



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

134th IPU Assembly

Lusaka (Zambia), 19 - 23 March 2016



Presidential Statement

*Endorsed by the 134th IPU Assembly
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

Ladies and gentlemen

You are all undoubtedly aware of the tragic events that have unfolded in Brussels today.

News of the terrorist attack on the airport and at Maelbeek metro station broke as the Executive Committee was beginning its final session at this Assembly.

I am issuing this statement with the Committee's endorsement and on behalf of the IPU membership here in Lusaka.

Statement

We, Member Parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, utterly condemn the terrorist attack today in Brussels. Once again, many innocent lives have been lost and scores of people have been wounded. This wanton act of violence is unconscionable.

What has happened today is another brutal assault on democracy and core human values. We convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and express our solidarity with the people and authorities of Belgium.

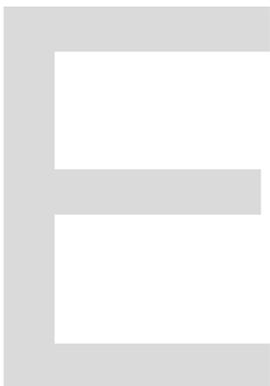
We are gravely concerned by the escalation in acts of violent extremism which have killed more than 140,000 people since 2001.

We call for urgent action to counter the growing number of people being drawn towards such cowardly and despicable acts and for all political leaders to work together to find effective means of safeguarding the lives of their citizens.

IPU also urges all community leaders to clearly and actively engage with their followers in order to promote peace, democratic engagement, and respect for human life. Recourse to all forms of violence must be condemned outright. Alternative and peaceful means of political expression must be found.

We at IPU pledge to do our utmost to better engage all groups in society in our social and political processes. We will work to make our parliaments more representative so that all voices and concerns are addressed in the one institution where political differences can be resolved through discussion and negotiation.

Tomorrow, this Assembly will be adopting a resolution on the need to enhance global cooperation on terrorism in order to counter the threat to democracy and individual rights. The attack today has underlined in the most tragic way possible the critical relevance and timeliness of this resolution. We must all make sure that after leaving Lusaka, we take resolute and effective action to counter this global menace by following up on commitments made here.



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