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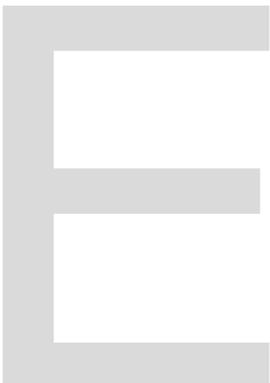
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Shaping a new system of water governance: Promoting parliamentary action on water

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. I. Cassis (Switzerland) and Mr. J. Mwiimbu (Zambia)***

The 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Referring to* the resolutions adopted by the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Moscow, September 1998) and the 130th IPU Assembly (Geneva, March 2014), which acknowledged that freshwater resources are essential to basic human needs, health, food production and the preservation of ecosystems, and highlighted the need to improve water management in order to prevent and mitigate high disaster risks, strengthen resilience and ultimately contribute to sustainable development, respectively,
- (2) *Recalling* the IPU regional seminar for the parliaments of the Arab States, *Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development*, which was held in Beirut on 29 and 30 November 2005,
- (3) *Having considered* United Nations General Assembly resolutions 64/292 of 28 July 2010 (in which the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is recognized as a human right essential for the full enjoyment of life) and 68/157 of 18 December 2013, and Human Rights Council resolution 27/7 of September 2014,
- (4) *Bearing in mind* the entry into force of the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the global opening of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,
- (5) *Deeply concerned* by the increased pressure being exerted on water resources by factors such as population growth, climate change, rapid urbanization, growing energy demand and lack of effective governance,
- (6) *Equally concerned* by the fact that water scarcity is already affecting one in three people on every continent and that by 2025 two thirds of the world's population will be under water stress and 1.8 billion people will face absolute water scarcity,
- (7) *Also deeply concerned* at the fact that 748 million people lack access to an improved drinking water source, that 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation and that 1 billion people still practice open defecation,
- (8) *Aware* that global numbers/statistics mask profound and persistent disparities between and within countries and that targeted measures must be adopted to progressively eliminate such inequalities, with a specific focus on gender equity,



- (9) *Mindful* that water pollution, water overuse, lack of cooperation in respect of national and international river basins and aquifers, and the realization of the human right to water are interconnected issues,
- (10) *Bearing in mind* that water can be a key element in the balance of power between States and that good governance can promote cooperation and avoid water-related conflicts,
- (11) *Aware* that international law and national legal systems relating to the management of water resources tend to be fragmented,
- (12) *Convinced* that States should increasingly pursue integrated water resources management by taking into account the water-energy-ecosystem-food security nexus, improving wastewater treatment and preventing and reducing surface and groundwater pollution,
- (13) *Stressing* the urgent and absolute need to conserve and sustainably manage the quality and quantity of water resources for present and future generations,
- (14) *Also stressing* that effective management and multilevel good governance of water resources are indispensable preconditions for achieving the human right to water and sanitation,
- (15) *Recalling* the key role parliamentarians play in establishing good water governance systems that are conducive to the realization of the human right to water and sanitation,
- (16) *Recognizing* that parliamentarians have a weighty responsibility to develop national legal frameworks in order to implement a water-secure world for all and for present and future generations,
1. *Calls on* national parliaments to advocate a dedicated comprehensive water and sanitation goal in the post-2015 development agenda, so as to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, said goal to include concrete actions and in particular the development of an efficient monitoring system with global indicators;
 2. *Also calls on* national parliaments to enact legislation for the appropriate implementation of international treaties, customary law and resolutions related to water management and to the human right to water and sanitation, and to organize appropriate human resources training and further education so as to enhance understanding of these instruments;
 3. *Urges* national parliaments to set aside adequate budget allocations for multilevel and efficient governance, and to establish legislative and regulatory frameworks encouraging public and private investment in the water sector;
 4. *Also urges* national parliaments to promote water security by developing and implementing Integrated Water Resources Management plans (involving interministerial cooperation) in order to balance competing human needs while giving priority to water for personal and domestic use for all, without discrimination and with a special focus on gender equity;
 5. *Encourages* States sharing water resources to cooperate on matters relating to international watercourses and seriously to consider joining international legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation;
 6. *Encourages* national parliaments to urge their governments to honour the commitments their countries have made in regard to the protection of freshwater sources;
 7. *Requests* the IPU to draft a compilation of best legal and policy practices related to human rights-based water management, in order to support the work of parliamentarians involved in water-related issues;
 8. *Also requests* the IPU to facilitate action by its Member Parliaments to follow up on the recommendations made in this resolution in their respective countries and regions.