the operational status of nuclear weapons;
20. *Further encourages* parliaments to strengthen existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and to support their expansion and the establishment of new zones;
21. *Calls on* parliamentarians to support the convening, at the earliest possible date, of a conference for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, to be attended by all States in the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at;
22. *Urges* parliaments to demand the return to substantive work of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament;
23. *Reiterates* the need to reach an early agreement in the Conference on Disarmament on an effective, universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument in order to give assurances to non-nuclear States regarding the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;
24. *Calls on* parliamentarians to use the IPU as a global forum to focus political attention on the need for effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament, and on concrete and practical actions that can be taken in the immediate future to advance this goal.

Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

The 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Expressing deep concern at the continued mounting impact and risk of disasters worldwide, which threaten people's lives and livelihoods, derail socio-economic development and damage the environment,

Noting that development patterns, including poorly planned and managed urbanization, population growth in high-risk areas, endemic poverty, weak governance and institutions, and environmental degradation, are important drivers of disaster risk,

Also noting that disasters, especially those resulting from climate change and exacerbated by population growth and distribution and other factors, such as poor use and management of resources, have been identified by the international community, for instance in the Outcome Document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), as major challenges for sustainable development,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster, and *underscoring* the need to accelerate its implementation at international, regional, national and particularly local level,

Recognizing the urgent need to integrate and build stronger linkages between policies and programmes relating to disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery, climate change, long-term economic and social development, urban planning, demographic dynamics and environmental protection, so as to be able to address the underlying causes of disaster risk,

Also recognizing that global population growth, which is expected to continue for several more decades, and demographic distribution, especially increased population density and urbanization, heighten vulnerability to disasters and that the demographic factor has a direct effect on food security and self-sufficiency in areas that are prone to drought-induced famine and malnutrition,

Underscoring that demographic dynamics are a significant contributor to climate change and disaster risk insofar as they place additional stress on natural resources, heighten the vulnerability of communities to natural hazards and add to the human impact on ecosystems, primarily by increasing demands for food, fresh water, timber and fuel,

Affirming that all women have the right to plan their own lives, including when and whether to have children, and *stressing* that unintended pregnancy is the factor of continued population growth most amenable to policy intervention,

Convinced that governments are a critical stakeholder when it comes to addressing disaster risk resilience and population dynamics in the context of sustainable development, which is a matter of political responsibility, and that parliamentarians have a critical role to play in ensuring that the political will exists to achieve results through legislation, policy oversight and the allocation of resources,

Noting that women and children are more likely to suffer physically and psychologically in disasters and during the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction period,

Acknowledging that women have to be part of disaster management, from prevention to rehabilitation,

Underscoring the need for education at all levels and the importance of winning over local players in order to raise awareness of disaster risk resilience and related demographic issues and to galvanize public support for the measures needed to build resilience,

1. *Calls on* all members of parliament to acquire information on and knowledge of issues related to disaster and risk trends, so as to enhance their oversight role with regard to reducing the impact and risk of disasters, building resilience, protecting people and safeguarding development gains from disasters and the effects of climate change, while guaranteeing that this becomes an important issue on the national agenda and that the relevant measures are implemented;
2. *Also calls on* all members of parliament to take immediate action to review existing legislation related to disaster risk reduction in the light of community realities and considering their environment, natural habitat and people as the main resources for developing relevant processes, and to determine whether it is sufficient to hold key players, including policymakers and the private sector, to account for the consequences of risk-intensive development policies or investments;
3. *Invites* the United Nations to formalize the principle of reparation for victims of natural disasters and reparation for damage caused by States with development strategies that run counter to the recommendations made by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
4. *Appeals* to all governments to take immediate action to review national policies and regulations so as to ensure that socio-economic development is balanced against the need to reduce the risk, to the population and the economy, of disasters in the long run, as more engagement is needed to keep development policies and practices coherent and aligned with those for disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change;
5. *Also appeals* to all governments to improve and enhance their mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and ensure that development policy and strategies build the disaster risk resilience of their people and the economy by drawing up a map of at-risk areas by nature of risk, by putting in place early warning systems and guaranteeing construction safety, and by improving legislation, institutional frameworks, policy and accountability and increasing budgetary allocations for disaster-resilient development, with due regard for the specific needs of women and particular attention to those of people with disabilities;
6. *Urges* parliaments and governments to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women when it comes to land and livestock ownership and to facilitate women's access to credit as means of strengthening women's resilience;
7. *Calls on* governments and parliaments to integrate gender and age perspectives into the design and implementation of all phases of risk management;
8. *Encourages* governments and parliaments to evaluate risk and build resiliency to disasters by investing in shock-resistant infrastructure and inclusive social protection systems, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk communities;
9. *Calls on* governments and parliaments to advance food security and to promote sustainable agricultural development, with a particular emphasis on strategies that prioritize the needs and circumstances of rural communities, as key components of resilient communities;
10. *Urges* governments and parliaments to invest in early warning systems and to ensure that those systems are integrated into their disaster risk reduction strategies, relevant governmental policy and decision-making processes, and emergency management systems;
11. *Urges* the United Nations system and other international and intergovernmental organizations to promote the building of resiliency to disasters and shocks as a fundamental aspect of development, to ensure that resiliency and risk assessments are integrated into international efforts targeting poverty reduction and sustainable development, and to be a role model for improved governance for disaster risk reduction by advocating the key principles thereof and acting transparently and with accountability for the consequences of decisions on country-level programmes and investment;

12. *Also urges* the United Nations system to provide special support to developing countries so that the findings of relevant reports can be implemented and solutions found to facilitate the financing of mitigation works in those countries;
13. *Urges* governments to integrate factors of population growth, family planning and demographic dynamics into policy measures for sustainable development, which should also promote resilience to disasters and to climate change;
14. *Calls on* parliaments to work, at national, regional and international level, for the inclusion of a reproductive health indicator as part of the post-2015 development goals in the areas of health, equity and women's empowerment, to promote a rights-based approach to reproductive health and to take appropriate measures, through legislation and budget allocations, to provide universal access to voluntary family planning services;
15. *Urges* governments to participate actively in the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in order to gain information, knowledge and technical support for the development of a national post-2015 disaster risk-resilient development agenda, as the post-2015 development agenda and framework are both indissociable from the promotion of sustainable and risk-resilient poverty reduction and development;
16. *Also urges* governments and the United Nations system to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda and framework for disaster risk reduction are mutually reinforcing;
17. *Calls on* all parliaments to support government efforts to develop disaster-resilient development policies and strategies that give serious consideration to disaster risk assessment, including population factors, at the planning and programme stages, as development without disaster resilience is not sustainable;
18. *Calls on* governments, when they develop disaster risk reduction legislation, policies and plans, to take into consideration the specific role of women, in particular women holding office in local government and councils and women in grassroots organizations, in risk reduction, planning, relocation, housing and infrastructure development efforts;
19. *Reiterates* that reducing disaster risk and protecting people's lives are the legal responsibility of all elected representatives, and thus *encourages* all parliaments to develop a national forum for legislators on disaster risk reduction and risk-resilient development;
20. *Calls for* the involvement, together with governments and parliaments, of civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, with a view to reducing disaster risks and promoting measures to fight problems arising from climate change;
21. *Calls on* parliaments to scrutinize government policy and actions with regard to disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, and to use all available instruments, including legislation and in particular environmental and public policy impact studies, to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures are integrated into national planning and budgeting processes;
22. *Calls for* the establishment of specific committees to study climate change in those parliaments where they do not exist, so that they are aware of and analyse all the problems related to sustainable development in order to promote measures and strategies to prevent and alleviate them;
23. *Urges* donor countries and international development agencies to take a responsible approach and play a leading role in integrating disaster risk reduction and reproductive health measures, in particular consideration of the rights to sexual and reproductive health of each individual, into development planning and programmes, to ensure that aid-supported development activities contribute to disaster risk-resilient development;
24. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to make combating corruption and illegal financial flows a priority, as these significantly affect the mobilization and proper allocation of resources to the detriment of the environmental components of sustainable development programmes;

25. *Urges* donor and recipient countries to focus increasingly on promoting national resource management, particularly management of water and energy resource supplies and use, in order to prevent and mitigate high disaster risks, strengthen resilience and ultimately contribute to sustainable development;
26. *Urges* governments, parliaments and international organizations to enhance international cooperation in support of risk identification and management and resilient development, by providing technical assistance and capacity-building, as appropriate, in developing countries;
27. *Calls on* all parliaments to drive the process for political ownership and will at the governmental level in order to achieve tangible results in sustainable development and to contain human-induced environmental changes that contribute to the occurrence or severity of natural disasters, especially as a result of climate change; in particular, *calls for* the conclusion by 2015 of an ambitious global agreement that has legal force under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and is applicable to all the Parties thereto;
28. *Invites* all IPU Member Parliaments to take urgent action to follow up on the recommendations made in this resolution in their respective countries and regions.

The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of armed conflict

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

The 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering that Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as “every human being below the age of eighteen years”,

Acknowledging that efforts have been made globally to promote the protection of and respect for the human rights of unaccompanied migrant children, separated children and children involved in armed conflicts pursuant to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Recognizing the fundamental principles and rights that must be guaranteed to all children, especially unaccompanied or separated children, boys and girls, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and States’ other obligations under international law, including the best interests of the child; non-discrimination; non-punishment; non-detention; non-refoulement; family unity; the right to physical and legal protection; the right to an identity, the right to life, survival and development; the right to be heard and to participate in decisions that affect them; the right to be protected from violence; the right to education; the right to due process guarantees and the right to access to health care and psychological support, reintegration assistance and legal aid,

Recalling that paragraph 7 of General Comment No. 6 (2005) on the Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin, issued by the Committee on the Rights of Child, defines “unaccompanied children” as those “who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so”, while paragraph 8 defines “separated children” as “children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives”,

Also recalling that paragraph 13 of General Comment No. 13 (2011) on The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, issued by the Committee on the Rights of Child, states that “Addressing and eliminating the widespread prevalence and incidence of violence against children is an obligation of States parties under the Convention. Securing and promoting children’s fundamental rights to respect for their human dignity and physical and psychological integrity, through the prevention of all forms of violence, is essential for promoting the full set of child rights in the Convention”,

Recognizing the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, UN Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security calling for special measures to protect girls from trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and many forms of harmful practice, such as child/early marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation, the incidence of which increases in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Considering that the international legal framework dealing with children and armed conflict includes instruments such as Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (1977); the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000),

Also considering that the international legal framework dealing with children and transnational organized crime includes instruments such as the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2003), the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2004), and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2002),

Aware that, in accordance with the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (Paris Principles, 2007), a child associated with an armed force or armed group is “any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes”,

Recalling that, in accordance with Articles 26 and 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), any State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child must ensure that the rights and principles enshrined in the Convention are fully reflected and given legal effect in relevant domestic legislation,

Recognizing that parliaments have a crucial role to play in ratifying international legal instruments on the protection of children and accordingly, in implementing domestic legislation,

Underscoring that the role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict or affected by organized crime, must be in line with international law and based on the best interests of the child,

Considering that policies criminalizing migrant children have a negative impact on children’s access to basic rights,

1. *Invites* the parliaments of States which have not yet signed the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to urge their governments to proceed with their signature and full accession;
2. *Urges* parliaments to prohibit all forms of violence and discrimination against children and to pass enabling domestic legislation in order to give full effect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
3. *Calls on* parliaments, especially those in countries experiencing situations of armed conflict, internal conflict or occupation, to amend their existing legislation so as to prevent and punish the recruitment of children for direct participation in hostilities and other forms of exploitation of children in such situations; also *calls on* parliaments to prevent, suppress and punish the exploitation of children by organized criminal groups, in line with relevant international law;
4. *Also calls on* parliaments to design efficient legislative tools for the legal protection of minors, thus establishing a legal framework effectively guaranteeing the rights of children and to enact legislation aimed at establishing comprehensive and effective protection systems with adequate resources and coordinated by a high-ranking government official in order to ensure the best interests of the child;
5. *Urges* parliaments to enact specific legislation aimed at protecting unaccompanied migrant girls and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations from trafficking, sexual exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, and many forms of harmful practice, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to enact legislation aimed at addressing the special needs of separated and unaccompanied children and children involved in armed conflicts which, as a minimum, should provide for specific procedures in keeping with the rule of law;
7. *Urges* governments to take action so that separated and unaccompanied children fleeing illegal recruitment by armed forces or groups can cross borders and exercise their right to request asylum and so that no child in this category is returned to the border of a State where his/her life is truly at risk;

8. *Also urges* parliaments of countries with compulsory military service to raise the minimum age to 18 years and to ban the voluntary recruitment of children under the age of 18; *further urges* parliaments to take appropriate steps to have amendments made to Article 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Article 77 of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, and Article 4 of Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, with a view to banning the voluntary recruitment of persons under the age of 18;
9. *Encourages* parliaments to underscore the importance of working together with United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and other entities in order to collect accurate and reliable data on the number of separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children involved in armed and internal conflicts and situations of organized crime in their respective countries;
10. *Also encourages* parliaments to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children involved in demonstrations and political rallies, including their right to protection from violence and to freedom of association and expression;
11. *Urges* parliaments to discourage the premeditated use of children in violent demonstrations;
12. *Calls on* the parliaments of countries involved in armed conflict to urge their governments, in close collaboration with the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, to release child combatants or prisoners of war and seek lasting solutions, such as family unification, where possible signing relevant action plans to this end;
13. *Invites* parliaments to share best practices on the protection of children from the perspective of restorative justice with the governments, parliaments and human rights organizations of countries where armed conflict and situations involving organized crime are developing;
14. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure compliance with international standards for the protection of separated or unaccompanied migrant children, including the principles of non-discrimination and non-punishment, prohibition of inappropriate detention of the child, the best interests of the child, the right of the child to life and development, and the right of children to participate in decisions that affect them;
15. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure that adequate resources are allocated from national budgets to enforce laws, implement policies and improve practices related to the protection of children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, and to guarantee that these budgets are gender-sensitive;
16. *Invites* parliaments to hold hearings and consultations so as to assess the effectiveness of existing laws, policies, and practices on protecting children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, collect age- and sex-disaggregated data on the scope of the problem, and identify appropriate responses to combat it;
17. *Also invites* parliaments, in partnership with UNICEF and in consultation with Interpol, to promote the establishment of a comprehensive international and up-to-date register of foreign separated or unaccompanied minors as an efficient tool for safeguarding the rights of such children, and to entrust the responsibility for coordinating such data to a single national authority;

18. *Urges* parliaments to hold governments to account for their humanitarian duty to provide children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, with the necessary services, in order to guarantee basic human rights such as education, medical treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and reintegration, child care, accommodation and legal assistance, bearing in mind the special needs of girls; *also urges* them to support the establishment of national referral mechanisms to this end;
19. *Calls on* governments to ensure that minors under the age of 18 recruited illegally into armed forces who are accused of crimes under international law are considered first and foremost as victims, rather than perpetrators, of international law violations;
20. *Invites* parliaments to support awareness-raising efforts, especially by working with the media to address xenophobia and violations of the rights of children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, and *notes* that Universal Children's Day, 20 November, provides a favourable framework for mobilizing and sensitizing public opinion to the protection of minors;
21. *Also invites* parliaments to support efforts aimed at raising awareness of discrimination against children who have been exploited in armed conflicts and of the importance of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process;
22. *Further invites* parliaments to support initiatives aimed at training, educating and continuously building the capacities of child protection professionals, specifically offering training in international human rights law to all members of the armed forces, law enforcement and immigration officials, border guards and other individuals and agencies involved in protecting the rights of children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children, children in situations of armed conflict and children affected by organized crime;
23. *Encourages* parliaments to support implementation of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and ensure that they are integrated into official policies to protect children, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, so that all stakeholders, including government officials, UN agents and civil society representatives, are aware of them;
24. *Requests* parliaments to promote action to prevent the migration of separated or unaccompanied minors from their countries of origin, by strengthening cooperation and promoting bilateral conventions with countries of origin;
25. *Calls on* parliaments to adopt the necessary legal instruments, such as memoranda of understanding and bilateral and multilateral agreements on collaboration with international organizations and technical and financial assistance, so as to enhance international cooperation on the protection of the rights of separated and unaccompanied children, especially migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict;
26. *Also calls on* parliaments to promote the establishment of an international legal framework guaranteeing that States and corporations, non-governmental groups and individuals who exploit children in demonstrations and armed conflicts, in time of war or peace, are held to account for their actions and compensate the victims of these imprescriptible crimes and their families;
27. *Calls for* a review of international law and international humanitarian law conventions with a view to harmonizing the provisions on special guardianship for minors under 18 years of age;
28. *Urges* parliaments to take appropriate measures to ensure that an effective birth registration system is in place for all children, including separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict;

29. *Requests* parliaments to promote an international protocol for unaccompanied minors establishing basic and unified action lines that take account of gender concerns, regardless of the country where the minor is, and enabling coordination of the work of all relevant institutions and departments, and to facilitate the early identification of children at risk, boys and girls, especially separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, so that they can be looked after and brought into a comprehensive protective structure that will guarantee all their rights and facilitate their reunification with their families;
30. *Invites* parliaments and governments to raise awareness of children's rights in receiving communities and to work actively for the most efficient coordination between agencies responsible for receiving unaccompanied children, in recognition of the high incidence of post-traumatic stress among unaccompanied children and in order to take every measure to help them;
31. *Calls on* parliaments and governments to open borders based firmly on values such as the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights and international conventions, especially when so many victims are children, and to find a way to combine respect for border protection and the right to seek asylum;
32. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure proper and qualified evaluation of whether unaccompanied minors should return to their country of origin, and to find ways to ensure the humane and safe return of those who must return after receiving a final rejection of their asylum application, so that no minor returns home without a safe and appropriate reception, acknowledging that an important step in the process is to make sure that minors are reunited with their parents, bearing the child's perspective in mind in every case and ensuring the rights of each individual child;
33. *Invites* parliaments and other institutions to share with the IPU their best practices in the protection of children's rights, in particular the rights of separated or unaccompanied migrant children and children in situations of armed conflict, with a view to developing a relevant model law;
34. *Further invites* parliaments to work closely with the IPU, in particular its geopolitical groups, to promote the organization of regional forums to address specific situations requiring customized solutions, thus promoting the establishment of comprehensive protection systems;
35. *Calls on* governments and parliaments to assume their responsibility for protecting the rights of children, in particular separated or unaccompanied migrant children, children in situations of armed conflict or occupation and children affected by organized crime, and to fulfil their obligations to protect child refugees and asylum-seekers;
36. *Urges* parliaments and governments to incorporate the perspective of minors and to place greater emphasis on children in legislation, budgets and policymaking, with a view to ensuring that the voices of young people and children are better heard;
37. *Calls on* parliaments and governments to enact all provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in national legislation in order to guarantee equal rights for all children.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held its first session as a fully-fledged Standing Committee on 19 March. After electing its new Bureau, the Committee held a substantive discussion on recent developments in strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU.

The Committee heard an address by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Michael Møller, who welcomed the IPU's efforts to inject a parliamentary dimension into the work of the United Nations at the national and international levels. He spoke of the need for parliaments to play an integral role in defining and implementing the United Nations post-2015 development agenda; parliamentary input would be the key to ensuring strong national ownership of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In the ensuing debate, participants highlighted the main objectives and modalities of interaction between the United Nations and national parliaments, underscoring the IPU's role of facilitator. On the one hand, parliaments had a role to play in ensuring that international commitments were translated into national realities, while on the other, they must also bring a parliamentary perspective to discussions at the global level in order to reflect citizens' expectations and enhance national ownership. As the interaction between the United Nations and parliaments evolved, people would gain a better understanding and appreciation of the work of the United Nations.

The Committee agreed that an important part of the interaction between the United Nations and parliaments took place at the national level, where there was much scope for a more structured and integrated approach. A recent field mission to Haiti by the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs had examined UN stabilization and humanitarian efforts in the country: the degree to which efforts at the country level met the needs of the local population; how UN partners on the ground involved the institution of parliament; and more specifically the role parliament played in helping to secure lasting peace, the rule of law and sustainable development. The Speaker of the Haitian Senate, Mr. Simon Desras, described the challenges faced in Haiti by the Parliament in particular, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in 2010, in a society marked by political instability and weak governance institutions. The mission's findings, which were presented to the Committee, would be formally shared with the Parliament and Government of Haiti, as well as with the United Nations, as part of its efforts to support the emerging political dialogue in Haiti and to help secure the Haitian parliament's position in the national political arena.

The 68th session of the UN General Assembly would receive a report by the UN Secretary-General on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. It would also be called upon to adopt a new resolution on that issue. The Committee reviewed the text of a preliminary draft resolution and suggested some amendments. Parliaments should secure the fullest possible support from their foreign ministries for a strong General Assembly resolution based on the consensus Resolution 66/261 adopted in 2012, (see proposed draft Resolution in [Annex](#)).

Mr. Fernando Bustamante (Ecuador), Mr. David McGuinty (Canada) and Mr. Charles Chauvel, Parliamentary Adviser to the UNDP Democratic Governance Group, presented their thoughts on how parliaments and parliamentarians could influence the ongoing UN process to devise the next generation of development goals. The SDGs would be universal in scope, involving developing and developed countries alike, and would focus on poverty eradication from a sustainability perspective. A new global partnership would be required to support much needed technology transfers and financing to developing countries.

In the ensuing discussion, participants suggested that the SDGs would require strong governance institutions equipped to support the integration of the three pillars (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development. Several underscored the importance of including the broader issue of climate change, a major threat to the whole planet, in the SDG debate. The United Nations was making little progress on that critical issue and parliaments should therefore take the lead. The Climate Summit to be convened by the UN Secretary-General later in the year would be an important opportunity to do so.

Members agreed on the need for an overall SDG framework that could be implemented effectively. Parliamentarians should be “policy-makers”, not “policy-takers”: by being involved at the early stages of negotiations they could ensure that the new SDGs reflected a parliamentary perspective.

One prevailing opinion was that the SDGs must have the flexibility to be relevant in different national contexts. That was the only way to ensure that the new development agenda could be “localized” and translated into manageable policy prescriptions at the country level. The new vision for development should be an expanded one that reflected human well-being in all its dimensions, including new qualitative measurements of progress that inquired about the actual impact of public policies on people’s lives.

In order to implement the SDGs effectively the current “silos approach” to policymaking needed to change. New coordinating structures, such as the MDG Task Force set up by the Parliament of Indonesia, would be useful. It would also be good practice to ensure that all legislative proposals were supplemented by a sustainability impact assessment. More generally, parliaments should be more closely involved in setting national strategies for sustainable development. Greater efforts to enhance parliaments’ capacities to perform their core functions would be essential.

The Committee agreed to continue to engage in the UN process leading to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. It recommended that parliaments pursue discussions in that regard in specialized parliamentary committees at the national level and report back to the IPU on new developments.

* * *

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

*During its current session, the United Nations General Assembly will be considering a stand-alone agenda item on "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU", and adopting a related Resolution. The IPU Secretariat has been working closely with the UN Department of Political Affairs on the draft Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on this agenda item, which should be issued to all Member States in the coming weeks. Based on General Assembly Resolution 66/261 of May 2012 and the joint activities conducted by the IPU and the United Nations since then, the following text of a new General Assembly resolution is proposed (**new language reflected in bold**).*

All IPU Members are encouraged to contact their Foreign Ministries and Permanent Missions in New York with a view to garnering the support of their respective governments for the adoption - by consensus and with a large number of sponsoring States - of the new General Assembly Resolution.

Draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Taking note also of the outcome of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005 and 2010, which affirms the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,¹ which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome,³ in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, 61/6 of 20 October 2006 and 63/24 of 18 November 2008,

Recalling and further endorsing its resolutions 65/123 of 13 December 2010 and 66/261 of 29 May 2012 in which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to pursue a more systematic engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

Welcoming in particular the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target date of 2015, as well as in bringing a parliamentary contribution to the design of the next generation of global development goals;

Recognizing the growing role of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and UN officials, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between UN country teams and national parliaments, and helping shape a parliamentary input to major UN processes;

Recognizing also the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of gender equality, the empowerment of women and combating violence against women, and the close cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both national and global levels,

1. ***Welcomes the actions undertaken*** by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to ***pursue a more systematic engagement*** with the United Nations;
2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, **climate protection**, international law, human rights and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;

¹ A/51/402, annex.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ See resolution 60/1.

3. ***Also encourages*** the continued active involvement of the IPU in mobilizing parliamentary action to achieve the MDGs and to provide input to the design of the post-2015 agenda, and for the United Nations and the IPU to continue to work closely together with a view to incorporating a clear role for parliaments at the national level and the IPU at the global level in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,
4. ***Welcomes*** the preparations currently under way for the organization of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in 2015, which is expected to further consolidate the relationship between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU, and ***encourages*** these preparations to be conducted in close cooperation with the United Nations with a view to maximizing political support for the outcome of the UN Summit in 2015;
5. *Welcomes* the practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, **including new fora such as the UN High-Level Political Forum and the ECOSOC Youth Forum**, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;
6. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to regularly work with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major UN conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;
7. ***Encourages Member States to consider expanding the experience of the joint UN-IPU Parliamentary Hearing to other meetings at the United Nations, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including these sessions as part of the formal United Nations agenda and ensuring a parliamentary contribution and follow-up to these UN processes;***
8. ***Welcomes progress in involving the IPU more closely in the work of the Human Rights Council, notably by providing more systematically a parliamentary contribution to the Universal Periodic Review and to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, along the lines of the cooperation developed in recent years between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and national parliaments whose countries are under review;***
9. *Invites* UN-Women to work closely with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in such areas as the empowerment of women, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, combating violence against women and the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions;
10. *Encourages* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to further assist in developing closer cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;
11. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness;
12. *Encourages* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to more systematically avail themselves of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in the transition to democracy;

13. *Calls for* the regular annual exchange between the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations, maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations and helping to forge a strategic partnership between the two organizations;
14. *Recommends* that a new Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be drawn up, so as to reflect progress and developments over the past years **and to place the institutional relationship between the two organizations on a firmer footing**;
15. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled “Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union” and invites the Secretary-General to submit a report under this item.

The role of parliaments and the IPU in fighting terrorism and achieving international peace and security through a peaceful political solution to the situation in Syria and respect for resolutions with international legitimacy and the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of the Syrian Arab Republic for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes	210	Total of affirmative and negative votes.....	637
Negative votes	427	Two-thirds majority.....	425
Abstentions	923		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			14	Germany		19		Philippines			absent
Albania			absent	Ghana			14	Poland		15	
Algeria	15			Greece	13			Portugal		13	
Andorra	10			Guatemala			10	Qatar		8	
Angola			12	Haiti			13	Rep. of Korea			17
Argentina			16	Hungary			13	Rep. of Moldova			absent
Armenia			11	Iceland		10		Romania			14
Australia		14		India			23	Russian Federation	20		
Austria			12	Indonesia	11		11	Samoa			absent
Bahrain		10		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	18			San Marino			10
Bangladesh			absent	Iraq	4		10	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Belarus	13			Ireland			11	Saudi Arabia		14	
Belgium		12		Israel		10		Senegal			12
Benin			12	Italy			10	Seychelles			absent
Bhutan			10	Japan		20		Singapore			12
Bolivia		2	10	Jordan		12		Slovakia			12
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Kazakhstan			absent	Slovenia			11
Botswana			11	Kenya			14	Somalia			absent
Brazil			20	Kuwait			11	South Africa			17
Burkina Faso		13		Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Spain		15	
Burundi		12		Latvia		11		Sri Lanka			absent
Cabo Verde			absent	Lebanon			absent	Sudan			15
Cambodia			13	Lesotho			11	Suriname			absent
Cameroon			13	Libya		11		Sweden		12	
Canada		15		Liechtenstein			absent	Switzerland		12	
Chad			13	Lithuania		11		Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Chile		6	7	Malaysia			14	Thailand			18
China	23			Mali			12	Timor-Leste	11		
Colombia			absent	Malta			absent	Togo			12
Congo			10	Mauritania			10	Tonga		10	
Costa Rica			absent	Mauritius			absent	Trinidad & Tobago			absent
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Mexico			20	Tunisia		13	
Cuba	13			Monaco			absent	Turkey		18	
Cyprus			10	Morocco			15	Uganda			13
Czech Republic	13			Mozambique			13	Ukraine		17	
DR of the Congo			17	Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates			11
Denmark		10		Namibia			11	United Kingdom		18	
Dominican Rep.			12	Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania			10
Ecuador			13	New Zealand			10	Uruguay			11
El Salvador			12	Nicaragua			10	Venezuela	13		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Niger			10	Viet Nam			18
Estonia		11		Nigeria			20	Yemen			10
Ethiopia			18	Norway		12		Zambia			13
Finland		12		Oman	10			Zimbabwe			13
France		18		Pakistan			21				
Gabon		11		Palau			absent				
Gambia			11	Palestine	10						
Georgia			11	Peru			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.

Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Morocco for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes	914	Total of affirmative and negative votes ...	1123
Negative votes	209	Two-thirds majority	749
Abstentions	437		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Germany		19		Philippines			absent
Albania			absent	Ghana			14	Poland			15
Algeria	15			Greece			13	Portugal		13	
Andorra			10	Guatemala			10	Qatar	8		
Angola	12			Haiti	13			Rep. of Korea	17		
Argentina	16			Hungary			13	Rep. of Moldova			absent
Armenia			11	Iceland		10		Romania			14
Australia		14		India	23			Russian Federation	20		
Austria			12	Indonesia	22			Samoa			absent
Bahrain	10			Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	18			San Marino			10
Bangladesh			absent	Iraq	14			Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Belarus			13	Ireland		11		Saudi Arabia	14		
Belgium			12	Israel			10	Senegal	12		
Benin	12			Italy	10			Seychelles			absent
Bhutan			10	Japan			20	Singapore			12
Bolivia	12			Jordan	12			Slovakia			12
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Kazakhstan			absent	Slovenia			11
Botswana	11			Kenya	14			Somalia			absent
Brazil	20			Kuwait	11			South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Spain			15
Burundi	12			Latvia		11		Sri Lanka			absent
Cabo Verde			absent	Lebanon			absent	Sudan	15		
Cambodia			13	Lesotho	11			Suriname			absent
Cameroon	13			Libya	11			Sweden		12	
Canada		15		Liechtenstein			absent	Switzerland		12	
Chad	13			Lithuania		11		Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Chile	6	7		Malaysia	14			Thailand			18
China	23			Mali	12			Timor-Leste		11	
Colombia			absent	Malta			absent	Togo	12		
Congo	10			Mauritania	10			Tonga			10
Costa Rica			absent	Mauritius			absent	Trinidad & Tobago			absent
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mexico			20	Tunisia	13		
Cuba	13			Monaco			absent	Turkey	18		
Cyprus			10	Morocco	15			Uganda	13		
Czech Republic	7		6	Mozambique	13			Ukraine			17
DR of the Congo	17			Myanmar	10			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark		10		Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Dominican Rep.	12			Netherlands			13	United Republic of Tanzania	10		
Ecuador	13			New Zealand			10	Uruguay	11		
El Salvador	6		6	Nicaragua	10			Venezuela			13
Equatorial Guinea	11			Niger	10			Viet Nam	18		
Estonia		11		Nigeria	20			Yemen			10
Ethiopia	18			Norway		12		Zambia	13		
Finland		12		Oman	10			Zimbabwe	13		
France			18	Pakistan	21						
Gabon	11			Palau			absent				
Gambia	11			Palestine	10						
Georgia			11	Peru			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.

Aggression against Ukraine**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Canada
for the inclusion of an emergency item****Results**

Affirmative votes	524	Total of affirmative and negative votes ...	780
Negative votes	256	Two-thirds majority	520
Abstentions	780		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			14	Germany	19			Philippines			absent
Albania			absent	Ghana			14	Poland	15		
Algeria			15	Greece			13	Portugal	13		
Andorra	5		5	Guatemala	10			Qatar		8	
Angola			12	Haiti			13	Rep. of Korea			17
Argentina			16	Hungary	13			Rep. of Moldova			absent
Armenia			11	Iceland	10			Romania	14		
Australia	14			India			23	Russian Federation		20	
Austria	12			Indonesia	11		11	Samoa			absent
Bahrain		10		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)			18	San Marino	10		
Bangladesh			absent	Iraq	7		7	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Belarus		13		Ireland	11			Saudi Arabia			14
Belgium	12			Israel	10			Senegal			12
Benin			12	Italy	10			Seychelles			absent
Bhutan			10	Japan	20			Singapore	12		
Bolivia		6	6	Jordan		12		Slovakia	10		2
Bosnia and Herzegovina			absent	Kazakhstan			absent	Slovenia	11		
Botswana			11	Kenya			14	Somalia			absent
Brazil			20	Kuwait			11	South Africa			17
Burkina Faso		13		Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Spain	15		
Burundi		12		Latvia	11			Sri Lanka			absent
Cabo Verde			absent	Lebanon			absent	Sudan		15	
Cambodia			13	Lesotho			11	Suriname			absent
Cameroon			13	Libya			11	Sweden	12		
Canada	15			Liechtenstein			absent	Switzerland	12		
Chad			13	Lithuania	11			Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Chile	11		2	Malaysia			14	Thailand			18
China		23		Mali			12	Timor-Leste			11
Colombia			absent	Malta			absent	Togo	6		6
Congo			10	Mauritania			10	Tonga	10		
Costa Rica			absent	Mauritius			absent	Trinidad & Tobago			absent
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Mexico	20			Tunisia		13	
Cuba		13		Monaco			absent	Turkey			18
Cyprus			10	Morocco			15	Uganda			13
Czech Republic	10	3		Mozambique			13	Ukraine	17		
DR of the Congo			17	Myanmar			10	United Arab Emirates			11
Denmark	10			Namibia			11	United Kingdom	18		
Dominican Rep.			12	Netherlands	13			United Republic of Tanzania			10
Ecuador		13		New Zealand	10			Uruguay			11
El Salvador			12	Nicaragua		10		Venezuela		13	
Equatorial Guinea			11	Niger			10	Viet Nam			18
Estonia	11			Nigeria	10	10		Yemen			10
Ethiopia			18	Norway	12			Zambia			13
Finland	12			Oman			10	Zimbabwe		13	
France	18			Pakistan		2	19				
Gabon		11		Palau			absent				
Gambia			11	Palestine		10					
Georgia	11			Peru			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.

Helping to restore peace and security and consolidate democracy in the Central African Republic: The contribution of the IPU

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 130th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 20 March 2014)

The 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Deeply concerned about the security situation in the Central African Republic, which continues to deteriorate and is characterized by a breakdown in public order, a decline in the rule of law and a rise in interreligious and intercommunity tensions,

Also deeply concerned about the proliferation and intensification of violations of international humanitarian law and the widespread human rights violations and abuses – including extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, acts of torture, sexual violence against women and children, and the recruitment and use of children – that have been committed both by former elements of Séléka and by militia groups, in particular those referred to as the “anti-balaka” and the Lord’s Resistance Army,

Reaffirming that some of these acts may constitute crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which the Central African Republic is a party, and that the perpetrators must be held to account,

Considering the risk that interreligious and intercommunity tensions in the country might degenerate into religious and ethnic conflict on a nationwide scale and imperil national unity and territorial integrity, with potentially grave repercussions throughout the Central African region,

Underscoring that the alarming situation in the country threatens to create a climate conducive to transnational criminal activity, including arms trafficking and the illicit exploitation of natural resources,

Considering that the situation in the Central African Republic constitutes a threat to national and regional stability and to international peace and security,

Noting that the European Union expressed the intention, at the Council meeting of 20 January 2014, to consider establishing an operation to provide temporary support for the International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), and that the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic have agreed to that operation,

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 2134 (2014) of 28 January 2014, 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013, and 2121 (2013) of 10 October 2013,

1. *Affirms* its support for the Libreville Agreement of 11 January 2013, for the N’Djamena Declaration of 18 April 2013, for the Brazzaville Appeal of 3 May 2013 and for the Declaration on the Central African Republic, adopted by the International Contact Group at its third meeting, held in Bangui on 8 November 2013;
2. *Strongly condemns* the continuing violations of international humanitarian law and the widespread human rights abuses and violations perpetrated by armed groups in the Central African Republic, in particular by former elements of Séléka, the forces referred to as the “anti-balaka” and the Lord’s Resistance Army, which imperil the population; *underscores* that the perpetrators must be held to account for their acts;
3. *Also condemns* the escalation of interreligious and intercommunity violence in the Central African Republic and *demands* that the protagonists immediately halt all acts of violence, whatever their motivation, in particular those said to be grounded in religion, ethnicity or gender;
4. *Further demands* that all parties to the conflict facilitate safe and free access for humanitarian organizations and their personnel, without delay, to areas where populations are in need so that they may swiftly provide the necessary humanitarian assistance in accordance with United Nations guiding principles on humanitarian assistance;

5. *Calls upon* the Member Parliaments of the IPU to press their respective governments to respond rapidly to appeals for urgent humanitarian action and to the pressing and growing needs of the populations affected and of refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and Sudan; *encourages* international organizations and their partners to execute their humanitarian projects without delay;
6. *Expresses support for* the role played by the country's religious authorities at national level in an attempt to calm relations and prevent violence between religious communities, and *believes* that their message should be vigorously relayed at local level;
7. *Applauds* the action of MISCA, of the countries providing contingents for it and of the French armed forces, which, since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2127 (2013), have worked to protect civilians and stabilize the security situation, and *thanks* the partners that have provided air assets to speed the deployment of troops to the area;
8. *Welcomes* the appointment by the National Transition Council, on 20 January 2014, of the transitional Head of State and of the transitional Prime Minister, and *expresses support for* the transitional government; *underscores* that the transitional authorities of the Central African Republic bear primary responsibility for protecting the population and guaranteeing the country's security and national and territorial unity;
9. *Expresses support for* the creation, on 22 January 2014, of an international commission of inquiry into the violations of international humanitarian and human rights law perpetrated in the Central African Republic, by no matter which party, since 1 January 2013;
10. *Demands* that all parties to the current armed conflict in the Central African Republic, former elements of Séléka as well as the groups referred to as the "anti-balaka" and the Lord's Resistance Army, put an immediate stop to violations and abuses committed against women and children, acts of sexual violence and acts of extremism and sectarian violence; *requests* the transitional authorities to make and fulfil a firm and explicit commitment to ensure that investigations are conducted as soon as possible when violence against women or children is alleged and that the perpetrators are prosecuted and held to account for their acts;
11. *Welcomes* the decision of the United Nations Security Council to prepare plans for the imposition of targeted sanctions, including a travel ban and freezing of the assets of individuals having acted to undermine peace, stability and security, in particular those who have violated human rights and international humanitarian law, recruited and deployed children in armed conflict, committed acts of sexual violence, or lent their support to illegal armed groups or criminal networks involved in the illicit exploitation of natural resources in the Central African Republic;
12. *Urges* the transitional authorities to develop and implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or repatriation programmes; *underscores* the importance of strengthening the institutional capacity of the police, the judiciary and the penitentiary system to uphold the rule of law;
13. *Also urges* the transitional authorities to establish an inclusive national dialogue between all stakeholders in the country – political, social and religious – with a view, in the near future, to restoring State authority and to institutionalizing a credible and fair process of national reconciliation;
14. *Welcomes* the establishment of a special fund through which States and international, regional and subregional organizations can contribute to the MISCA, and *expresses support for* the organization of an international donors conference as soon as possible to request contributions, in particular through this fund;

15. *Also welcomes* the establishment of a national electoral authority on 16 December 2013 and *underscores* how important it is for the transitional authorities, with support from the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), to organize free and regular elections, providing in particular for the participation of women and without delay (during the second half of 2014, if possible, and by February 2015 at the latest);
16. *Recommends* that the United Nations Security Council deploy, by the earliest possible date, a UN peacekeeping mission to the Central African Republic with an expanded mandate covering support for the political transition, the restoration of State authority throughout the country, the organization of elections, protection for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the return of refugees and of persons displaced by the violence;
17. *Takes note* that the IPU has already conducted a needs assessment and requests it to take urgent follow-up action with the National Transition Council, including by offering advisory expertise in the recently launched process of constitutional reform;
18. *Entrusts* the Secretary General with the task of conveying this resolution to all IPU Members, Associate Members and Observers and to the other international organizations.

Statement by the President

*Endorsed by the 130th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 20 March 2014)*

This Assembly in Geneva has taken place at a time of crisis in many parts of the world. Numerous statements have been made referring to the situation in the Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, to mention but three salient examples.

The Assembly decided by a majority of affirmative votes to add an emergency item on the situation in the Central African Republic to its agenda and adopted unanimously a resolution calling for an end to the hostilities and greater international support.

The other crises are no less urgent.

Since the start of the crisis in Syria, the IPU has called for restraint. It has condemned the acts of violence committed by all parties and has urged the international community to provide support and assistance to the millions who have been displaced by the conflict within Syria and beyond its borders.

The IPU has reiterated on numerous occasions the need for the parties to end hostilities and to negotiate a solution to the conflict. War and destruction will only deepen the suffering of the people of Syria and will do nothing to bring them closer to a solution. Only an inclusive political dialogue can achieve that.

The events unfolding in Ukraine are worrying. The IPU was founded on the concept that crises need to be resolved peacefully. It advocates inclusive political dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding. This is no less important in Ukraine than elsewhere.

The debate during the Assembly demonstrates that the Members of the IPU remain committed to these fundamental precepts. The IPU therefore continues to call on parties to conflict and crisis in the Central African Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine to find peaceful solutions through dialogue.

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⁴ (SMI: Socialist Movement for Integration
(SP: Socialist Party
(DP: Democratic Party

/ *Mouvement socialiste pour l'intégration*)
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⁵ (FLN: National Liberation Front
(RND: National Democratic Rally

⁶ (DA: Democrats for Andorra
(PS: Social Democratic Party

/ *Front de libération nationale*)
/ *Rassemblement national démocratique*)
/ *Démocrates pour Andorre*)
/ *Parti social-démocrate*)

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⁷ (MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / *Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola*)
(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / *Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola*)
(Casa/CE: Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition / *Convergence ample de sauvetage de l'Angola-Coalition électorale*)

⁸ (PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)
(PJ: Justicialist Party / *Parti justicialiste*)

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⁹ (HHK: Republican Party of Armenia
(ROLF: "Rule of Law" Faction)

/ *Parti républicain arménien*
/ *Parti "L'Etat de droit"*

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¹⁰ (LP: Liberal Party
(ALP: Australian Labour Party

/ *Parti libéral)*

¹¹ (ÖVP: People's Party
(FPÖ: Freedom Party
(G: Greens
(FRANK: Team Stronach for Austria
(SPÖ: Social Democratic Party

/ *Parti travailliste australien)*

/ *Parti populaire)*

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¹² (AL: Bangladesh Awami League
(J: Jatiya Party
(Ind: Independent
(JSD: Jatiya Samajtantric Dal)

/ *Ligue Awami du Bangladesh*)
(/ *Parti Jatiya*)
(/ *Indépendant*)

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¹³ (MR: Liberal Party (French)
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance
(PS: Socialist Party (French)
(CD&V: Christian Democratic and Flemish

/ Parti libéral (francophone)
/ Nouvelle Alliance flamande)
/ Parti socialiste (francophone)
/ Chrétiens-démocrates et flamands)

¹⁴ (FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin
(PRD: Democratic Renewal Party
(RDR: Rally for Democracy and the Republic

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BHUTAN

KINGA, Sonam (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Council <i>Président du Conseil national</i>
WANGCHUK, Jigme (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Chairman of the Social and Cultural Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Président de la Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles</i>
NIMA (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i>
MONGER, Dhan Bdr (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Social and Cultural Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles</i>
WANGDI, Ugyen (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Legislative Committee, Human Rights Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission législative, Commission des droits de l'homme</i>
DRUKPA, Pema (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Legislative Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission législative</i>
CHODEN, Dorji (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NORBU, Tshewang (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the National Council <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil national</i>
KINLEY (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
DEKI, Kezang (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

RAMIREZ NAVA, Agripina (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)</i>
SANCHEZ HEREDIA, David (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (MAS)</i>
SALVATIERRA, Herberth (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (C)</i>
HUARACHI CONDORI, Ninfa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)</i> ¹⁵
CLISAYA, Raúl (Mr./M.)	Assistant
ALARCÓN JUSTINIANO, Javier (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KALABIĆ, Drago (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SNSD)</i>
CEMALOVIĆ, Nermina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SDP BiH)</i>

¹⁵ (MAS: Movement for Socialism
(C: Convergencia)

/ *Mouvement pour le socialisme*)

FRANJIČEVIĆ, Mato (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (HDZ)</i>
DERVOZ, Ismeta (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SBB-BiH)</i> ¹⁶
MIJAČEVIĆ, Marina (Ms./Mme)	Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>

BOTSWANA

NASHA, Margaret N. (Ms./Mme)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
MAELE, Prince (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Public Service and its Management <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de la gestion des services publics (BDP)</i>
HOBONA, Habaudi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Women's Caucus <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Caucus des femmes (BCP)</i>
TSOGWANE, Slumber (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de la santé et du VIH/sida (BDP)</i>
TSHIRELETSO, Bothhogile Mogogi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Women's Caucus <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Caucus des femmes (BDP)</i> ¹⁷
NFILA, Christopher (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KEEKAE, Lesedi (Mr./M.)	Senior Clerk Assistant / <i>Assistant Greffier principal</i>
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

BRAZIL – BRESIL

SANTOS, Alexandre (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PMDB)</i>
Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
VASCONCELOS, Jarbas (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PMDB)</i>
MUDALEN, Jorge Tadeu (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)</i>
PETEÇAO, Sergio (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PSD)</i>
NAPOLEÃO, Hugo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)</i>
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)</i> ¹⁸
CABRAL de ARAÚJO, Silvia (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentarian Assistant / <i>Assistante parlementaire</i>
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

¹⁶ (SNSD: Party of Independent Social Democrats / *Parti social-démocrate indépendant*)
(SDP BiH: Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina / *Parti social-démocrate de Bosnie-Herzégovine*)
(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / *Parti démocratique croate*)
(SBB-BiH: Union for a Better Future of Bosnia and Herzegovina / *Alliance pour un avenir meilleur de la Bosnie*)

¹⁷ (BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / *Parti démocratique botswanais*)
(BCP: Botswana Congress Party / *Parti du Congrès du Botswana*)

¹⁸ (PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party / *Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien*)
(DEM: Democrats / *Démocrates*)
(PSD: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)

FERNANDES, Vinícius (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Brazil in Geneva
Mission permanente du Brésil à Genève

BURKINA FASO

OUATTARA, Soungalo Appolinaire (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
DIENDÉRE DIALLO, Fatoumata (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Fourth Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Quatrième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
OUEDRAOGO, Safo Théodore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADJ)
SAMBARÉ, Palguim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CFR)
LANKOANDÉ, Folga Ildevert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADF-RDA)
DRABO-OUEDRAOGO, Zénabou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP)
ABGAS, Armand (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPC)
TRAORE, Mélégué (Mr./M.) Acting President of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs / <i>Président par intérim du Groupe consultatif de la Commission UIP des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDP) ¹⁹
ZOBILMA, Emma (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
CAMPAORE OUATTARA, Maïmounata (Ms./Mme)	Director, Parliamentary Diplomacy <i>Directrice de la diplomatie parlementaire</i>
TRAORE KARAMOGO, Jean-Marie (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>
ZOUNGRANA-DIBOULO, Jeanne d'Arc (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Administrator / <i>Administratrice parlementaire</i>
YAGUIBOU, Issa (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	

BURUNDI

KABURA, François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UPRONA)
NIRAGIRA, Félix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chair, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i> (CNDD-FDD)

¹⁹ (CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress
(ADJ: Alliance for democracy and justice
(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces
(ADF/RDA: Alliance for democracy and Federation /
African Democratic Rally
(UPC: Union for Progress and Change

/ *Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès*
/ *Alliance pour la démocratie et la justice*
/ *Convention des forces républicaines*
/ *Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération /
Rassemblement démocratique africain*
/ *Union pour le progrès et le changement*

NDURURUTSE, Gaudence (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD-FDD)</i> ²⁰
NIZIGIYIMANA, Liliane (Ms./Mme)	Director, Human resources, Senate <i>Directrice des ressources humaines, Sénat</i>
BARINAKANDI, Juvénal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

CABO VERDE

LOPES CORREIA, Júlio (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament / <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (PAICV)</i> ²¹
BRITO, Libéria (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Speaker / <i>Conseiller du Président</i>

CAMBODIA - CAMBODGE

SEM, Yang (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Reception of Complaints and Investigation / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme, de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes</i>
NHEM, Thavy (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and Complaints <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme et des plaintes</i>
YARA, Suos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de l'information et des médias</i>
LORK, Kheng (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
EM, Ponna (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SAR, Sokha (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
OUM, Sariith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director of the Protocol and International Relations Department of the Senate / <i>Directeur du Département du protocole et des relations internationales du Sénat</i>
HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the First Vice-President of the National Assembly, Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office <i>Conseiller du premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef du Service des relations multilatérales</i>
OUDAM, Khlang (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the International Relations Department, National Assembly / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des relations internationales de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly / <i>Chef adjoint du Bureau des relations multilatérales de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

²⁰ (UPRONA: Union for National Progress / *Union pour le progrès national*)
(CNDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy / *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie*)
(FDD: Front for the Defense of Democracy / *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie*)

²¹ (PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde / *Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cap-Vert*)

LIM, Chan Seiha (Ms./Mme)
Assistant / *Assistante*
KHOY, Leang Houy (Ms./Mme)
Assistant / *Assistante*

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

NIAT NJIFENJI, Marcel (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat</i> (RDPC)
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
TJOUES, Geneviève (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (RDPC)
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC)
TSOMELOU, Jean (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (SDF)
HAMADOU, Sali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RDPC) ²²
YÉNÉ OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NJOMACHOUA, Justin (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Director, Office of the President of the Senate <i>Directeur du Cabinet du Président du Sénat</i>
ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Director, General Administration Service <i>Directeur de l'administration générale</i>
NTONGA NGASSA, Elvis Mr./M.)	Officer, Office of the President of the Senate <i>Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat</i>
NDOUMEN FONDJA, Berenger Arnel (Mr./M.)	Officer, Office of the President of the Senate <i>Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat</i>
BOUBA, Simala (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Officer, Speaker's Bureau <i>Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président</i>
MAKONGO DOOH, Alexandre (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
NKOU, Anatole (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Cameroon to Geneva <i>Ambassadeur du Cameroun à Genève</i>	
NGANTCHA, Francis (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Cameroon in Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Cameroun à Genève</i>	
ETEKI, Aurélien (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Cameroon in Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Cameroun à Genève</i>	
BIDIMA, Bertin (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Cameroon in Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Cameroun à Genève</i>	
BATIBONAK, Paul Roger (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Cameroon in Geneva <i>Mission permanente du Cameroun à Genève</i>	

²² (RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
(SDF: Social Democratic Front

/ *Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais*)
/ *Front social démocratique*)

CANADA

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (CPC)
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (LPC)
CALKINS, Blaine (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (CPC)
YOUNG, Terence (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (CPC)
MATHYSSEN, Irene (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (NDP/NPD)
McGUINTY, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i> (LPC) ²³
GRAVEL, Line (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Association Secretary / <i>Secrétaire d'association</i>
BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, House of Commons <i>Sous-Greffier, Chambre des Communes</i>
GOODY, Allison (Mrs./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Analyst / <i>Analyste</i>

CHAD – TCHAD

KADAM, Moussa (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Rapporteur du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MPS)
NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, General Policy Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission politique générale</i> (PAP/JS)
TCHARI, Madi Maïna (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-President of the Finance Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des finances</i> (RDP)
GATTA, Gali Ngothé (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Development / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'économie et du développement</i> (UFD/PR)
HAMID, Kodya Moustapha (Mr./M.) Treasurer of the Group / <i>Trésorier du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MPS)
NDOUBANADJI, Taram Delphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FAR)
ISSAKHA HAROUN, Fatouma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MPS) ²⁴
GALI, Massa Harou (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
MBAÏAMMADJI, Béaïn Joël (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Director, Administrative and Legislative Affairs <i>Directeur des affaires administratives et législatives</i>

²³ (CPC: Conservative Party of Canada
(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada
(NDP/NPD: New Democratic Party

²⁴ (MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress
(FAR: Front of Action Forces for the Republic

/ *Parti conservateur du Canada*)

/ *Parti libéral du Canada*)

/ *Nouveau parti démocratique*)

/ *Mouvement patriotique du salut*)

/ *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès*)

/ *Front des forces d'action pour la République*)

CHILE – CHILI

COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (UDI)
CERONI, Guillermo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDC)
ROSSI, Fulvio (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PS)
EDWARDS, Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (RN)
GOIC, Carolina (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PDC)
HASBÚN (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (UDI)
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.) President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PS) ²⁵
PASCAL-ALLENDE, Denise (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
OSES, Juan (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Department of the Senate / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des affaires étrangères du Sénat</i>
PEILLARD GARCÍA, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directrice des relations internationales à la Chambre des Députés</i>
SMOK, John (Mr./M.)	Senior Secretary / <i>Secrétaire principal</i>
ROJAS, Luis (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire adjoint à la Chambre des Députés</i>

CHINA – CHINE

CAO, Weizhou (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member and Deputy Secretary General of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice- Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre et Secrétaire général adjoint de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Vice- Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LI, Lihui (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress, Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Commission des affaires financières et économiques</i>
CHEN, Xiaogong (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
PANG, Lijuan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National People's Congress, Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Commission de l'éducation, des sciences, de la culture et de la santé publique</i>

²⁵ (UDI: Independent Democratic Union
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party
(PS: Socialist Party
(RN: Renovación nacional)

/ *Union démocrate indépendante*
/ *Parti démocrate-chrétien*
/ *Parti socialiste*

WANG, Wen (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Bureau <i>Directeur général adjoint du Bureau des affaires étrangères</i>
LIU, Deyu (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau <i>Directeur adjoint du Bureau des affaires étrangères</i>
XIE, Jifeng (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des organisations internationales et des conférences du Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
SUN, Ming (Mr./M.)	Staff, Foreign Affairs Bureau <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères</i>
WANG, Yixing (Ms./Mme)	Staff, Foreign Affairs Bureau <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères</i>
JIA, Yongmei (Ms./Mme)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
WANG, Xunjia (Ms./Mme)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
LU, Yuqi (Ms./Mme)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
LIU, Ming (Mr./M.)	
Permanent Mission of China in Geneva <i>Mission permanente de la Chine à Genève</i>	

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

TORRADO GARCÍA, Efraín (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat (U)</i>
GALÁN PACHÓN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Constitutional Standing Committee / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission permanente constitutionnelle (PL)</i> ²⁶

CONGO

KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU, Joseph (Mr./M.) Acting President and Secretary of the Group <i>Président délégué et Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Member and Second Secretary of the National Assembly <i>Membre et deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale (UPADS)</i> ²⁷
MBOUNGOU BILONGI, Eugène (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the Second Secretary of the National Assembly / <i>Directeur de Cabinet du deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

COSTA RICA

ALFARO ZAMORA, Oscar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and External Trade, Chair, Human Rights Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Président de la Commission des relations internationales et du commerce extérieur (PLN)</i> ²⁸
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²⁶ (CP: Conservative Party
(U: Partido de la « U »)
(PL: Liberal Party
(PL: Liberal Party

/ *Parti conservateur*)

/ *Parti libéral*)

/ *Parti libéral*)

²⁷ (UPADS: Pan-African Union for Social Democracy

/ *Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale*)

²⁸ (PLN: National Liberation Party

/ *Parti de libération nationale*)

COTE D'IVOIRE

AGBRE TOUNI, Jean Albert (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, External Relations Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations extérieures</i> (RDR)
YACE DE MEL, Laurette Andrée (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Security and Defence Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la sécurité et de la défense</i> (PDCI-RDA)
OUATTARA, Siaka (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on General and Institutional Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles</i> (RDR)
GNANGBO, Kacou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires économiques et financières</i> (Esp)
ZIMBRIL, Kouamenan Alphonse (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, External Relations Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des relations extérieures</i> (PDCI-RDA) ²⁹
LATTE, N'Drin Ahouanzi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure Yaovi (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Director, Legislative Services <i>Directeur des Services législatifs</i>

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the National Assembly of the People's Power / <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
FERRER GÓMEZ, Yolanda (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SÁNCHEZ CUÉLLAR, Yoerky (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Youth, Children and Equality of Women's Rights / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire, Vice-Président de la Commission de la jeunesse, de l'enfance et de l'égalité des droits de la femme</i>
ROMERO PUENTES, Yusnier (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva <i>Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève</i>	

²⁹ (RDR: Rally of Republicans
(PDCI: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire
(RDA: African Democratic Rally
(Esp: Espérance)

/ *Rassemblement des Républicains*
/ *Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire*
/ *Rassemblement démocratique africain*

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

NEOFYTOU, Averof (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et européennes</i> (DISY)
GAROYAN, Marios (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (DIKO)
KOUTRA-KOUKOUUMA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Présidente de la Commission des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, des personnes disparues et des personnes en situation difficile</i> (AKEL)
VARNAVA, George (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Defence / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission de la défense</i> (EDEK) ³⁰
ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Relations Officer A <i>Chargée des relations extérieures A</i>

CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

KONECNA, Katerina (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (CP)
GUZIANA, Petr (Mr./M.)	Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Policy / <i>Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission de la santé et de la politique sociale</i> (ČSSD)
ADAMEK, Frantisek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (ČSSD)
DOUBRAVA, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Senator, Deputy Chair, Committee on EU Affairs <i>Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires de l'Union européenne</i> (S.cz)
LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.) Member of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus <i>Membre du Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires européennes</i> (TOP09-S)
MAXOVA, Radka (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (ANO2009)
VAHALOVA, Dana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (ČSSD) ³¹

³⁰ (DISY: Democratic Rally
(DIKO: Democratic Party
(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People
(EDEK: Movement of Social Democrats

³¹ (CP: Communist Party
(ČSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party
(S.cz: Severocesí)

/ *Rassemblement démocratique*
/ *Parti démocratique*
/ *Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses*
/ *Mouvement social-démocrate*
/ *Parti communiste*
/ *Parti social-démocrate tchèque*

UKLEIN, Jirí (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
KYNŠTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>
KRBEC, Jirí (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the International Relations Department of the Senate <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales du Sénat</i>
TUCKOVA, Alena (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO, Edouard (Mr./M.) Co-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation / <i>Co-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat (Ind)</i>
MBUKU-LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)</i>
SHEOKITUNDU, Léonard (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group <i>Rapporteur du Groupe</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PPRD)</i>
BOKONA, Wipa François (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i>
GOYA, Bijoux (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
EKOMBE, Mpetshi Toussaint (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDC)</i>
MASUKA, Saini Fifi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDEC)</i>
MAYAMBA, Massaka Serge (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDPS)</i>
LOMBEYA BOSSONGO, Eugène (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (UDR)</i> ³²
BYAZA-SANDA, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
MADJUBOLE MODRIKPE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KATAKO, Josue (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the First Vice-President of the Senate <i>Chef du Cabinet du premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (Mr./M.) Administrative Joint Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Adviser and Coordinator, Senate Research Office <i>Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat</i>
MUTEBA, Ngoy Baudoin (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senior Adviser, Research Office, National Assembly <i>Conseiller principal au Bureau des études de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

³² (Ind: Independent / *Indépendant*)
 (ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / *Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo*)
 (PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / *Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie*)
 (PDC: Democratic Christian Party / *Parti démocrate chrétien*)
 (FIDEC: Independent Christian Democrats Front / *Front des Indépendants pour la Démocratie Chrétienne*)
 (UDPS: Union for Democracy and Social Progress / *Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social*)
 (UDR: Union for Democracy and the Republic / *Union pour la démocratie et la République*)

MUTUMBE, Mbuya Crispin (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Advisor, National Assembly <i>Conseiller parlementaire à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SWEDI, Claude (Mr./M.)	Logistical Adviser / <i>Conseiller logistique</i>
MBOMBO KAYALA, Roger (Mr./M.)	Secretariat, General Services <i>Secrétariat de la Direction des Services généraux</i>

DENMARK – DANEMARK

SCHMIDT, Hans Christian (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (LP)
HAV, Orla (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (SD)
CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (DPP)
JOSEFSEN, Birgitte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Folketing / <i>Membre du Folketing</i> (LP) ³³
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	

DJIBOUTI

HASSAN, Ilmi Moussa (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DAOUD, Ali Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GOUMANEH, Hassan Said (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN NUESI, Graciela (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, International Relations and Cooperation Committee, Human Development Committee, Justice Committee, External Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la coopération et des relations internationales, Commission du développement humain, Commission de la justice, Commission des affaires extérieures</i>
ARIAS MEDRANO, Orfelina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Justice Committee, Human Rights Committee, Education Committee, Public Ministry Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la justice, Commission des droits de l'homme, Commission de l'éducation, Commission du Ministère public</i>

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

BUSTAMANTE, Fernando (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade / <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (AP)
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³³ (LP: Liberal Party
(SD: Social Democratic Party
(DPP: Danish Peoples' Party

/ *Parti libéral*
/ *Parti social-démocrate*
/ *Parti populaire danois*

OCLES, Alexandra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)</i>
VINTIMILLA, Diego (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)</i> ³⁴
RIVAS, Libia (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
VERCOUTERE, Tamia (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>
ANDRADE, Alejandra (Ms./Mme)	Assistant / <i>Assistante</i>
CARVAJAL, María José (Ms./Mme) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
GALLEGOS, Luis (Mr./M.) Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to Geneva / <i>Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de l'Equateur à Genève</i>	
MORALES, Alfonso (Mr./M.) Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to Geneva / <i>Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent adjoint de l'Equateur à Genève</i>	
AVILÉS, León Pablo (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Ecuador in Geneva <i>Mission permanente de l'Equateur à Genève</i>	

EL SALVADOR

SOSA, Karina (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Central American Integration and Expatriate Salvadorans / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de l'intégration centraméricaine et des Salvadoriens vivant à l'étranger (FMLN)</i>
PONCE, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the Municipal Affairs Committee, Electoral and Constitutional Reforms Committee, Special Committee on Finance and Budget / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Président de la Commission des affaires municipales, Commission des réformes électorales et constitutionnelles, Commission spéciale des finances et du budget (CN)</i>
GARCÍA, César (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Committee on Foreign Relations, Central American Integration and Expatriate Salvadorans, Agricultural Committee, Economy Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Commission des affaires étrangères, de l'intégration centraméricaine et des Salvadoriens vivant à l'étranger, Commission de l'agriculture, Commission de l'économie (GANA)</i> ³⁵
ROSALES Ivan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Department of International Relations and Parliamentary Diplomacy / <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales et de la diplomatie parlementaire</i>

³⁴ (AP: Alianza Pais)³⁵ (FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front
(CN: National Conciliation Party
(GANA: Grand Alliance for National Unity/ *Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí*
/ *Parti de conciliation nationale*)
/ *Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale*)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINEE EQUATORIALE

EFUA ASANGONO, Teresa (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Présidente du Sénat</i> (PDGE)
ELA NTUGU NSA, Atanasio (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PDGE)
ONDO NSE, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDGE)
ESIMI MANGUE, Juliana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (PDGE) ³⁶
NKA OBIANG MAYE, Victorino (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
OWONO EFUA, Perla Divina (Ms./Mme)	Director General of the Speaker's Office <i>Directrice générale du Cabinet du Président</i>
NSUE NSUE, Simon (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÕIV, Tõnis (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Riigikogu, European Union Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Riigikogu, Commission des affaires de l'Union européenne</i> (ERP)
ÕUNAPUU, Jaan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riigikogu, Vice-Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee, Security Authorities Surveillance Select Committee / <i>Membre du Riigikogu, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires économiques, Commission sectorielle de sécurité et surveillance</i> (SDE)
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Riigikogu, Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Riigikogu, Commission des affaires juridiques</i> (ECeP) ³⁷
ALAJÕE, Maria (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Riigikogu <i>Secrétaire générale du Riigikogu</i>
OTSEPP, Riina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department <i>Chef adjoint du Département des relations extérieures</i>

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

GEBREHIWOT, Kassa Teklebirhan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the Federation <i>Président de la Chambre de la Fédération</i> (EPRDF)
DEJENE TILAHUN, Meles (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, State Minister / <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre d'Etat</i> (EPRDF)
FARIS BUAYALEW, Yohannes (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Regional Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires constitutionnelles et régionales</i> (EPRDF)
BARAMO TESSEMA, Tekle (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Security and Defence Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la sécurité étrangère et de la défense</i>

³⁶ (PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea³⁷ (ERP: Reform Party(SDE: Estonian Social Democratic Party
(ECeP/ *Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale*)/ *Parti de la réforme*)/ *Parti social-démocrate d'Estonie*)

: Estonian Centre Party

/ *Parti estonien du centre*)

WOLDESEMAYAT ESHETE, Ayelech (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Children and Youth Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux enfants et à la jeunesse</i> (EPRDF)
ZEGEYE, Asmelash Weldeslassie (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister / <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre</i> (EPRDF)
AYENEW, Worku Adamu (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (EPRDF)
ANKO, Daniel Demissie (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (EPRDF) ³⁸
MAHDI, Beshir Ali (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament, Whip <i>Membre du Parlement, Chef de file</i>
WAKO LEMA, Megersa (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
LEMMA GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
DERRA, Debebe Barud (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
CHEWAKA, Estifanos Alemayehu (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol / <i>Chef du protocole</i>

FINLAND – FINLANDE

LOHELA, Maria (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Eduskunta, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta, Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (PS)
HEMMILÄ, Pertti (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta, Chair of the Parliamentary Auditors / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta, Président des audits parlementaires</i> (KOK)
SKINNARI, Jouko (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (SDP)
RUOHONEN-LERNER, Pirkko (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (PS)
AHVENJÄRVI, Sauli (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (KD)
SOININVAARA, Osmo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / <i>Membre de l'Eduskunta</i> (Vihr) ³⁹
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary, International Affairs <i>Secrétaire aux affaires internationales</i>
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Mrs./Mme) Assistant Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe</i>	Assistant to the International Affairs <i>Assistante aux affaires internationales</i>

³⁸ (EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / *Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Éthiopie*)

³⁹ (PS: True Finns / *Finlandais authentiques*)
(KOK: National Coalition Party / *Coalition nationale*)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / *Parti social-démocrate*)
(KD: Christian Democrats / *Chrétiens-démocrates*)
(Vihr: Green League / *Alliance des verts*)

FRANCE

<p>ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i></p> <p>DEL PICCHIA, Robert-Denis (Mr./M.) President of the Twelve Plus Group <i>Président du Groupe des Douze Plus</i></p> <p>DURRIEU, Josette (Ms./Mme)</p> <p>GUITTET, Chantal (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i></p> <p>MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs <i>Membre du Groupe consultatif de la Commission UIP des Affaires des Nations Unies</i></p> <p>DURAND, Yves (Mr./M.)</p> <p>LUQUIENS, Corinne (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i></p> <p>MEUNIER-FERRY, Dominique (Ms./Mme) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe</i></p> <p>BOURASSÉ, Philippe (Mr./M.) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group <i>Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe</i></p> <p>FAUCONNIER, Inès (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i></p> <p>VELASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme) ASGP Administrative Secretariat <i>Secrétariat administratif de l'ASGP</i></p> <p>WALFARD, Adrien (Mr./M.) Proceedings of the Twelve Plus Group <i>Compte rendu du Groupe des Douze Plus</i></p>	<p>Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Finance Committee <i>Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des finances (SRC)</i></p> <p>Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces / <i>Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (UMP)</i></p> <p>Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (PS)</i></p> <p>Member of the National Assembly / <i>Députée (SRC)</i></p> <p>Member of the National Assembly / <i>Député (UMP)</i></p> <p>Member of the National Assembly / <i>Député (SRC)</i>⁴⁰</p> <p>Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i></p> <p>Deputy Director, National Assembly <i>Directrice adjointe à l'Assemblée nationale</i></p> <p>Deputy Director, Senate / <i>Directeur adjoint au Sénat</i></p> <p>Administrator, Senate / <i>Conseillère au Sénat</i></p> <p>Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale</i></p> <p>Analyste des débats, Sénat / <i>Analyst, Senate</i></p>
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GABON

<p>NZOUBA-NDAMA, Guy (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i></p>
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⁴⁰ (SRC: Socialist, Republican and Citizen Group
(UMP: Union for a Popular Movement
(PS: Socialist Party

*/ Groupe socialiste, républicain et citoyen)
(Union pour un mouvement populaire)
(Parti socialiste)*

OWONO NGUEMA, François (Mr./M.)	Fifth Vice-President of the Senate <i>Cinquième Vice-Président du Sénat</i> (PDG)
MOULENGUI-MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, <i>ex officio</i> Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PDG)
NDJAMONO, François (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
NDONG OBIANG, Albert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
ANGARA, Alphonse (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
EDZEBA BICKE, Steve Thierry (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG) ⁴¹
NONGOU LOUEMBET, Pauline Olive (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Rapporteur, Economic Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Rapporteuse de la Commission des affaires économiques</i>
OWANSANGO DEACKEN, Félix (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Ms./Mme)	Director, Parliamentary Relations, Senate <i>Directrice des relations parlementaires du Sénat</i>
BOULE, Dieudonné (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Président</i>	

GAMBIA – GAMBIE

SAIDYKHAN, Bafaye (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KOLLEY, Abdou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CHAM, Samba (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
JALLOW, Foday A. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SANNEH, Buba Ayi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CARDOS, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Business and Programmes/Projects / <i>Greffier adjoint des affaires législatives et des programmes et projets</i>

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

CHAPIDZE, Eliso (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Member of Parliament</i>
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⁴¹ (PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party/ *Parti démocratique gabonais*)

BEZHUASHVILI, David (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (UNM) ⁴²
MARAKVELIDZE, Zurab (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
PERADZE, Lika (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division <i>Département des relations interparlementaires</i>

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Bundestag <i>Président du Bundestag</i> (CDU/CSU)
FISCHER, Axel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Bundestag, Committee on Budget <i>Membre du Bundestag, Commission du budget</i> (CDU/CSU)
HOCHBAUM, Robert (Mr./M.)	Member of the Bundestag, Defence Committee <i>Membre du Bundestag, Commission de la défense</i> (CDU/CSU)
SÜTTERLIN-WAACK, Sabine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Bundestag, Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection / <i>Membre du Bundestag,</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques et de la protection</i> <i>des consommateurs</i> (CDU/CSU)
FREITAG, Dagmar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Bundestag, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Sports Committee / <i>Membre du Bundestag,</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, Commission des</i> <i>sports</i> (SPD)
ROTH, Claudia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Bundestag, Council of Elders, Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development <i>Vice-Présidente du Bundestag, Conseil</i> <i>des aînés, Commission de la coopération économique</i> <i>et du développement</i> (Bündnis 90/Grüne) ⁴³
WINKLER, Josef Philip (Mr./M.) Honorary Member, Advisor <i>Membre honoraire, Conseiller</i>	Former member of the Bundestag <i>Ancien membre du Bundestag</i>
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP / <i>Vice-Président de</i> <i>l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Bundestag</i>
KREBS, Andrea (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Head, International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag / <i>Chef de la Division des</i> <i>Assemblées parlementaires internationales du</i> <i>Bundestag</i>
MERATI-KASHANI, Jasmin (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag / <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires</i> <i>internationales du Bundestag</i>
SARENIO, Susanne (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires</i> <i>internationales du Bundestag</i>

⁴² (UNM: United National Movement⁴³ (CDU: Christian Democratic Union
(CSU: Christian Social Union
(SPD: Social Democratic Party
(Bündnis 90/Grüne: Green Party/ *Parti du mouvement national)*
/ *Union chrétienne démocrate)*
/ *Union chrétienne sociale)*
/ *Parti social démocrate)*
/ *Les Verts)*

BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Mrs./Mme)
Assistant to the delegation
Assistante de la délégation

International Parliamentary Assemblies Division,
Bundestag
*Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales
du Bundestag*

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 / *Président 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)

AGBODZA, Kwame Govers (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Majority Chief Whip
Membre du Parlement, Chef de file de la majorité (NDC)

SIAKA, Stevens (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement* (NPP)

AZUMAH-MENSAH, Juliana (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement* (NDC) ⁴⁴

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)

Clerk of Parliament / *Secrétaire général*

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Principal Assistant Clerk / *Adjointe du Greffier principal*

BOTCHWAY, Linda Teye (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the Speaker / *Secrétaire du Président*

GREECE – GRECE

DERMENTZOPOULOS, Alexandros (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Committee on
Economic Affairs, Committee on National Defence and
Foreign Affairs, Committee on Budget and Finance /
*Membre du Parlement hellénique, Commission des
affaires économiques, Commission de la défense
nationale et des affaires étrangères, Commission du
budget et des finances* (ND)

KONSTANTOPOULOS, Georgios (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Committee on
Educational Affairs, Committee on Social Affairs, Sub-
Committee on Drugs / *Membre du Parlement hellénique,
Commission de l'éducation, Commission des affaires
sociales, Commission des drogues* (ND)

KATRIVANO, Vassiliki (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Committee on Public
Administration, Public Order and Justice, Committee on
Social Security / *Membre du Parlement hellénique,
Commission de l'administration publique, de l'ordre public
et de la justice, Commission de la sécurité sociale*
(SYRIZA)

RIGAS, Panagiotis (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Whip, Committee on
Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, Committee
on Institutions and Transparency, Committee on Greeks
Abroad / *Membre du Parlement hellénique, Chef de file,
Commission de l'administration publique, de l'ordre public
et de la justice, Commission des institutions et de la
transparence, Commission des Grecs à l'étranger*
(PASOK)

⁴⁴ (NDC: National Democratic Congress
(NPP: New Patriotic Party

/ *Congrès démocratique national*)
/ *Nouveau parti patriotique*)

MAKRI, Rachil (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Committee on Production and Trade, Committee on Social Security, Committee on Environmental Protection / <i>Membre du Parlement hellénique, Commission de la production et du commerce, Commission de la sécurité sociale, Commission de la protection de l'environnement</i> (AE) ⁴⁵
PAPAIIOANNOU, Athanasios (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
GEORGOPOULOU, Varvara (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General's Associate <i>Secrétaire générale associée</i>
KARTSAKLI, Katerina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Head of the Department for the IPU and other International Organizations / <i>Chef du Département de l'UIP et autres organisations internationales</i>

GUATEMALA

BARRIOS, Jorge Mario (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic <i>Vice-Président du Congrès de la République</i> (BT) ⁴⁶
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HAITI

DESRAS, Simon Dieuseul (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (L)
THIMOLEON, Jacques Stevenson (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly, Justice Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la justice</i> (L)
ANDRIS, Riché (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate / <i>Vice-Président du Sénat</i> (OPL)
BENOIT, Steven Irvenson (Mr./M.)	Senator, First Secretary of the Senate <i>Sénateur, Premier Secrétaire du Sénat</i> (A)
ETIENNE, Marie Jossie (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i> (PSP)
BENJAMIN, Guerda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ANF)
DESCOLLINES, Abel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (L) ⁴⁷
DESIR, Guideze (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>

⁴⁵ (ND: New Democracy
(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left
(PASOK: Panhellenic Socialist Movement
(AE: Independent Greeks

⁴⁶ (BT: Bloque Todos)

⁴⁷ (L: LAVNI)

(OPL: People's Struggle Party

(A: Alternativ)

(PSP: Socialist People's Party

(ANF: Ansanm Nou Fò)

/ *Nouvelle démocratie*)

/ *Coalition radicale de gauche*)

/ *Mouvement socialiste panhellénique*

/ *Parti des Grecs indépendants*)

/ *Organisation du peuple en lutte*)

/ *Parti socialiste populaire*)

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

HORVÁTH, János (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FIDESz)
LATORCAI, János (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (KDNP)
GRUBER, Attila (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FIDESz)
HORVÁTH, András (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MSZP) ⁴⁸
SUCH, György (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
SOMFAI ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senior Councillor of the Office for Foreign Relations <i>Conseillère principale au Bureau des relations extérieures</i>
OSVÁTH, Réka (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

ICELAND – ISLANDE

RIKHARDSDOTTIR, Ragnheidur (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
JONSDOTTIR, Birgitta (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
DADASON, Asmundur Einar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Althingi / <i>Membre de l'Althingi</i>
MAGNUSSON, Thorsteinn (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser on International Affairs <i>Conseillère des affaires étrangères</i>

INDIA – INDE

KURIEN, P.J. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha <i>Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha</i> (INC)
PUNJ, Balbir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Rajya Sabha / <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha</i> (BJP) ⁴⁹
DUA, H.K. (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
AGA, Arnavaz Rohington (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Rajya Sabha / <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha</i>
SHERIFF, Shumsher (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Rajya Sabha <i>Secrétaire général du Rajya Sabha</i>
SINGH, Devender (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
GANGULI, S.K. (Mr./M.)	Consultant, Rajya Sabha / <i>Consultant au Rajya Sabha</i>
ANTONY, P.J. (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha</i>

⁴⁸ (FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union
(KDNP: Christian Democratic People's Party
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party

⁴⁹ (INC: Indian National Congress
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party

/ *Union civique hongroise*
/ *Parti chrétien-démocrate du peuple*
/ *Parti socialiste hongrois*
/ *Parti du Congrès national indien*
/ *Parti Bharatiya Janata*

JASON, S. (Mr./M.)	Joint Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat <i>Co-Directeur, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha</i>
RAMANA, L.V.	Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
ROY, Rashmi (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Chargée du protocole au Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
SINGH, Bhupendra (Mr./M.)	Senior Protocol Assistant, Rajya Sabha Secretariat <i>Assistant principal du protocole, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha</i>

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

CAKRA WIJAYA, Andi Anzhar (Mr./M.) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Leader of the delegation / <i>Président du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire (PAN)</i>
ALI ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Ms./Mme) President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Executive Committee <i>Présidente du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)</i>
QOSASIH, Achsanul (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)</i>
NOERDIN, Dodi Reza Alex (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)</i>
KAWILARANG, Edwin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)</i>
BUDIMANTA, Arif (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i>
KIEMAS, Nazarudin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> ⁵⁰
AMRAN, Herlini (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)</i>
LUBIS, Iskan Qolba (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)</i>
PURBA, Parlindungan (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Regional Representatives Council <i>Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants</i>
ISTIBYAROH, Istibyaroh (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the Regional Representatives Council <i>Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants</i>
ABDURRASYID, Muslihuddin (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Regional Representatives Council <i>Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants</i>
KOMALA, Ella M. Gri (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Regional Representatives Council <i>Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants</i>

⁵⁰ (PAN: National Mandate Party
(PD: Democrats Party
(PG: Golkar Functional Groups Party
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party - Struggle
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party

/ *Parti du mandat national*
/ *Parti démocrate*
/ *Parti des groupes fonctionnels Golkar*
/ *Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte*
/ *Parti de la justice et de la prospérité*

SWASANANY, Winatuningtyastiti (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
SUTARSONO, Slamet (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
SUTHARSA, Tatang (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of the Bureau of the Secretary General <i>Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général</i>
PURBA, Robert Juheng (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme) Secretary to Ms. Ali Assegaf <i>Secrétaire de Mme Ali Assegaf</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
HARDJONO, Sartomo (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire assistant de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation <i>Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
MULDIYANTI, Iis (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire assistante de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Secrétariat du Parlement</i>
ANGGORO, Heriyono Adi (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Parliamentary Expert Staff / <i>Expert parlementaire</i>
WISHNU KRISNAMURTHI, Bambang (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
TANSIL, Yuliana (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
INDRIANI, Hadia Alpha (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
AROFAH, Bani (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

HOSSEINI SADR, Moayed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran, Secretary General / <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran, Secrétaire général</i>
HOSSEINI, S. Hadi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
MESRI, Abdol-Reza (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
SOBHANI NIA, Hossain (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
ZAHEDI, Mohamad Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>

NOROUZI, Rahmatollah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
AKHAVAN, Nayereh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran</i>
AFRASHTEH, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Deputy Director of Administrative Affairs / <i>Secrétaire général, Directeur adjoint des affaires administratives</i>
SHAIKHOLESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.)	Chief of the Speaker's Bureau, Director General, International Department / <i>Chef du Cabinet du Président, Directeur général du Département international</i>
GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Head of the International Department of the Islamic Consultative Assembly / <i>Chef adjoint du Département international de l'Assemblée consultative islamique</i>
GHASHGHAZI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
SHAMOHAMMAD, Parisa (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>
ALAVI, Ali (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Press</i>	
KERDABADI, Mohammad Hanif (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Press</i>	

IRAQ

AL-RIKABI, Sadiq (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires étrangères (SLC)</i>
KHOSHNAW, Rawaz (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires étrangères (KA)</i>
ALJOURBARI, Nada (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires étrangères (IB)</i>
ALSOUHAIL, Safia (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Foreign Relations Committee <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires étrangères (Ind)</i> ⁵¹
NAMIK MAJID, Ayad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
RADHI, Mustafa Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
ALMANDALAWI, Nihal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
ALHAIDARI, Mustafa (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

IRELAND – IRLANDE

KITT, Michael (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Dáil Éireann <i>Vice-Président de Dáil Éireann (FF)</i>
HAYDEN, Aideen (Ms./Mme)	Member of Seanad Éireann <i>Membre de Seanad Éireann (L)</i>

⁵¹ (SLC: State of Law Coalition
(KA: Kurdistan Alliance
(INA: Iraqi National Alliance
(IB: Iraqia Block)
(Ind: Independent

/ Coalition pour l'état de droit)
(Alliance kurde)
(Alliance nationale iraquienne)
(Indépendant)

BANNON, James (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann (FG)</i>
D'ARCY, Jim (Mr./M.)	Member of Seanad Éireann <i>Membre de Seanad Éireann (FG)</i> ⁵²
DOODY, Bridget (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs <i>Chef des affaires interparlementaires</i>

ISRAEL

SHEETRIT, Meir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Knesset <i>Membre de la Knesset (H)</i> ⁵³
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ITALY – ITALIE

FARINA, Gianni (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, European Union Politics Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la politique de l'Union européenne (PD)</i> ⁵⁴
RADONI, Susanna (Mrs./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Chamber of Deputies / <i>Chambre des Députés</i>
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Senate / <i>Sénat</i>

JAPAN – JAPON

UESUGI, Mitsuhiro (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)</i>
NAGATSUMA, Akira (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)</i>
TOKASHIKI, Naomi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)</i>
MIYAZAWA, Takahito (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (JRP)</i>
KUNISHIGE, Toru (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NK)</i>
NODA, Kuniyoshi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (DPJ)</i> ⁵⁵
SANO, Keiko (Ms./Mme)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / <i>Directrice de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>

⁵² (FF: Fianna Fáil)
(L: Labour Party / *Parti travailliste*)
(FG: Fine Gael)

⁵³ (H: Hatenua (The movement) / *Hatenua (Le Mouvement)*)

⁵⁴ (SCI: Scelta Civica) / *Parti démocrate*
(PD: Democratic Party) / *Mouvement cinq étoiles*
(M5S: Five Stars Movement)

⁵⁵ (LDP: Liberal Democratic Party) / *Parti libéral démocrate*
(DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan) / *Parti démocrate japonais*
(JRP: Nippon Ishin no Kai)
(NK: New Komeito)

SATO, Hiroshi (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Directrice adjointe de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SUGIYAMA, Jin (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / <i>Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KONO, Miho (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / <i>Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SUZUKI, Yuko (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors <i>Directrice adjointe, Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
TAKEUCHI, Kenta (Mr./M.)	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / <i>Secrétaire de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>

JORDAN – JORDANIE

MAJALI, Abdulhadi (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BINO, Tamer (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-BARAISEH, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
OWAIS, Samer (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAKET, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
BARAKAT, Salwa (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
SHBOUL, Hashem (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
JEBREEN, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL ZOUBI, Fawwaz (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-GHRIR, Hamad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

ALARAJ, Hamdi (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
AL WAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director of the Speaker's Affairs Department <i>Directeur du Département des affaires présidentielles</i>
ALMASHAKBEEH, Adnan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director of the International Affairs Department, Senate <i>Directeur du Département des affaires internationales du Sénat</i>
AL-TARAWNEH, Hassan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the International Affairs Section <i>Chef de la Section des affaires internationales</i>
AL-KHALLAILEH, Ali (Mr./M.) ALAMIR, Majed (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

KAZAKHSTAN

NIGMATULIN, Nurlan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Mazhilis / <i>Président du Mazhilis</i> (Nur Otan)
ASHIMBAYEV, Maulen (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security / <i>Membre du Mazhilis, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité</i> (Nur Otan)
DOSMUKHAMBETOV, Temirkhan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis, Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security / <i>Membre du Mazhilis, Commission des affaires internationales, de la défense et de la sécurité</i> (Nur Otan)
BAZARBAYEV, Askar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis, Committee on Economic Reforms and Regional Development / <i>Membre du Mazhilis, Commission des réformes économiques et du développement régional</i> (Nur Otan) ⁵⁶
NESTEROVA, Nadezha (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Mazhilis, Committee on Economic Reforms and Regional Development / <i>Membre du Mazhilis, Commission des réformes économiques et du développement régional</i>
AITAKHANOV, Kuanysh (Mr./M.)	Senator, Committee on Agricultural Issues, Use of Natural Resources, Rural Development / <i>Sénateur, Commission des questions sur l'agriculture, l'utilisation des ressources naturelles et le développement rural</i>
BEKBANOVA, Zhanar (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Speaker of the Mazhilis / <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat du Président du Mazhilis</i>
MAKHAYEV, Dastan (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Speaker of the Mazhilis / <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat du Président du Mazhilis</i>
SMAGULOV, Danay (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Speaker of the Mazhilis / <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat du Président du Mazhilis</i>

⁵⁶ (Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party)/ *Parti populaire et démocratique*)

KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the International Relations and Protocol Department / <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
SMAGULOV, Nurlan (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	Head of Personal Security to the Speaker <i>Chef de la sécurité du Président</i>
KELSEITOV, Yergali (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the International Relations and Protocol Department / <i>Chef adjoint du Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
BOTABAYEVA, Botagoz (Ms./Mme)	Desk Officer, International Relations and Protocol Section <i>Fonctionnaire, Section des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
ABRAMOVA, Olga (Mrs./Mme)	Senior Adviser of the Press Service of the Mazhilis <i>Conseillère principale du Service de la presse du Mazhilis</i>
TUREKHANOV, Bagdaulet (Mr./M.)	Senior Expert of the International Relations and Protocol Department / <i>Expert principal du Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
MADIYEV, Ardaj (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur adjoint, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
KENYA	
ETHURO, Ekwee (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (URP)
WA KABANDO, Kabando (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (TNA)
WAHOME, Alice (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (TNA)
LOSIAKOU, David Pkosing (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (URP)
GATOBU, Boniface (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (Ind)
JUMA, Mishi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ODM)
MUKIITE, Catherine (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
SANG, Stephen (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (URP) ⁵⁷
SHABBIR, Shakeel (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of the Senate / <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
SIALAI, Michael (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Senior Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général principal adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Director, Office of the Speaker of the Senate <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président du Président</i>
CHANIA, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Clerk Assistant / <i>Greffier assistant</i>

⁵⁷ (TNA: The National Alliance
(URP: United Republican Party
(Ind: Independent Party
(ODM: Orange Democratic Movement

/ *Alliance nationale*
(URP: *Parti républicain uni*)
(Ind: *Parti indépendant*)
(ODM: *Mouvement démocratique orange*)

KAIRU, Rachel (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

EDUNG, Edward (Mr./M.)

Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Assistant particulier du Président

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-GHANIM, Marzouq (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

AL-SHAYEE, Faisal (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

AL-OMAR, Jamal (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

AL-AZEMI, Saif (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

AL-TOURAIGI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

AL-HAJIRI, Madi (Mr./M.)

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-ENEZI, Shehab (Mr./M.)

Section Head of International Affairs
Chef de la Section des affaires internationales

AL-ENEZI, Meshal (Mr./M.)

Section Head of Arabic Affairs
Chef de la Section des affaires arabes

AL-AWADI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)

Staff / *Secrétariat*

ALDEGAISHEM, Jamal (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

BOHAMDEE, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

HASSAN, Ameer (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

AL-ENEZI, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

AL-MUTAWA, Amal (Mr./M.)

Staff / *Secrétariat*

AL-SUBAIEE, Muslat (Mr./M.)

Staff / *Secrétariat*

AL-MUTAWA, Bader (Mr./M.)

Staff / *Secrétariat*

AL-HARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

SHESHTARI, Bader (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

ALDOWAIHE, Nasser (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

ALMONIAKH, Fahad (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

AL-LOGANEE, Maha (Mrs./Mme)

Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC REPUBLICUE 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 (LPRP)

BOUPHA, Bounngong (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères, Présidente du Groupe des femmes parlementaires</i>
SIHALATH, Ketkeo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Economic Planning and Finance Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la planification économique et des finances</i>
SADETTAN, Sanexay (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
ARCHKHAWONG, Soukhanxay (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Lao People's Democratic Republic in Geneva / <i>Mission permanente de la République démocratique populaire lao à Genève</i>	

LATVIA – LETTONIE

SOLVITA, Aboltina (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Saeima / <i>Présidente du Saeima (V)</i>
REIZNIECE-OZOLA, Dana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Saeima, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Culture and Science Committee / <i>Membre du Saeima, Présidente de la Commission de l'éducation, de la culture et des sciences (ZS)</i>
OZOLINS, Janis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Saeima, Chairman of the Economic, Agricultural and Regional Policy Committee / <i>Membre du Saeima, Président de la Commission de l'économie, de l'agriculture et de la politique régionale (RP)</i> ⁵⁸
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau <i>Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires</i>
ELFERTS, Peteris Karlis (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker / <i>Conseiller de la Présidente</i>

LEBANON – LIBAN

JABER, Yassine (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Committee, Budget and Finance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères et des émigrés, Commission du budget et des finances (DLB)</i>
HAJJAR, Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Education and Culture, Committee on Public Works, Transport, Energy and Water / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'éducation et de la culture, Commission des travaux publics, des transports, de l'énergie et de l'eau (FM)</i>
RAHMÉ, Émile (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Administration and Justice Committee, Information and Telecommunications Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de l'administration et de la justice, Commission de l'information et des télécommunications (FPM)</i>

⁵⁸ (V: Vienotiba) Unity
(ZS: Union of Greens and Farmers
(RP: Reform Party

/ *Unité*
/ *Union des Verts et des paysans*
/ *Parti de la réforme*

ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Children, Committee on Agriculture and Tourism / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la femme et de l'enfant, Commission de l'agriculture et du tourisme</i> (FPM) ⁵⁹
DAHER, Adnan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

LESOTHO

MOTANYANE, Sephiri Enoch (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the MDGs Committee <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des OMD</i> (ABC)
MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (DC) ⁶⁰
LETHUNYA NTSIENG, Lydia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
PHEKO THABANG, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MADUMA, Tsepame (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseiller au Sénat</i>

LIBYA – LIBYE

HAWEI, Mansaf (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the General National Congress, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Congrès général national, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
WAGDE, Asia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the General National Congress <i>Membre du Congrès général national</i>
MAGNE, Taher (Mr./M.)	Member of the General National Congress <i>Membre du Congrès général national</i>
ELMNIFI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the General National Congress <i>Membre du Congrès général national</i>
RAGEH, Abdalfattah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
AMIN, Murad (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

LIECHTENSTEIN

LANTER-KOLLER, Violanda (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the Parliament (Landtag) <i>Vice-Présidente du Parlement (Landtag)</i> (VU)
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⁵⁹ (DLB: Development and Liberation Bloc
(FM: Future Movement
(FPM: Free Patriotic Movement
⁶⁰ (ABC: All Basotho Convention
(DC: Democratic Congress

/ *Bloc de développement et libération*)
/ *Courant du futur*)
/ *Mouvement patriotique libre*)
/ *Convention des Basotho*)
/ *Congrès démocratique*)

BÜCHEL, Helmuth (Mr./M.)

Member of the Parliament (Landtag)
Membre du Parlement (Landtag) ⁶¹WACHTER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)
Deputy Secretary of the Group
*Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe***LITHUANIA – LITUANIE**GAPSYS, Vytautas (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Seimas, Committee on Legal Affairs
Membre du Seimas, Commission des affaires juridiques (L)

BILOTAITE, Agne (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Seimas, Committee on State Administration
and Local Authorities / *Membre du Seimas, Commission de
l'administration d'Etat et des autorités locales* (TS-LKD) ⁶²ALEKSONIS, Gedeminas (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*SUMSKIENE, Laura (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*Adviser, International Relations Department
*Conseillère du Département des relations internationales***MALAYSIA – MALAISIE**MAZLAN, Maznah (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Senator / *Sénatrice* (UMNO)

CHIEW, Lian Keng (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur* (BN-MCA)

LIM, Lip Eng (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DAP)

ATIQUULLAH, Ahmad Baihaki (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAS) ⁶³ZAMRIZAM, Samsuri (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*IKMAL, Nurhana Muhammad (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Malaysia in Geneva
Mission permanente de la Malaisie à Genève

AHMAD RAZIF, Ahmad Rusydan (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller***MALDIVES**WAHEED, Hussain (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens (MDP)

NAEEM, Yoosuf (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis
Membre du Majlis des Citoyens (Ind) ⁶⁴

⁶¹ (VU: Patriotic Union
(FBP: Progressive Citizens' Party/ *Union patriotique*)
/ *Parti des citoyens progressistes*)⁶² (L: Labour Party/ *Parti du travail*)⁶³ (TS-LKD: Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats/ *Union de la patrie – Démocrates-chrétiens de Lituanie*)

(UMNO: United Malays National Organization

/ *Organisation malaisienne nationale unie*)

(BN: National Front

/ *Front national*)

(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association

/ *Association sino-malaisienne*)

(DAP: Democratic Action Party

/ *Parti d'action démocratique*)

(PAS: Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party

/ *Parti islamique pan-malaisien*)⁶⁴ (MDP: Maldives Democratic Party/ *Parti démocratique des Maldives*)

(Ind: Independent

/ *Indépendant*)

MALI

CISSE, Amadou (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Third Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Troisième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MAIGA, Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Second Parliamentary Secretary / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Deuxième Secrétaire parlementaire</i>
DRAME, Maïmouna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Sixth Parliamentary Secretary / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Sixième Secrétaire parlementaire</i>
DIALLO, Madou (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

MALTA – MALTE

ABELA, Carmelo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Government Whip, House Business Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Chef de file, Commission des questions internes (LP)</i>
GONZI, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)</i> ⁶⁵

MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE

EL HACEN EL HADJ, Mohamed (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces / <i>Président du Sénat, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (UPR)</i>
COULIBALY, Yaye N'daw (Mrs./Mme)	Senator, Committee on Cultural and Social Affairs <i>Sénatrice, Commission des affaires culturelles et sociales (T)</i>
GHADOUR, Boubacar (Mr./M.)	Senator, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Sénateur, Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées (UPR)</i> ⁶⁶
AHMED, Sid Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ELY SALEM, Zeïnebou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BABA SY, Marième (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TALEBNA, Ahmed Salem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LEKOUERY, Mohamed Vall (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
EL KEBIR BA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
TALL ZEID, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

MAURITIUS – MAURICE

PEEROO, Abdool Razack M.A. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
JUGGOO, Kalyanee Bedwantee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTR)</i>

⁶⁵ (LP: Labour Party

(PN: Nationalist Party

⁶⁶ (UPR: Union for the Republic

(T: Tewassoul)

/ *Parti du travail*)/ *Parti nationaliste*)/ *Union pour la République*)

NAGALINGUM, Darmarajen (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMM)⁶⁷**MEXICO – MEXIQUE**CUEVAS BARRÓN, 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 GONZÁLEZ, Graciela (Ms./Mme)
Substitute Member of the Standing Committee
on Democracy and Human Rights / *Membre*
suppléant de la Commission permanente de la
*démocratie et des droits de l'homme*Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Study
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission de l'étude
législative(PRI)

GUERRA CASTILLO, Marcela (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on External
Relations, North America / *Sénatrice, Présidente de la*
Commission des relations extérieures pour l'Amérique du
nord (PRI)ROJAS HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica
(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)

MONREAL ÁVILA, David (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Jurisdictional
Affairs
Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires
juridictionnelles (PT)

RIVADENEYRA HERNÁNDEZ, Alfredo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)

BLANCO DEAQUINO, Silvano (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)

GUEVARA ESPINOSA, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice* (PT)⁶⁸

SÁNCHEZ DE TAGLE, Gonzalo (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*ENRIQUEZ BALDAZO, Arelí (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Director, International Affairs
*Directrice des affaires internationales***MONACO**ALLAVENA, Jean-Charles (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Council, Chairman of the
Committee on External Relations / *Membre du Conseil*
national, Président de la Commission des relations
extérieures (HM)

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council, Deputy Chairman of the
Committee on Legislation / *Membre du Conseil national,*
Vice-Président de la Commission de législation (HM)⁶⁹COLOMBO-PASTORELLI, Mariam (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
*Secrétaire de la délégation*International Relations / *Relations internationales*⁶⁷ (PTR: Labour Party/ *Parti travailliste*)

(MMM: Militant Mauritian Movement

/ *Mouvement militant mauricien*)⁶⁸ (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*)⁶⁹ (HM: Monaco Horizon/ *Horizon Monaco*)

MOROCCO – MAROC

BIADILLAH, Mohamed Cheikh (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Councillors <i>Président de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (PAM)
KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (PAM)
OMARI, Abdelaziz (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PJD)
BOUAMER, Taghouan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PI)
LAZRAK, Noureddine (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (RNI)
BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (USFP)
EL ABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PAM)
ALAMI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (USFP)
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers</i> (PAM) ⁷⁰
ELKHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
KHOUJA, Abdelouahed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Councillors <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
CHIBAN, Omar (Mr./M.)	Head of the Office of the Speaker of the House of Councillors <i>Chef de Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>
IDBELHAJ, Hafida (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	Head, Division of External Relations and Cooperation, House of Representatives / <i>Chef de la Division des relations extérieures et de la coopération de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of External Relations and Protocol Division, House of Councillors / <i>Chef de la Division des relations extérieures et du protocole de la Chambre des Conseillers</i>

MOZAMBIQUE

KATUPHA, José Mateus (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (FRELIMO)
FAZTUDO, Izidora (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (FRELIMO)
CINQUENTA NAULA, Mário (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (RENAMO) ⁷¹
CORREIA, Armando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BONIFÁCIO, César João (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Standing Committees Division <i>Directeur de la Division des Commissions permanentes</i>

⁷⁰ (PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party
(PJD: Justice and Development Party
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces
(PI: Istiqlal

⁷¹ (FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance

/ *Parti authenticité et modernité*
/ *Parti de la justice et du développement*
/ *Union socialiste de forces populaires*
/ *Parti de l'Istiqlal*
/ *Front de libération du Mozambique*
/ *Résistance nationale du Mozambique*

MYANMAR

TOE, Maung (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives, Joint Public Accounts Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission mixte des comptes publics (USDP)*⁷²

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

GURIRAB, Theo-Ben (Dr./M.)
President of the Group, Honorary IPU President, Leader of the delegation / *Président du Groupe, Président honoraire de l'UIP, Chef de la délégation*

MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret (Mrs./Mme)
Vice-Chairperson of the National Council
Vice-Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)

LUCKS, Heiko (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)

JANKOWSKI, Maureen (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)

NAMWANDI, Barakias (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)

MUSHELENGA, Teopolina (Ms./Mme)
Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)*⁷³

SHEKUTAMBA, Bernadinus (Mr./M.)
Advisor / *Conseiller*

JACOBS, Johannes Jakes (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

SHIMUTWIKENI, Panduleni (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

ISAAK, Willem H. (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

SHALI, Auguste (Mrs./Mme)
Co-Secretary of the Group
Co-Secrétaire du Groupe

SHIPIKI, Ndapandula (Ms./Mme)
Personal Assistant to the Speaker
Assistante particulière du Président

KAUKUNGUA, Ndahafa (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / *Conseillère*

BÖHLKE-MÖLLER, Sabine (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador of Namibia to Geneva
Ambassadrice de la Namibie à Genève

NGHIFITIKEKO, Absalom (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Namibia in Geneva
Mission permanente de la Namibie à Genève

Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Fonctionnaire parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale

Parliamentary Clerk, Committee Services, National Council
Greffière parlementaire, Service des Commissions du Conseil national

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

VAN MILTENBURG, Anouchka (Ms./Mme)
Speaker of the House of Representatives

⁷² (USDP: Union Solidarity and Development Party
⁷³ (SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress
(RP: Republican Party

/ *Parti de la solidarité et du développement de l'Union*
/ *Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain*
/ *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès*
/ *Parti républicain*

Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	<i>Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (VVD)
FRANKEN, Hans (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions / <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Senate of the States General <i>Membre du Sénat des Etats généraux</i> (CDA)
SCHRIJVER, Nico (Mr.M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PvdA)
DE BOER, Margreet (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (GL) ⁷⁴
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate of the States General <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat des Etats généraux</i>
POS, Maxime (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Office <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires</i>
BRANGER, Peter (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>

NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

HENARE, Tau (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation / <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Maori Affairs / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des affaires maori</i> (NP)
GRAHAM, Kennedy (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et du commerce</i> (G)
MORONEY, Sue (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chief Whip <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Chef de file</i> (L) ⁷⁵
CUTTING, Steve (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Manager, Parliamentary Relations, Office of the Clerk <i>Directeur des relations parlementaires du Bureau du Secrétaire général</i>

NICARAGUA

MONTENEGRO, Iris Marina (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of Parliament, Chairperson of the Parliamentarian Group to Promote Gender Equity, Committee on Health and Social Security, Modernization Committee / <i>Première Vice-Présidente du Parlement, Présidente du Groupe parlementaire pour la promotion de l'équité entre les sexes, Commission de la santé et de la sécurité sociale, Commission de modernisation</i> (FSLN) ⁷⁶
MEDINA, Eda Cecilia (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Labour and Trade Affairs Committee, Production, Economics and Budget Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement, Vice- Présidente de la Commission du travail et du commerce, Commission de la production, de l'économie et du budget</i>

⁷⁴ (VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy
(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal
(PvdA: Labour Party
(GL: Green Left

⁷⁵ (NP: National Party
(G: Green Party
(L: Labour Party

⁷⁶ (FSLN: Sandinista National Liberation Front

/ *Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie*
/ *Rassemblement chrétien-démocrate*

/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Verts-gauche*

/ *Parti national*
/ *Les verts*

/ *Parti travailliste*

/ *Front sandiniste de libération nationale*

NIGER

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Ms./Mme) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Committee on Rural Development and Environment / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i> (PNDS)
MAÏ ZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Economic Affairs and Planning Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires économiques et du plan</i> (ARN)
IBRO NA-ALLA, Aoua (Ms./Mme) Deputy Treasurer of the Group <i>Trésorière adjointe du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (PNDS)
NOUHOU, Daoudou (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group <i>Rapporteur du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Finance and Budget Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des finances et du budget</i> (MDN)
SAMAÏLA, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PNDS) ⁷⁷
SABO, Boubacar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
ALIO, Issa (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Cooperation / <i>Directeur de la coopération</i>

NIGERIA

MARK, David (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (PDP)
IHEDIOHA, Chukwuemeka Nkem (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PDP)
USMAN, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires interparlementaires</i> (PDP)
ESUENE, Helen (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PDP)
UZAMERE, Ehigie Edobor (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (ACN)
BARATA, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and National Orientation / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission de la culture, du tourisme et de l'orientation nationale</i> (PDP)
REYEMEJU, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires</i> (PDP)
BELLO, Binta Fatimah (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (PDP)
DOGUWA, Alhassan Ado (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the MDG's / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président des OMD</i> (APC)

⁷⁷ (PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / *Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme*)
(ARN: Alliance for National Reconciliation / *Alliance pour la réconciliation nationale*)
(MDN: Moden Fa Lumana - Niger Democratic Movement / *Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine*)
for an African Federation

SANI, Idris Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)</i> ⁷⁸
SOLOMON, Ganiyu (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
EFETURI, Ben (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of the Senate / <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
AUDU, Rabi (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
LASISI, Bukoye (Mr./M.)	Director, Finance and Accounts <i>Directeur du Département des finances</i>
GARBA, Lawal (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director / <i>Directeur adjoint</i>
ISAH, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer / <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères</i>
ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
OBASI, Ijeoma (Mrs./Mme)	Legal Officer / <i>Chargée des affaires légales</i>
BADAMASI, Abubakar (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / <i>Greffier de commission</i>
ONYEUKWU CHIBUIKE, Gideon (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
OKOH, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
NDIWE, Arthur (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol to the President of the Senate <i>Directeur du protocole auprès du Président du Sénat</i>
MARK, Igoche (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Assistant particulier du Président du Sénat</i>
CHIKEZIE, Emerenin Samuel (Mr./M.)	Chief Detail to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives / <i>Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MUMEH, Paul (Mr./M.)	Chief Press Secretary / <i>Attaché de presse</i>

NORWAY – NORVEGE

SVENDSEN, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Storting, Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs / <i>Vice-Président du Storting, Commission du scrutin et des affaires constitutionnelles (PP)</i>
LØDEMEL, Bjørn (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting, Committee on Local Government and Public Administration / <i>Membre du Storting, Commission du gouvernement local et de l'administration publique (CP)</i>
TRETTEBERGSTUEN, Anette (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Storting, Committee on Labour and Social Affairs / <i>Membre du Storting, Commission du travail et des affaires sociales (LP)</i>
HILLE, Sigurd (Mr./M.)	Member of the Storting, Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs / <i>Membre du Storting, Commission des finances et des affaires économiques (CP)</i>
HAUKELAND LIADAL, Hege (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Storting, Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs / <i>Membre du Storting, Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles (LP)</i> ⁷⁹

⁷⁸ (PDP: People's Democratic Party
(ACN: Action Congress of Nigeria
(APC: All Progressives Congress)

/ *Parti démocratique populaire*
/ *Congrès du Nigéria pour l'action*

BRUN, Sølvi (Ms./Mme)
Adviser to the delegation / *Conseillère de la délégation*
HØGE, Anne Laila (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

Advisor / *Conseillère*

OMAN

AL MAJALI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the Majles A'Shura
Vice-Président du Majles A'Shura

AL SHAMSI, Rashid (Mr./M.)

Member of the Majles A'Shurah
Membre du Majles A'Shura

AL MAHRI, Maktoom (Mr./M.)

Member of the Majles A'Shurah
Membre du Majles A'Shura

AL FARSI, Fawziya (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Majles Addawla
Membre du Majles Addawla

AL HARTHI, Aseelah (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Majles Addawla
Membre du Majles Addawla

AL MASHANI, Said (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP, Adviser to the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Conseiller du Groupe

Assistant Secretary General for Information and Public
Relations / *Secrétaire général adjoint de l'information
et des relations publiques*

AL FARSI, Mashal (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

AL SAIDI, Khalid (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Majles Addawala
Secrétaire général du Majles Addawala

AL TOOBI, Juma (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Director / *Directeur*

AL MARHOON, Altaf (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

PAKISTAN

SADIQ, Sardar Ayaz (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)

KHALID PERVEZ, Arifa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)

QAMAR, Syed Naveed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP)

MAHMOOD, Shafqat (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTI)

IQBAL, Tahir (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)

SIDDIQI, Khalid Maqbool (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MQM)

HAYAT HARRAJ, Mohammad Raza (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)

RAZA RABBANI, Mian (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

Senator / *Sénateur (PPPP)*

NAEK, Farooq H. (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur (PPPP)*

⁷⁹ (PP: Progress Party
(CP: Conservative Party
(LP: Labour Party

/ *Parti progressiste*
(*Parti conservateur*)
(*Parti travailliste*)

KHAN, Baz Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (ANP)
NASIR, Sardar Muhammad Yakoob Khan (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PML-N) ⁸⁰
NIAZI, Karamat Hussain (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
PERVEZ, Amjed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate / <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
ANWAR, Muhammad (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, Senate / <i>Co-Secrétaire au Sénat</i>
HASHMI, Syed Shamoan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, Speaker's Chamber <i>Co-Secrétaire, Bureau du Président</i>
SIAL, Anwar (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol to the Speaker <i>Directeur du protocole du Président</i>
CHAUDHARY, Waseem Iqbal (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director / <i>Directeur adjoint</i>
ARSHAD, Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Senior Private Secretary <i>Secrétaire particulier principal</i>

PALAU – PALAOS

REKLAI, Phillip P. (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the Senate, Chairman of the Committee on Tourism Development and Culture / <i>Vice-Président du Sénat, Président de la Commission du développement du tourisme et de la culture</i>
WHIPPS, Mason (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Commerce, Trade and Development / <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des ressources, du commerce et du développement</i>

PALESTINE

QUBA'A, Taysir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
AL-WAZIR, Intisar (Ms./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
QASEM, Belal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>
KHREISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
HASHISH, Abu (Mr./M.)	Administrative Assistant / <i>Assistant administratif</i>

⁸⁰ (PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz
(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
(MQM: Muttahida Quami Movement
(ANP: Awami National Party

/ *Ligue musulmane pakistanaise Nawaz*
/ *Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanaise*

/ *Mouvement Mohajir Quami*
/ *Parti national Awami*

HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)

Administrative Assistant / *Assistant administratif***PAPUA NEW GUINEA – PAPOUASIE-NOUVELLE-GUINEE**

TUKE, Johnson (Mr./M.)

Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Parliament, Vice-Minister
*Membre du Parlement national, Vice-Ministre (PPP)*⁸¹

PULI, Danny (Mr./M.)

First Secretary to the Speaker
Premier Secrétaire du Président

KONIVARO, Vela (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Clerk of Parliament / *Secrétaire général*

WHITCHURCH, Richard P. (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*Parliamentary Counsel / *Conseiller parlementaire***PERU – PEROU**

LEÓN RIVERA, José (Mr./M.)

Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Member of the Congress of the Republic, Vice-Chair, Audit Committee, Agrarian Committee, Citizen Security Committee / *Membre du Congrès de la République, Vice-Président de la Commission de contrôle, Commission agraire, Commission de la sécurité citoyenne (PP)*

MULDER, Mauricio (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of the Republic, Audit Committee, Justice Committee / *Membre du Congrès de la République, Commission de contrôle, Commission de la justice (PAP)*⁸²**PHILIPPINES**

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.)

Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / *Vice-Président du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation*President of the Senate / *Président du Sénat*

CAYETANO, Pia (Ms./Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice*

PIMENTEL, Aquilino III (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

TRILLANES, Antonio IV (Mr./M.)

Senator / *Sénateur*

FARIÑAS, Rodolfo (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

UNGAB, Isidro (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des crédits*

BANAL, Jorge Jr. (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Majority Leader / *Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Chef adjoint de la majorité*

YABES, Oscar (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

BANTUG, Renato Jr. (Mr./M.)

Chief of Staff of the President of the Senate
*Chef du Secrétariat du Président du Sénat*⁸¹ (PPP: People's Progress Party/ *Parti du progrès populaire*)⁸² (PP: Perú Possible)

(PAP: Peruvian Aprista Party

/ *Parti "apriste" péruvien*)

De GUZMAN, Antonio Jr. (Mr./M.) Adviser, Secretary of the Group <i>Conseiller, Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director General / <i>Directeur général</i>
BUENDIA, Efrén (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Legislative Staff Officer / <i>Fonctionnaire législatif</i>
OCTAVO, Riza (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
REBONG, Cecilia (Ms./Mme) Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN in Geneva / <i>Ambassadrice, Représentante des Philippines auprès des Nations Unies à Genève</i>	
BAJA, Noralyn (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
FOS, Enrico (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
TE, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
AGDUMA, Sharon (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	
VALDERRAMA, Celeste (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva <i>Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève</i>	

POLAND – POLOGNE

ZIÓLKOWSKI, Marek (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PO) ⁸³
STEFANIUK, Franciszek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PSL)
RACZKOWSKI, Damian (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / <i>Membre du Sejm</i> (PO)
SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PiS)
POLKOWSKA, Ewa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire générale du Sénat</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Director, Analysis and Documentation Office, Chancellery of the Senate / <i>Directrice du Bureau de l'analyse et de la documentation, Chancellerie du Sénat</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	

PORTUGAL

SILVA, Guilherme (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
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⁸³ (PO: Civic Platform
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party
(PiS: Law and Justice

/ *Plate-forme civique*)
/ *Parti paysan polonais*)
/ *Droit et justice*)

COSTA, Alberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PS)
PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
CARDOSO, Paula (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
ROSA, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PSD)
JESUS, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PS)
ALBERNAZ, Rosa Maria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i> (PS)
AMARAL, Helder (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (CDS) ⁸⁴
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
BOTELHO LEAL, Isabel (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head, Division of International Relations <i>Chef de la Division des relations internationales</i>
ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme) Advisor to the Group / <i>Conseillère du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Official / <i>Assistante parlementaire</i>

QATAR

AL-KUBAISI, Mohamed Ajaj (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MISNAD, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Secretariat of the Majlis Al-Shura / <i>Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction du Secrétariat du Majlis Al-Choura</i>
AL-DELAIMI, Ahmad Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Data Entry Administrative Section <i>Section de saisie de données</i>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHIN, Young (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Legislation and Judiciary Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission législative et judiciaire</i> (SP)
CHUN, Soon-Ok (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Trade, Industry and Energy Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission du commerce, de l'industrie et de l'énergie</i> (DP)
NAM, In-Soon (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Health and Welfare Committee, Gender Equality and Family Committee, Special Committee on Budget and Accounts / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la santé et de la protection sociale, Commission de l'égalité entre les sexes et de la famille, Commission spéciale du budget et des comptes</i> (DP)

⁸⁴ (PSD: Social Democratic Party
(PS: Socialist Party
(CDS: Democratic and Social Centre

/ *Parti social démocratique*
/ *Parti socialiste*
/ *Centre démocratique et social*)

KIM, Do-Eup (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Legislation and Judiciary Committee, Special Committee on Budget and Accounts / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission législative et judiciaire, Commission spéciale du budget et des comptes</i> (SP) ⁸⁵
JI, Sung-Bae (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
JANG, Ji-Won (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
SHIN, Moon-Keun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department <i>Directeur du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
HWANG, Sun-Ho (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / <i>Directeur adjoint du Département des conférences interparlementaires</i>
KIM, Min-Jae (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director of the Protocol Division <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division du protocole</i>
KIM, You-Jeong (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargée du protocole</i>
OH, Nam-Gyun (Mr./M.)	Programme Coordinator / <i>Coordinateur de programme</i>
SO, Seo-Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

VLAH, Irina (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament, Committee on Legal Affairs, Appointments and Immunities / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires juridiques, des nominations et des immunités</i> (PCRM)
ZAPOROJAN, Lilian (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Committee on Legal Affairs, Appointments and Immunities / <i>Membre du Parlement, Commission des affaires juridiques, des nominations et des immunités</i> (PLDM) ⁸⁶
BURCA, Tatiana (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief Adviser, Foreign Relations Division <i>Conseillère principale, Division des relations étrangères</i>

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

STERIU, Valeriu-Andrei (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture, de l'industrie alimentaire et des services spécifiques</i> (SPD)
OPREA, Mario Ovidiu (Mr./M.)	Senator, Committee on Investigation of Abuses, Corrupt Practices and Petitions / <i>Sénateur, Commission d'enquête des abus, de la corruption et des pétitions</i> (NLP)

⁸⁵ (SP: Saenuri Party)

(DP: Democratic Party

⁸⁶ (PCRM: Party of Moldovan Communists
(PLDM: Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova

/ *Parti démocratique)*

/ *Parti communiste de Moldova)*

/ *Parti libéral-démocrate de Moldova)*

ROMAN, Cristian-Constantin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de la défense, de l'ordre public et de la sécurité nationale (DLP)</i>
MARCU, Viorica (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture, de l'industrie alimentaire et des services spécifiques, Commission sur l'égalité des chances pour les femmes et les hommes (NLP)</i> ⁸⁷
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, External Multilateral Relations, Senate <i>Directrice des relations multilatérales extérieures</i>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
BABAKOV, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma, Committee on International Affairs / <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Commission des affaires internationales (United Russia)</i>
MISHNEV, Anatoly (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation, Committee on Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Commission de la politique agricole et alimentaire et la gestion de l'environnement</i>
PETRENKO, Valentina (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / <i>Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation, Committee on Social Policy / <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Commission de la politique sociale</i>
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Duma, Committee on Construction <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Commission de la construction (United Russia)</i>
ROMANOVICH, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs / <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires internationales (A Just Russia)</i> ⁸⁸
KARTSEV, Nikolay (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Division Head, International Department, Council of the Federation / <i>Chef du Département international, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SHCHERBAKOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.)	Advisor, International Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller au Département international du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BOGDANOVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
BELOUSOVA, Veronika (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

⁸⁷ (SDP: Social Democratic Party
(NLP: National Liberal Party
(DLP: Democratic-Liberal Party

⁸⁸ (United Russia
(A Just Russia

/ *Parti social démocrate)*
(*Parti libéral national)*
(*Parti libéral national)*
(*Russie unifiée)*
(*Russie juste)*

RWANDA

NTAWUKULIRYAYO, Jean Damascene (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate / <i>Président du Sénat</i> (PSD)
MUKARUGEMA, Alphonsine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Chairperson, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i> (FPR-Inkotanyi)
MURUMUNAWABO, Cécile (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Public Accounts Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Commission des comptes publics</i> (FPR-Inkotanyi) ⁸⁹

SAMOA

LAUTAFI, Fio Selafi Purcell (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Revenue Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Commission des affaires étrangères, du commerce et des revenus</i> (HRPP) ⁹⁰
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SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN

TERENZI, Gianfranco (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général</i> (PDCS)
MULARONI, Antonella (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général</i> (AP)
CARDELLI, Alessandro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général</i> (PDCS)
MICHELOTTI, Augusto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général</i> (SU) ⁹¹
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	International Relations Official <i>Chargée des relations internationales</i>

SÃO TOME AND PRINCIPE – SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

MARTINHO DE BARROS PINTO, Alcino (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (MLSTP/PSD)
BOA MORTE, Octávio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ADI)
DOS RAMOS, Guilherme Octaviano (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Economic and Financial Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires économiques et financières</i> (MLSTP/PSD)
DOS PRAZERES, Filomena (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PCD) ⁹²
VIANA XAVIER DA TRINDADE, Ludmila (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentary Technician / <i>Technicienne parlementaire</i>

⁸⁹ (PSD: Social Democratic Party

(FPR: Rwandan Patriotic Front

⁹⁰ (HRPP: Human Rights Protection Party⁹¹ (PDCS: Christian Democratic Party

(AP: Popular Alliance

(SU: United Left

⁹² (MLSTP: São Tomé and Príncipe Liberation Movement

(ADI: Independent Democratic Action

(PCD: Democratic Convergence Party

/ *Parti socialiste démocratique*)/ *Front patriotique rwandais*)/ *Parti pour la protection des droits de l'homme*)/ *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)/ *Alliance populaire*)/ *Gauche unie*)/ *Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe*)/ *Alliance démocratique indépendante*)/ *Parti démocratique de convergence*)

COELHO LIMA, Edgar (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALSHEIKH, Abdullah (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Shura Council <i>Président du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALANSARI, Lubna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALGHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
SINDI, Hayat (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALDOSARY, Khalifa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
ALAMER, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ALMANSOUR, Khalid Mohammed (Mr./M.)	General Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department / <i>Directeur général du Département des relations interparlementaires</i>
ALIBRAHIM, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>
HUBROM, Akram (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Office / <i>Bureau du Président</i>
ALHAMLAN, Manosur (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AL HARBI, Yousif (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Office / <i>Bureau du Président</i>
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Relations / <i>Relations interparlementaires</i>
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Secretary General's Office <i>Secrétaire au Bureau du Secrétaire général</i>
ALSHUBAILI, Rasha (Ms./Mme)	Public Relations / <i>Relations publiques</i>
ALBATI, Mishael (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
ALSOBEI, Khaled bin Feheid (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
ALAJMI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

SENEGAL

SQUARE, Djimo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)</i>
DIENG, Penda Seck (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)</i>
DIOUF, Aissatou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)</i>

THIAM, Fatou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (LB) ⁹³
GUEYE, Alioune Abatalib (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CISSE, Baye Niass (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

SEYCHELLES

ROSE, Marie-Antoinette (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PL)
ARNEPHY, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PL) ⁹⁴
ERNESTA, Azarel (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

LEE, Ellen (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PAP)
SAPARI, Zainal (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (PAP) ⁹⁵
JAMAL, Faizah (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
QUAH, Anne (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Assistant Clerk / <i>Principale assistante greffière</i>

SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE

ČÍŽ, Miroslav (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council, Chairman, Mandate and Immunity Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Président de la Commission des mandats et des immunités</i> (SMER)
KANIK, L'udovít (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council, Vice-Chairman, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Conseil national, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires sociales</i> (SDKÚ-DS) ⁹⁶
GUSPAN, Daniel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE

MERŠOL, Mitja (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Constitutional Commission / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission constitutionnelle</i> (PS)
KUNIČ, Jožef (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (PS)

⁹³ (BBY: Benno Bokk Yaakaar)
(LB: Liberals and Democrats

/ *Libéraux et démocrates*)

⁹⁴ (PL: Parti Lepep)

⁹⁵ (PAP: People's Action Party

/ *Parti d'action populaire*)

⁹⁶ (SMER: Social Democracy

/ *Démocratie sociale*)

(SDKÚ-DS: Slovak Democratic and Christian Union

/ *Coalition démocratique slovaque et Union chrétienne*)

OSTERMAN, Aleksandra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Committee on EU Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires européennes</i> (PS) ⁹⁷
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the International Relations Department <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales</i>

SOMALIA – SOMALIE

HUSEIN, Abdulahi Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i>
ABDI, Dahir Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i>
HAJINOOR, Ibrahim Suleiman (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i>

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

SISULU, Max Vuyisile (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (ANC)
SCHNEEMAN, Gregory (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (ANC)
RAMATLAKANE, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (COPE)
DLAKUDE, Dorries (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (ANC)
SMUTS, Mudene (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council of Provinces (DA) ⁹⁸
PHINDELA, Eric (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
PAULSE, Cheryl Ann (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Acting Team Leader / <i>Chef d'équipe par intérim</i>
LEBEKO, Peter (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
SAIT, Lynette (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>

SOUTH SUDAN – SOUDAN DU SUD

MAGOK RUNDIAL, Manasseh (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of National Legislative Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée législative nationale</i>
NHIAL MAJEED, Nyanchiek (Ms./Mme)	Member of National Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale</i>
APINYI MODESTO, Edward (Mr./M.)	Legal Advisor / <i>Conseiller juridique</i>
MARBOTO KATAS, James (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Office of the Speaker <i>Secrétaire du Bureau du Président</i>
KOANG WAL, William (Mr./M.)	Official / <i>Secrétariat</i>
SUBEK LORO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

⁹⁷ (PS: Positive Slovenia⁹⁸ (ANC: African National Congress
(COPE: Congress of the People
(DA: Democratic Alliance/ *Slovénie positive*)
/ *Congrès national africain*)
/ *Congrès du Peuple*)
/ *Alliance démocratique*)

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

GIL LAZARO, Ignacio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)</i>
MOSCOSO DEL PRADO HERNÁNDEZ, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)</i>
GARCÍA-TIZÓN LÓPEZ, Arturo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)</i>
MONTESERÍN RODRÍGUEZ, María Virtudes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)</i>
PICÓ I AZANZA, António (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies <i>Membre du Congrès des Députés (CiU)</i>
SANZ PÉREZ, Antolín (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PP)</i>
BURGOS BETETA, Tomás (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur (PP)</i>
TORME PARDO, Ana (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice (PP)</i> ⁹⁹
CAVERO GÓMEZ, Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
BOYRA AMPOSTA, Helena (Mrs./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Head, Institutional Relations Department <i>Chef du Département des relations institutionnelles</i>
JUÁREZ HIDALGO, M. Rosa (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	International Relations Department <i>Département des relations internationales</i>

SRI LANKA

DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management / <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre de la gestion de l'irrigation et des ressources hydriques (UPFA)</i>
SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister of Plantation Industries <i>Membre du Parlement, Ministre du Secteur des plantations (UPFA)</i>
MURUGESU, Chandrakumar (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman of Committees <i>Membre du Parlement, Vice-Président de commissions (UPFA)</i>
KIRIELLA, Laksham Bandara (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i>
ATUKORALE, Thalatha (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> ¹⁰⁰
IDDAWALA, Wijesundara Mudiyansele N.P. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>

SUDAN – SOUDAN

AL MANSOUR, Al Fatih Izz El Den (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
EL HASSAN AL AMIN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

⁹⁹ (PP: People's Party
(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party
(CiU: Convergence and Union

¹⁰⁰ (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance
(UNP: United National Party

/ *Parti populaire)*
/ *Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)*
/ *Convergence et union)*
/ *Alliance de la liberté populaire unifiée)*
/ *Parti national unifié)*

OSMAN GAKNOUN, Marwa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HASHIM AL MAHDI, Alfa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ABDALLA KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AL TAYEB, Ali Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Executive Director, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur exécutif, Bureau du Président</i>
FADUL ABDEL GADIR, Thana (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Administrative Secretary / <i>Secrétaire administrative</i>
ABDELKARIM, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Speaker's Office <i>Secrétaire au Bureau du Président</i>
EID, Mahoud Mohamed (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
ALJEED, Yousf Awad (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

SURINAME

SIMONS, Jennifer (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MISIEKABA, André (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)</i>
RATHIPAL, Mahinderpersad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VHP)</i>
POKIE, Diana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BEP)</i> ¹⁰¹

SWEDEN – SUEDE

HOLM, Ulf (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag <i>Vice-Président du Riksdag (mpg)</i>
AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (m)</i>
ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i>
NILSSON, Ulf (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (fp)</i>
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i>
WINBÄCK, Christer (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (fp)</i>
GUNNARSSON, Jonas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i> ¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ (NDP: National Democratic Party
(VHP: Progressive Reform Party
(BEP: Brotherhood and Unity in Politics

¹⁰² (mpg: Green Party
(m: Moderate Party
(s: Social Democratic Party
(fp: Liberal Party

/ *Parti démocratique nationale)*
/ *Parti progressif de réforme)*
/ *Unité et fraternité en politique)*
/ *Verts)*
/ *Parti modéré)*
/ *Parti social-démocrate)*
/ *Parti libéral)*

MÅRTENSSON, Claes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
EKLÖF, Lena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire au Département international</i>
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Deputy Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire adjointe au Département international</i>
DERAKSHANDE-TOMADJ, Begmohammed (Mr./M.)	Intern / <i>Stagiaire</i>

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

VEILLON, Pierre-François (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i>
BIERI, Peter (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)</i>
KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SP/PS)</i>
MEIER-SCHATZ, Lucrezia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)</i>
JANIAK, Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (SP/PS)</i> ¹⁰³
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP / <i>Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
BUOL, Martina (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations Division <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales</i>
WILDI-BALLABIO, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Substitute Secretary / <i>Secrétaire suppléante</i>
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Substitute Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire suppléant de la délégation</i>	
BAERISWYL, Yves (Mr./M.)	Intern / <i>Stagiaire</i>

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

NEMR, Hanin (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
ASSAAD, Youssef (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
KOURBI, Safwan (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
HAFIZ, Najla (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>

¹⁰³ (SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party
(CVP/PDC: Christian Democrat People's Party
(SP/PS: Social Democratic Party

/ *Union démocratique du centre)*
(Parti démocrate-chrétien)
(Parti socialiste)

AMER, Yehia (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple***THAILAND – THAILANDE**KRAIRIKSH, Pikulkeaw (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
the Senate / *Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des*
*affaires étrangères du Sénat*BOONTONG, Tassana (Ms./Mme)
Substitute Member of the Executive Committee
*Membre suppléant du Comité exécutif*Member of the Senate / *Membre du Sénat*

RATTANAPIAN, Vichuda (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate / *Membre du Sénat*

NIYAMAVEJA, Anurak (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate / *Membre du Sénat*

LERKSAMRAN, Lalita (Mrs./Mme)

Honorary Member, Advisor
*Membre honoraire, Conseillère*Former Member of the House of Representatives
Ancien Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

PRECHATANAPOJ, Somphong (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Adviser on Legislative System, House of Representatives
Conseiller, Système législatif de la Chambre des Représentants

CHAOWALITTAWIL, Saithip (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire générale adjointe de la Chambre des
Représentants

ANAMVAT, Chanpen (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Deputy Secretary General of the House of
Representatives / *Secrétaire générale adjointe de la*
Chambre des Représentants

TANTIVONG, Anuvat (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

KHAMASUNDARA, Supasinee (Ms./Mme)

Advisor on Foreign Affairs
Conseillère des affaires étrangères

KUNKLOY, Chollada (Mrs./Mme)

Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations
Directrice du Bureau des organisations interparlementaires

TAIPIBOONSUK, Steejit (Ms./Mme)

Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of
Inter-Parliamentary Organizations / *Directrice de la Division*
de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations
interparlementaires

KOTTHEN, Panya (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Officer / *Chargé des affaires étrangères*

WIBOONPANUVEJ, Tana (Ms./Mme)

Foreign Relations Officer / *Chargée des relations étrangères*

SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr./M.)

Trade Officer / *Chargé des questions commerciales*

NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Director of the Association of Parliaments and Association
of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Bureau of Inter-
Parliamentary Organizations / *Directeur de la Division de*
l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des
Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Bureau des organisations
interparlementaires

SIKKHABANDIT, Phinissorn (Mrs./Mme)

ASGP Assistant Secretary
*Secrétaire assistante pour l'ASPG*Foreign Relations Officer / *Chargée des relations étrangères,*
Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des
organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la
Chambre des Représentants

HOMPIROM, Wittawat (Mr./M.)

ASGP Assistant Secretary
*Secrétaire assistante pour l'ASPG*Foreign Relations Officer, Bureau of Foreign Languages
Chargé des relations étrangères, Bureau des langues
étrangères

THONGPHAKDI, Thani (Mr./M.)

Ambassador of Thailand in Geneva
Ambassadeur de la Thaïlande à Genève

TIMOR-LESTE

XIMENES, David (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security <i>Membre du Parlement national, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité nationale (FRETILIN)</i>
CORREIA, Brigida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament, Economy and Development Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission de l'économie et du développement (CNRT)</i>
SOARES, Izilda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament, Deputy Chairperson of the Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des finances publiques (CNRT)</i>
GUTERRES LOPES, Aniceto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament, Constitutional Matters, Justice, Local Administration and Anti-Corruption Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission sur les questions constitutionnelles, la justice, l'administration locale, la lutte contre la corruption (FRETILIN)</i>
DOS REIS, Maria Rangel (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament, Public Finance Committee / <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission des finances publiques (FRETILIN)</i>
CONCEIÇÃO, Anselmo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament, Committee on Infrastructures, Transport and Communications <i>Membre du Parlement national, Commission des infrastructures, des transports et des communications (CNRT)</i> ¹⁰⁴
XIMENES BELO, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
VAZ, Rui (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	
DOS REIS, Vitorino (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
PEREIRA, Jemmy (Mr./M.) Technical Support / <i>Soutien technique</i>	
LOPES, Julio (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

TOGO

DRAMANI, Dama (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (Unir)</i>
DAGBAN, Ayawavi Djigbodi (Ms./Mme)	Third Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Troisième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (Unir)</i>
PENN, Laré Batouth (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, First Parliamentary Secretary / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Premier Secrétaire parlementaire (Unir)</i>

¹⁰⁴ (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*)

LAWSON-BANKU, Boevi Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Environment and Climate Change <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission permanente de l'environnement et des changements climatiques (ANC-ADDI)</i>
APEVON, Kokou Dodji (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois (Arc-en-ciel)</i> ¹⁰⁵
KANSONGUE, Yambandjoi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
GOMINA, Yassimiou (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Président</i>	
TCHAYE, Kondi (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol / <i>Directeur du protocole</i>

TONGA

FAKAFANUA, Lord (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Legislative Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée législative</i>
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – TRINITE-ET-TOBAGO

DOUGLAS, Lincoln (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Joint Select Committee, Special Select Committee / <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Commission restreinte mixte, Commission restreinte spécialisée</i>
BALDEO-CHADEESINGH, Diane (Mrs./Mme)	Senator, Public Accounts Committee / <i>Sénatrice, Commission des comptes publics</i>
VIEIRA, Anthony (Mr./M.)	Senator, Joint Select Committee <i>Sénateur, Commission restreinte mixte</i>
JACOB, Keiba (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Procedural Clerk / <i>Greffière à la procédure</i>

TUNISIA – TUNISIE

BEN JAAFAR, Mustapha (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the National Constituent Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale constituante (FDTL)</i>
CHAABANE, Nadia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Constituent Assembly, Committee on Rights, Freedom and External Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale constituante, Commission des droits, libertés et des relations extérieures (GD)</i>
ELTAIEF, Fathi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Constituent Assembly, Committee on Social Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale constituante, Commission des affaires sociales (Ind)</i>
KSANTINI, Soulef (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Constituent Assembly, Committee on Energy and Production Sector / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale constituante, Commission de l'énergie et des secteurs de production (E)</i> ¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ (Unir: Union for the Republic
(ANC: National Alliance for Change
(Arc-en-ciel: Rainbow Coalition

¹⁰⁶ (FDTL: Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties
(GD: Democratic Group
(Ind: Independent
(E: Ennahdha)

/ *Union pour la République)*
/ *Alliance nationale pour le changement)*
/ *Alliance Arc-en-ciel)*
/ *Forum démocratique pour le travail et les libertés)*
/ *Groupe démocratique)*
/ *Indépendant)*

HADIDANE, Moncef (Mr./M.) Director / *Directeur*
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

MSSEDI, Mofdi (Mr./M.) Communication Officer / *Chargé de la communication*
Press / *Presse*

TURKEY – TURQUIE

DAĞCI CIĞLIK, Fazilet (Ms./Mme) Member of the Grand National Assembly
President of the Group, Member of the Coordinating
Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the
delegation / *Présidente du Groupe, Membre du*
Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires,
Chef de la délégation

ÇIÇEK, Cemil (Mr./M.) Speaker of the Grand National Assembly
Président de la Grande Assemblée nationale

YILDIRIM, Murat (Mr./M.) Member of the Grand National Assembly
Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)

KAVAKLIOĞLU, Alpaslan (Mr./M.) Member of the Grand National Assembly
*Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)*¹⁰⁷

NEZIROGLU, Irfan (Mr./M.) Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

AGAÇ, İsa Yusuf (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

ER AS, Hatice (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

TÜRKMEN, Elif (Ms./Mme) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseillère du Président*

YAKUT, Bahadır (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

ARSLAN, Mücahit (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

SEN, Erdeniz (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

ATIK, Tolga Sakir (Mr./M.) Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

AKINCIOGLU, Rüçhan (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Speaker / *Conseiller du Président*

UGANDA – OUGANDA

KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) Speaker of Parliament / *Présidente du Parlement (NRM)*
Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio
Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women
Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation /
Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du
Comité de coordination des Femmes
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme) Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement (UPC)*
Second Vice-President of the Coordinating
Committee of Women Parliamentarians / *Deuxième*
Vice-Présidente du Comité de coordination des
Femmes parlementaires

¹⁰⁷ (AKP: Justice and Development Party
(CHP: Republican People's Party
(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party

/ *Parti de la justice et du développement*)
/ *Parti populaire républicain*)
/ *Parti d'action nationaliste*)

OKUMU, Reagan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (FDC)
DOMBO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Substitute Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law <i>Membre suppléant du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire</i>	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (NRM)
KIYINGI BBOSA, Kenneth (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i> (Ind) ¹⁰⁸
BALYEJJUSA, Suleiman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to Parliament / <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Services <i>Greffier adjoint, Services législatifs</i>
KASIRYE, Ignatius (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, International Collaboration <i>Directeur adjoint de la collaboration internationale</i>
MUKYASI, Alice (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Principal Clerk Assistant <i>Greffière principale adjointe</i>
ODEKE, Peter (Mr./M.)	Senior Public Affairs Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
BAMUWAMYE, James (Mr./M.)	Senior Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé principal du protocole</i>
KASULE, Ali Kabuye (Mr./M.)	Senior Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé principal du protocole</i>
MUTESI, Ruth (Ms./Mme) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp de la Présidente</i>	

UKRAINE

PATSKAN, Valerii (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Chair, Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations / <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme, des minorités nationales et des relations internationales</i> (UDAR)
PAVELKO, Andrii (Mr./M.)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Chair, Committee on Energy and Nuclear Safety / <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Président de la Commission de l'énergie et de la sécurité nucléaire</i> (B)
POLOCHANINOV, Volodymyr (Mr./M.)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Deputy Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (B)
AGAFONOVA, Nataliia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Committee on Legal Policy <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Commission de politique législative</i> (UDAR)
TARASYUK, Borys (Mr./M.)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Committee on European Integration / <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada, Commission de l'intégration européenne</i> (B) ¹⁰⁹
ZAICHUK, Valentyn (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
PACHESIUK, Yulia (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

¹⁰⁸ (NRM: National Resistance Movement
(UPC: Uganda People's Congress
(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change

/ *Mouvement de la Résistance nationale*
/ *Congrès populaire de l'Ouganda*
/ *Forum pour un changement démocratique*
/ *Indépendant*

¹⁰⁹ (UDAR: Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform
(B: Batkivschina)

/ *Parti de l'alliance démocratique ukrainienne pour les réformes*)

PAVLENKO, Yuliia (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

KLIMENKO, Yurii (Mr./M.)
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine
in Geneva / *Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent
de l'Ukraine à Genève*

BESHTA, Petro (Mr./M.)
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine in
Geneva / *Représentant permanent adjoint de
l'Ukraine à Genève*

LISUCHENKO, Yevgen (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Ukraine in Geneva
Mission permanent de l'Ukraine à Genève

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – *EMIRATS ARABES UNIS*

AL MUR, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Président du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL QUBAISI, Amal Abdulla (Ms./Mme)	First Deputy Chairperson of the Federal National Council <i>Première Vice-Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHURAIQI, Rashed Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MANSOORI, Ahmed Obaid (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AHMAD, Ali Jasem (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALTENAIJI, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALNUAIMI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
SAMAHI, Sultan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MAZROOEI, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AL SHAMSI, Abdulrahman Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant Secretary General of the Federal National Council <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Head, Communication Section <i>Chef de la Section de la communication</i>
AL AQILI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Researcher / <i>Chercheur parlementaire</i>
AL SHAMSI, Omar (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
AL HAMMOUDI, Samyah (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
YAMMAHI, Khaseibah (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>
AL BLOUSHI, Hamda (Mr./M.)	Head of Research and Parliamentary Studies <i>Chef de la recherche et des études parlementaires</i>
AL MEHARI, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

Rt. Hon. BURT, Alistair (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
Rt. Hon. CLWYD, Ann (Mrs./Mme) Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
Rt. Hon. DHOLAKIA OBE DL, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>
JUDD OF PORTSEA, Frank (Lord) Chairman of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Président du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
MILLER OF CHILTHORNE DOMER, Susan (Baroness)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
CORBYN, Jeremy (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
GAPES, Mike (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i> ¹¹⁰
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.)	Director / <i>Directeur</i>
LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Mrs./Mme)	International Project Manager <i>Chef de projets internationaux</i>
HOLLOWAY, Charlie (Ms./Mme)	International Project Manager <i>Chef de projets internationaux</i>
LAYFIELD, Jonathan (Mr./M.) <i>Advisor / Conseiller</i>	
PICHÉ, Nicole (Ms./Mme) Human Rights Advisor <i>Conseillère aux droits de l'homme</i>	
KENNON, Andrew (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KEITH, Brendan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
STURT, Jenny (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	
COMMANDER, Emily (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	
PIERCE, Karen (Ms./Mme) Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the UN / <i>Ambassadeur, Représentante permanente du Royaume-Uni</i>	
POLLARD, Guy (Mr./M.) Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK	

¹¹⁰ (C: Conservative Party
(L: Labour Party
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats

/ *Parti conservateur*
/ *Parti travailliste*
/ *Démocrates libéraux*

Mission to the UN / *Représentante permanente adjointe du Royaume-Uni*

BROWN, Philip (Mr./M.)

UK Mission / *Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni*

RIDDELL, George (Mr./M.)

UK Mission / *Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni*

ROWLAND, Matthew (Mr./M.)

UK Mission / *Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni*

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)

MOHAMED, Hamad Rashid (Mr./M.)

Substitute member of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Membre suppléant de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CUF)

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)¹¹¹

UKHOJYA ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Director/Adviser, Speaker's Office
Directeur/Conseiller au Bureau de la Présidente

WARBURG, James (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Assistant Director, Table Office Department
Directeur adjoint du Service de l'ordre du jour

MWAKASYUKA, Jossey (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Director, Foreign Affairs Department
Directeur du Département des affaires étrangères

BEREGE, Herman Edgar (Mr./M.)

Private Secretary to the Speaker
Secrétaire particulier du Président

MWAKASEGE, Alphonse Martin (Mr./M.)

Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp de la Présidente

HOKORORO, Suzan Peter (Ms./Mme)

Assistant Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp adjointe de la Présidente

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation (11-15/03 and 18-20/03)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)

¹¹¹ (CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania
(CUF: Civic United Front
(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development
(NCCR-Mageuzi: National Convention for Construction and Reform - Mageuzi

*/ Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)
(Front civique unifié)
(Parti de la démocratie et du développement)
(Convention nationale pour la construction et la réforme - Mageuzi*

Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation (du 11 au 15/03 et du 18 au 20/03)

TAJAM, Héctor (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (FA)

Leader of the delegation (16-17/03)

Chef de la délégation (du 16 au 17/03)

PENADÉS, Gustavo (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PN)

GALLINAL, Francisco (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PN)

MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)

Committee on United Nations Affairs

Membre du Groupe consultatif de la Commission

UIP des Affaires des Nations Unies

LAURNAGA, María Elena (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)

GAMOU, Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BIANCHI, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PC)*¹¹²

MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the House of Representatives

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants

PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.)

Head of the International Relations Department

Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC

Directeur du Département des relations internationales

Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC

GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme)

International Relations Department

Adviser to the Group, GRULAC Secretariat

Département des relations internationales

Conseillère du Groupe, Secrétariat du GRULAC

DUPUY, Laura (Mrs./Mme)

Ambassador of Uruguay to Geneva

Ambassadrice de l'Uruguay à Genève

GONZÁLEZ, Cristina (Ms./Mme)

Permanent Mission of Uruguay in Geneva

Mission permanent de l'Uruguay à Genève

VENEZUELA

VIVAS VELASCO, Dario (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation / *Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation*

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)

REQUENA, Gladys del Valle (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Culture and Recreation / *Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la culture et des loisirs (PSUV)*

JABOUR TANNOUS, Yul (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*

¹¹² (FA: Frente Amplio (Broad Front)
(PN: National Party
(PC: Colorado Party

/ *Front élargi*
(Parti national)
(Parti Colorado)

HIDROBO AMOROSO, Elvis Eduardo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires intérieures</i> (PSUV)
MARQUINA DIAZ, Alfonso José (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UNT)
EL ZABAYAR, Adel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Defence and Security Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i> (PSUV) ¹¹³
GARCÍA, Fenix (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to the Deputy Speaker <i>Assistante du Vice-Président</i>
ÁVILA, José (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

VIET NAM

SINH HUNG NGUYEN (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAN VAN HANG (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (CPV)
NGUYEN VAN GIAU (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman, Economic Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'économie</i>
TRUONG THI MAI (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
VU HAI HA (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (CPV) ¹¹⁴
HA HUY THONG (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
NGUYEN THUY ANH (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chair, Social Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
HA MINH HUE (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Foreign Affairs Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LE MINH THONG (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chair, Law Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des lois</i>
LE VIET TRUONG (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chair, Defence and Security Committee / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
PHAN MINH TUAN (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
PHAM THI KIM ANH (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>

¹¹³ (PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela
(UNT: (Un Nuevo Tiempo) A New Era

¹¹⁴ (CPV: Communist Party

/ *Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela*
/ *Un nouveau temps*
/ *Parti communiste*

DAO DUY TRUNG (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head, Inter-Parliamentary Division, Foreign Affairs Department / <i>Chef de la Division interparlementaire du Département des affaires étrangères</i>
LY DUC TRUNG (Mr./M.)	<i>Secretary / Secrétaire</i>
LE THI YEN (Ms./Mme)	<i>Secretary / Secrétaire</i>
PHAM THI NGOC HA (Ms./Mme)	<i>Secretary / Secrétaire</i>
NHAN HUU SANG (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>
LE MINH LOI (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>
VAN NGHIEP CHUC (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>
VU LAM HIEN (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>
PHAN NGOC THACH (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>
CAO DUC TRI (Mr./M.) <i>Press / Presse</i>	<i>Media / Médias</i>

YEMEN

AL-SHADADI, Mohamed Ali Salem (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Président du Parlement</i>
SOFAN, Abdullah Ahmed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ESSA, Ahmed Abdulqader (Mr./M.)	Head, Parliamentary Affairs <i>Chef des affaires parlementaires</i>

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MONDE, Greyford (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Ministre de l'agriculture et des coopératives (UPND)</i>
MWIIMBU, Jacob (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights, Gender Matters and Child Affairs / <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires juridiques, de la gouvernance, des droits de l'homme, de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes et de la protection de l'enfance (UPND)</i>
NG'ONGA, Maxas J.B. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
CHUNGU, Annie M. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)</i>
LOMBANYA, Villie E. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)</i>
MPHANDE, Ingrid M. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i> ¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ (UPND: United Party for National Development
(PF: Patriotic Front
(MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy

/ *Parti uni pour le développement national)*
/ *Front patriotique)*
/ *Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste)*

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

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

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

MANDI MANDITAWAPEI, Chimene (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chief Whip
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef de file adjointe
(ZANU/PF)*

MUTOMBA, William (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC-T)

KHUMALO, Thabitha (Ms./Mme)
Vice-President of the IPU Advisory Group on
HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
*Vice-Présidente 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 Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC-T) ¹¹⁶

ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk of Parliament / *Secrétaire général*

NYAMAHOWA, Frank (Mr./M.)

Director, Speaker's Office
Directeur du Bureau du Président

MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.)

Director, Clerk's Office
Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général

GWAKWARA, Cleophas (Mr./M.)

Principal External Relations Officer
Chargé principal des relations extérieures

KHUMALO, Nosizi (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

SIBANDA, Robert (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

¹¹⁶ (ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)
(MDC-P: Movement for Democratic Change / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

AL JARWAN, Ahmed Mohamed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President / <i>Président</i>
LABDAG, Abderrahmane (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
GHARBI MAMOGLI, Fatma (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ALJAMANI, Falak (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
FAWZY, Maye (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	External Relations / <i>Relations extérieures</i>

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE (ALEA)**

ZZIWA, Nantongo Margaret (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker / <i>Présidente</i>
KIMBISA, Adam (Mr./M.)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
RWIGEMA, Pierre Célestin (Mr./M.)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
NGA'RU, Agnes Mumbi (Ms./Mme)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BARINDA, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Clerk Assistant / <i>Greffière assistante principale</i>
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante particulière de la Présidente</i>

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
COMITE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE
ET MONETAIRE OUEST-AFRICAINE (UEMOA)**

DANGNON, Victor (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President / <i>Président</i>
EL HADJ AMADOU, Nana Mariama (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

**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 / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker / <i>Président</i>
MOREIRA MONIZ, Martina (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Speaker / <i>Vice-Présidente</i>
TOUNGARA, Aminata (Mrs./Mme)	Member, Deputy Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights and Child Protection / <i>Membre, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des droits de l'homme et de la protection de l'enfance</i>
BOTCHWEY, Shirley (Mrs./Mme)	Member, Vice-Chair, Committee on NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism / <i>Membre, Vice-Présidente de la Commission du NEPAD et du Mécanisme africain d'évaluation par les pairs</i>

QUADRI CISSE, Sekou Abdul (Mr./M.)	Member, Committee on Political Affairs, Peace and Security <i>Membre, Commission des affaires politiques, de la paix et de la sécurité</i>
ALABA OBENDE, Domingo (Mr./M.)	Member, Committee on Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons / <i>Membre, Commission du commerce, des douanes et de la libre circulation des personnes</i>
DANSOKO, Cheick A. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
DUDUYEMI, Lawal (Mr./M.)	Director, Parliamentary Affairs and Research <i>Directeur des affaires parlementaires et de la recherche</i>
SOME, Bertin (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / <i>Greffier de commission</i>
SOTUMINU, Adesina (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / <i>Greffier de commission</i>
FWANGDER, Ezekiel (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
ANIH, Martin (Mr./M.)	Executive Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant exécutif du Président</i>
UDE, Ada (Mrs./Mme)	Special Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante spéciale du Président</i>

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN**

ALCALÁ, Blanca (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Secretary General, Senator (Mexico) <i>Secrétaire générale, Sénatrice (Mexique)</i>
RIVADENEIRA, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Alternate President, Member of Parliament (Ecuador) <i>Présidente suppléante, Membre du Parlement (Equateur)</i>
GAVIDIA, Walter (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Member of Parliament (Venezuela) / <i>Secrétaire des relations interparlementaires, Membre du Parlement (Venezuela)</i>
WIMMER, Carolus (Mr./M.)	Vice-President (Venezuela) / <i>Vice-Président (Venezuela)</i>
GARCIA, Francisco (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament (Venezuela) <i>Membre du Parlement (Venezuela)</i>

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

WALTER, Robert (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the British Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement britannique</i>
SAWICKI, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Member of the Polish Parliament, Secretary General <i>Membre du Parlement polonais, Secrétaire général</i>

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)**

TIMBERLAKE, Susan (Mrs./Mme), Chief, Human Rights and Law Division
Responsable de la Division lois et droits de l'homme

BURZYNSKI, Richard (Mr./M.), Senior Advisor / *Conseiller principal*

KIRAGU, Karusa (Ms./Mme), Senior Prevention Advisor / *Conseillère principale pour la prévention*

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group
Conseiller parlementaire, Groupe de la gouvernance démocratique

KEUTGEN, Julia (Ms./Mme), Programme Specialist / *Spécialiste de programme*

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

PONET, David (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Specialist / *Spécialiste parlementaire*

**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UNISDR)
STRATEGIE INTERNATIONALE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA PREVENTION DES CATASTROPHES
(ONU-SIPC)**

WAHLSTRÖM, Margareta (Ms./Mme), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies

KAN, Feng Min (Ms./Mme), Senior Coordinator / *Coordinatrice principale*

THORLUND, Ana Cristina (Ms./Mme), Programme Officer / *Chargée de programme*

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

AVILÉS, Sandra (Ms./Mme), Senior Liaison Officer, Head of the Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva
Fonctionnaire principale de liaison, Chargée du Bureau de liaison avec les Nations Unies à Genève

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL (BIT)**

MARTINOT-LAGARDE, Pierre (Mr./M.), Special Adviser, Partnership and Field Support Department / *Conseiller spécial, Département des partenariats et de la coopération au développement*

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES MIGRATIONS (OIM)**

LACY SWING, William (Mr./M.), Director General / *Directeur général*

FONSECA, Ana (Ms./Mme), Senior Specialist, Migrant Assistance Division
Spécialiste principale, Division de l'aide aux migrants

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

TEMMERMANN, Marleen (Ms./Mme), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research
Directrice du Département Santé reproductive et recherche

DE FRANCISCO SERPA, Luis Andres (Mr./M.), Deputy Director / *Directeur adjoint*

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer, Department of Reproductive Health and Research
Responsable technique du Département Santé reproductive et recherche

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC)

EL HACHIMI, Said (Mr./M.), Adviser, Information and External Relations Division
Conseiller, Division de l'information et des relations extérieures

BHAT, Paroma (Ms./Mme), Intern, Information and External Relations Division
Stagiaire, Division de l'information et des relations extérieures

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)
ORGANISATION DU TRAITE D'INTERDICTION COMPLETE DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES (OTICE)

ZERBO, Lassina (Mr./M.), Executive Secretary / *Secrétaire exécutif*

DU PREEZ, Jean (Mr./M.), Chief, External Relations and International Cooperation / *Chef des relations extérieures et de la coopération internationale*

ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)
ORGANISATION POUR L'INTERDICTION DES ARMES CHIMIQUES (OIAIC)

SAWCZAK, Peter (Mr./M.), Head, Government Relations and Political Affairs Branch / *Chef de la Division des relations gouvernementales et des affaires politiques*

WORLD BANK
BANQUE MONDIALE

TRUHINA, Alina (Mrs./Mme), External and Corporate Relations / *Relations extérieures et institutionnelles*

PIDUFALA, Oksana (Mrs./Mme), Policy Officer / *Chargée des politiques*

JACKSON, Selina (Mrs./Mme), Special Representative to the WTO and UN / *Représentante spéciale auprès de l'OMC et des Nations Unies*

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AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE

NEJAD HOSSEINIAN, Mohammad Hadi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général assistant*

ISLAMI, Masoud (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général assistant*

CONFEDERATION OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE AMERICAS (COPA)
CONFEDERATION PARLEMENTAIRE DES AMERIQUES

GÓMEZ, Zulma (Ms./Mme), President, Member of the Senate of Paraguay / *Présidente, Membre du Sénat paraguayen*

LÓPEZ HALL, Lourdes (Ms./Mme), Advisor / *Conseillère*

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ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE (UIPA)

BOUCHKOUJ, Nouredine (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

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)

NAIB, Mousa Hussein (Mr./M.), Member / *Membre*

**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**

OLIVER, Spencer (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

NISTOR, Gheorghe Vlad (Mr./M.), Vice-President / *Vice-Président*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)**

QUBA'A, Tayseer (Mr./M.), Vice-President / *Vice-Président*

PUTMAN-CRAMER, Gerhard (Mr./M.), Permanent Observer to the UN / *Observateur permanent auprès des Nations Unies*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE**

ALAKBAROV, Fuad (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

HASANOV, Emin (Mr./M.), Secretary of the Committee on International Relations / *Secrétaire de la Commission des relations internationales*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

SENKO, Vladimir (Mr./M.), Committee Chairman / *Président de commission*

BORTSOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.), Committee Deputy Chairman / *Vice-Président de commission*

STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

LEYKAUSTAS, Audryus (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of Department, Secretary to the delegation / *Chef adjoint de département, 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**

GYA, Giji (Ms./Mme), Head, Programmes on Asylum, Migration and Counter-Human Trafficking (THB) / *Chef des programmes sur l'asile, les migrations et la traite des êtres humains*

HAGEMANN, Daria (Ms./Mme), Programme Assistant / *Assistante de programme*

STOCKER, Sara (Ms./Mme), Programme Coordinator / *Coordinatrice de programme*

**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*

**GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION (OMPCC)**

AZIZ, Donya (Ms./Mme), Vice-Chair of the Women in Parliament Network
Vice-Présidente du Réseau Femmes parlementaires

SOOD, Priya (Ms./Mme), Program Advisor / *Conseillère des programmes*

AHMED, Shakeel Shabbir (Mr./M.), Chair of APNAC / *Président de l'APNAC*

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

HELLE, Daniel (Mr./M.), Diplomatic Advisor / *Conseiller diplomatique*

BOUVIER, Antoine (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser / *Conseiller juridique*

MEYER, Michel (Mr./M.) Legal Adviser / *Conseiller juridique*

PELLANDINI, Cristina (Ms./Mme), Advisory Service Unit / *Services consultatifs*

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

PRESERN, Carole (Ms./Mme), Executive Director / *Directrice exécutive*

McDOUGALL, Lori (Ms./Mme), Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Advocacy
Conseillère technique principale, Politiques et sensibilisation

DE FRANCISCO, Andres (Mr./M.), Deputy Executive Director / *Directeur exécutif adjoint*

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE**

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Coordinator / *Coordinatrice*

**ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE 130th ASSEMBLY
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
ORGANISATIONS INVITEES A SUIVRE LES TRAVAUX DE LA 130^{ème} ASSEMBLEE
DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE
ASSOCIATION POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA TORTURE**

THOMSON, Mark (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

NORTON, Tanya (Ms./Mme), Detention Monitoring Adviser / *Conseillère pour le contrôle des conditions de détention*

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)
PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON-PROLIFERATION ET LE DESARMEMENT NUCLEAIRES (PNDN)**

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator / *Coordinateur global*

JEDLICKOVA, Jana (Ms./Mme), Central European Coordinator / *Coordinatrice pour l'Europe centrale*

COLLIN, Jean-Marie (Mr./M.), France Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour la France*

VAN RIET, Rob (Mr./M.), UK Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour le Royaume-Uni*

MAKHAMREH, Muna (Ms./Mme), Coordinator for Arab Countries / *Coordinatrice pour les pays arabes*

NAJIBULLAH, Heela (Ms./Mme), South Asia Coordinator / *Coordinatrice pour l'Asie du Sud*

ASHANEY, James (Mr./M.), Caribbean Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour les Caraïbes*

BOTTERLI, Vegard (Mr./M.), North Europe and Nordic Countries Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour l'Europe du Nord et les pays nordiques*

WORLD FUTURE COUNCIL

VAN RIET, Rob (Mr./M.), Coordinator, Peace and Disarmament / *Coordinateur, Paix et désarmement*

HEISECKE, Karin (Ms./Mme), Senior Project Management, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
Direction générale du projet Eliminer la violence faite aux femmes et aux filles

HEINDORF, Ingrid (Ms./Mme), Human Rights Officer and Coordinator of the Geneva Office
Spécialiste des droits de l'homme et Coordinatrice du Bureau de Genève

**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***

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

GLADILOVA, Petya (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Acting Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale par intérim de l'Assemblée nationale

PIPERKOV, Ivan (Mr./M.)
Ambassador, Permanent Repres

entative of Bulgaria to the UN in Geneva /
*Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la
Bulgarie auprès des Nations Unies à Genève*

ZAKOV, Dragomir (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Bulgaria in Geneva
Mission permanente de la Bulgarie à Genève

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

VERGER, Christine (Ms./Mme)

Director, Relations with National Parliaments
Directrice des relations avec les parlements nationaux

MONTENEGRO

DAVIDOVIC, Damir (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MIJANOVIC, Irena (Ms./Mme)

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 130th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**
**INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION
DE LA 130^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

MOLLER, Michael (Mr./M.), Director-General of UNOG / *Directeur général de UNOG*

BEN JAAFAR, Mustapha (Mr./M.), President of the National Constituent Assembly of Tunisia / *Président de l'Assemblée nationale constituante de la Tunisie*

LACY SWING, William (Mr./M.), Director General of IOM / *Directeur général de l'OIM*

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