



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 135th IPU Assembly

Geneva

23 - 27 October 2016

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Introduction

The 135th IPU Assembly took place from 23 to 27 October 2016, at the *Centre international de Conférences (CICG)* in Geneva.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members: the Andean Parliament, the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Parliament of the Central African Republic participated as an observer with a view to future affiliation.

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR); (ii) the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank; (iii) the African Union, the League of Arab States; (iv) the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), the Baltic Assembly, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), the Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC); (v) the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria; (vi) Liberal International (LI), Socialist International; (vii) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Of the 1,487 delegates who attended the Assembly, 693 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 51 Presiding Officers, 50 Deputy Presiding Officers and 228 women (32.9%).

Opening of the 135th Assembly

SITTING OF MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2016

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.10 a.m. with Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT welcomed all participants to the 135th IPU Assembly, which he said was taking place at a time of great change. The world was being rocked by disturbing events: large numbers of refugees were undertaking perilous journeys in search of safety, conflicts were erupting in hotspots around the world, and democracy was coming under increasing threat. The humanitarian tragedy in Aleppo and the broader context of the protracted conflict in Syria, the chaos reigning in Yemen, the attempted coup in Turkey and the quasi-paralysis of parliament in Venezuela were just a few examples.

Under such complex circumstances, the mission of the IPU was particularly pertinent. Established in 1889 through a fervent desire for peace, and on the premise of averting or resolving conflict through political dialogue, the IPU brought together parliamentarians of all political backgrounds to urge them to put aside their partisan differences and engage in honest and meaningful debate about issues that were of concern to the world as a whole. Parliamentarians were unique, in that they were not bound to be mere mouthpieces of the government, but rather could feel free to disagree with each other, think creatively and identify innovative solutions to complex challenges. The time had come for the Member Parliaments of the IPU to move from words to action and to make a real difference. Every opportunity to network and enter into dialogue should be seized, in order to create common space and common ground.

No country could boast a perfect human rights record. Aggravating factors, such as marginalization, political exclusion, religious intolerance and poverty, could inevitably lead to friction, and create fertile ground for violent extremists and terrorists to pursue their own twisted agendas. The theme of the 135th Assembly had not been selected arbitrarily: it coincided with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, which was a unique mechanism that worked to defend the rights of individual members of parliament and to seek redress for them whenever their rights had been violated. The Committee did extraordinary work and deserved deep appreciation.

The agenda of the Assembly was replete with issues of topical interest, including the launch of a ground-breaking report on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament, which contained shocking evidence of the high percentage of women parliamentarians who had faced one form or other of sexism and harassment during their career. The new IPU Strategy, which had been the subject of broad consultations, was due for adoption. It reflected the priority actions for the IPU for the coming five years, articulated its core values, set out a mission statement and listed the drivers to create an enabling environment for implementation. The new multilingual IPU website, which had been developed with the generous support of the parliament of the United Arab Emirates, would be launched. Lastly, he drew attention to the Assembly mobile application, which was a dynamic tool and upheld the paper-smart initiative, to minimize the environmental impact of the Assembly.

He introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, a longstanding ally of the partnership between the United Nations and the IPU. The institutional relationship between the two organizations was being strengthened, and cooperation was being broadened.

Mr. M. MØLLER, Director General, United Nations Office at Geneva, said that collaboration between the United Nations and the IPU was growing ever closer, and had been strengthened by the conclusion of the new cooperation agreement. The 135th IPU Assembly would afford an important forum to consider how to operationalize the agreement and accelerate joint efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. When signing the cooperation agreement with the IPU, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had stated that the two organizations were working together for the five “Ps” of the 2030 Agenda: people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnerships. Parliaments should be acknowledged as the sixth “P”. Thanks to the longstanding cooperation with the IPU, the right framework was in place to strengthen interaction between parliaments and the United Nations.

He welcomed IPU discussions on the urgent funding needs of the United Nations, particularly with respect to the role of parliaments in ensuring sufficient allocation of resources to United Nations operations. Parliamentary support was crucial for developing cross-sectoral policies and actions at national, regional and international levels, which would be essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Parliaments would hold governments, and thus international organizations, accountable for their efforts to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and served as the main channel of communication between the international community and local citizens.

The SDGs could only be met through enhanced promotion and protection of human rights. Human rights were mainstreamed across all policy processes and all 17 SDGs even though none of the goals explicitly mentioned them. The theme of the 135th IPU Assembly emphasized the important connection between human rights violations and conflict. Parliamentarians were often among the first to become aware of human rights violations in their constituencies, and in some cases, became victims themselves. Parliamentarians should be guaranteed the right to exercise their mandate at all times. United Nations advisers and special envoys on the prevention of genocide could benefit immensely from first-hand information provided by parliaments. Collaborative preventive action and policies could avoid conflict. Parliaments not only ratified international agreements, but ensured that legal protection was enshrined in national laws.

Strong institutions built on the principles of human rights were crucial, particularly in post-conflict societies. The new cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the IPU emphasized collaboration, particularly with regard to peace and security, sustainable development, international law, human rights, democracy and gender issues, all of which contributed to peacebuilding by bringing together polarized parts of society. As some politicians tried to divide people and build walls, the world's parliamentarians had a strong responsibility to build bridges and bring people together, in particular by ensuring that everyone's rights were protected equally. Gender equality was particularly important in that regard. There were many issues on which the United Nations and the IPU would benefit from even closer partnership. The new Secretary-General of the United Nations had been a parliamentarian for many years and would doubtless be very attentive to the powerful prospects of enhancing collaboration between the United Nations and parliaments.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate

Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliamentarians as early responders

At the opening of the general debate, the IPU President invited gender and youth perspectives that would help inform deliberations over the days to come. A key-note address on the theme of the general debate would also be delivered by Ms. F. Koofi (Afghanistan).

Ms. M.N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia), President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that violence against women and girls was a reality around the world. Women's rights were human rights. Every year, more than 43, 000 women were killed by their partners or family members. Millions of others living in in conflict situations were victims of domestic violence, rape, child marriage, genital mutilation and sexual violence. Gender inequality was the root cause of such violence. Gender inequality was a precursor to war, and women's empowerment was a predictor of peace. Research had shown that increasing the percentage of women in parliament reduced the likelihood that a State would use violence.

The high prevalence of violence against women was an indicator that society was likely to resort to violence on a large scale. A society that turned a blind eye to everyday violence against women at home, on the streets, in schools and in the workplace, was a society that normalized violence and tolerated abuse. Family violence was rooted in a quest for power and control. Domestic violence increased in countries on the brink of conflict; gender-based violence in conflict situations was an extension of the type of violence observed in times of peace. Violence intensified and spread as conflict developed. A gender-sensitive approach was therefore essential as an early warning, peacebuilding and conflict prevention mechanism.

Women played a pivotal role in communities and were in a good position to detect risk factors, such as young people being militarized or radicalized, growing intolerance and restrictions on women's and girls' rights. They must be afforded the channels to report on those trends and should be consulted in human rights monitoring and early warning mechanisms. Those mechanisms should include gender-specific indicators, such as laws and practices that discriminated against women and girls, restrictions to women's freedom of movement, rates of domestic and sexual violence and levels of impunity for such acts.

A culture of equality was the foundation of a culture of peace. Equality could only be achieved by empowering women and girls, fighting impunity for gender-based violence and engaging men and boys. Parliamentarians had the responsibility to ensure that women were empowered to participate fully in all processes and that all parliamentary activities were viewed through a gender lens. The gender impact of actions must be taken into account at all times. The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a useful tool which must be put into effect. So also must United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. Gender equality was a barometer for the health of societies and of how likely societies were to remain peaceful.

Ms. C.L. CREXELL (Argentina), Member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, said that the theme of the general debate was timely. Wars and conflicts were raging around the world, with devastating consequences, giving rise to the question: what could be done to break the cycle of violence and prevent new conflicts before they broke out? Conflict and war needed fertile ground on which to flourish. Conflict flourished when dignity was denied, freedom became a luxury and justice belonged to an elite few. That was the sad reality facing millions of young people around the world.

Young people were disproportionately affected by conflict. Many were displaced and thus denied access to education and economic opportunities. The essence of being young was to have hopes and dreams. How that could be guaranteed for young people if they were denied freedom, dignity, justice, equity or equality? Young people were often associated with violence, yet the vast majority of the world's youth was engaged in peace. That majority was an untapped resource. Young people's energy and passion must be harnessed. Young people could become agents for peace and stability when they were engaged in their communities, and also when they were heard, valued and empowered to contribute to policy-making. Young people served as a warning system: they are perceptive to abuses and inequalities because they are passionate and possess a keen sense of justice. They must be heard, and their concerns must be addressed in parliaments. That could be achieved by engaging them in parliamentary work and encouraging them to become young parliamentarians. There was no doubt that peace, good governance and social justice were driven and built through respect for human rights, freedoms and dignity which could be enjoyed by everyone without exception.

Ms. F. KOOFI (Afghanistan), Member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, said that it was particularly remarkable for her, as an Afghan woman, to be given the chance to speak at an IPU Assembly, considering that as recently as 15 years previously, Afghan women had been unable to leave their homes for fear of being assaulted or killed by the Taliban. As a primary institution of the State, parliament had the responsibility to protect and uphold the rule of law and human rights, and also to monitor the State's respect for its obligations in that regard. Parliaments represented people from all walks of life, and thus played an important role in achieving reconciliation and unity. In a world marked by extreme violence, insecurity could be fuelled by conflict. Women bore the brunt of that, and were particularly fragile in the face of armed conflict. So also were children, who were dragged unwittingly into political crises.

Afghanistan had the world's largest population of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a direct result of armed conflict. Only weeks previously, some 40,000 people had been forced to flee Kunduz, a city in north eastern Afghanistan, where the Taliban had waged war using people's homes, and had captured civilians for use as human shields. Over the past two years alone, 300,000 Afghans had been forced to migrate to Europe. Afghanistan finds itself caught up in a spiral of insecurity and terrorism, and that was shrinking economic opportunities and destroying the livelihood of Afghan citizens.

Conflicts tore apart the social fabric: education and justice systems became corrupt; people migrated away from their homes and were willing to brave the unknown in search of a better life. While Europe might not be able to take in any more migrants, repatriations must be handled with due respect for human rights and human dignity. Sending migrants back to their country of origin while that country was still experiencing war and insecurity would only increase the chances of human rights violations. In Afghanistan, the only way to guarantee a better life for all was to build sustainable, inclusive peace, with women being given their place at the negotiating table. Women's voices must be heard and their involvement in peacebuilding must be meaningful. If people could find the time and resources to pursue war and conflict, why couldn't they find the time and resources to protect human rights?

High-level debate for Speakers of Parliament

Mr. T. Smith (Australia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair and opened the debate.

Mr. E.K. GUDFINNSSON (Iceland) said that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a milestone document; conflict would be a thing of the past if Article 1 of that Declaration was applied. Even though the Declaration reflected human aspirations, humans were imperfect, and those aspirations were undermined on a daily basis. Human rights violations were a regular occurrence and led to disturbances and violent conflicts. Women were all too often victims of systematic human rights abuses. Organized rape and sexual crimes were despicable acts of cruelty, which resulted not only in physical and psychological harm to the victim, but also in many instances resulted in the victim's social exclusion.

Human rights should be universally applied. All too often, those who violated human rights rejected criticism, arguing that it amounted to interference in their sovereign affairs. Parliaments should have the right to denounce violations wherever and whenever they occurred. The "Human Rights Up Front" initiative, launched by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, was particularly welcome, as it made human rights and the protection of civilians a United Nations system-wide core responsibility. While the IPU did not have the resources to launch an identical initiative, it should seek ways in which it and its Members could contribute to the UN initiative.

Parliaments could use parliamentary diplomacy to tackle human rights violations and defuse tensions before they escalated into conflict. The cost of conflict was estimated at 13.4 per cent of the global GDP. According to the Global Peace Index, the situation in most countries was improving despite the continued instances of armed conflict, terrorism and violent crimes. Parliaments were not only able but also duty-bound to continue to build on that improvement.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that peace – the essence of life and foundation for the future – was vital to relations between States and individuals. While Islam was a religion of peace, a high price was being paid to ensure that peace prevailed. The United Arab Emirates had made considerable sacrifices in contributing to building peace around the world, in particular in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait and Lebanon. This was part of efforts to fight Islamic State and to protect Yemen against occupation. The United Arab Emirates was a member of the coalition against terrorism, and was doing everything possible to ensure that infrastructure in conflict-affected areas was rebuilt. The Government had contributed some US\$ 48 million towards peacebuilding.

The international community must settle disputes wherever they occurred. The principle of the State was often undermined by conflict. Interference in the affairs of sovereign States was unacceptable. The United States Congress should revisit its legislation on terrorism, as it undermined international principles of justice. The dispute involving the three islands in the Persian Gulf, currently occupied by the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be settled peacefully, and the perpetrators of crimes must be brought to justice. Some countries simply did not take their international treaty obligations seriously. The interventions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yemen and Syria, and the actions of the occupying power in Palestine ran counter to international resolutions and international law. Such interventions spawned extremism and terrorism. The weight of peace was greater than that of war, but peace would only prevail if the sovereignty of States was fully respected. Bridges must be built as a matter of urgency to ensure peaceful coexistence with respect for ethnic and religious differences.

Ms. S.B. HANOOMANJEE (Mauritius) said that the Constitution of Mauritius guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms and prohibited discrimination on racial, religious or gender grounds. Protecting human rights was inextricably linked to promoting long-term sustainable development. In Mauritius, democratic governance had produced social stability, and parliament had been the steadfast guardian of human rights. Good policy decisions had contributed to a political, economic and social environment, which was conducive to a vibrant economy with sustained growth. Mauritius was a welfare State, which provided free education, transport for students, health services, old-age pensions and housing facilities, among other social benefits, on the premise of guaranteeing equal opportunities and access.

The Mauritian parliament had adopted legislation on promoting and protecting human rights and preventing discrimination. It also established a national human rights commission for dealing with individual complaints. The Government was committed to attaining the SDGs, through a human rights-based approach. Gender equality was also high on the national agenda. Moreover

legislation in that regard had been gender mainstreamed and the Constitution had been amended to include measures designed to guarantee adequate women's political representation. Mauritius was a small island with a plural society, which lived in harmony in spite of religious and cultural differences. It nurtured the pervasive culture of social justice, peace and compassion. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that those democratic values were upheld.

Mr. N. NIGMATULIN (Kazakhstan) said that it was commonly understood that it was respect for human rights which underpinned respect between States and nations. Political, social and economic reforms had taken place in the 25 years since Kazakhstan had gained independence. One of the main aims of the constitutional reform had been to enhance the role of parliament. Universal suffrage had been achieved and links between the Government and civil society were being strengthened. Measures were being taken on a continued basis with a view to implementing all of the international human rights instruments to which Kazakhstan was party. Legislation, including criminal procedural law, had been amended to include provisions on the protection of rights. Steps had also been taken to improve the administration of justice and law enforcement, in particular in regard to corruption.

States must create an enabling environment for human rights protection and the elimination of human rights abuses by ratifying all relevant international instruments, strengthening democratic institutions, upholding the rule of law and guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary. State programmes should be launched for the promotion and protection of human rights. Discrimination should be eliminated in all its forms. Moreover, poverty, inequality and corruption should be eradicated. Education was essential; human rights awareness should be raised, and strong, independent institutions must be established. The Government of Kazakhstan had made considerable efforts in respect of all of those aspects of human rights protection, and endeavoured to uphold its commitments, including by meeting the reporting requirements set forth in the international human rights treaties.

Mr. H. BENCHAMACH (Morocco) said that several IPU Assembly resolutions adopted over recent years had highlighted the importance of preventing human rights violations, fighting terrorism and upholding the national sovereignty of States. In Morocco, robust efforts were being made to promote peace and uphold human rights. The Equity and Reconciliation Commission had been established to provide reparation for human rights abuses and prevent any further violations. Human rights were enshrined in the Constitution. Initiatives and reform efforts aimed to encompass human rights principles and values. Both chambers of the Moroccan parliament were taking measures to pursue those efforts. The speakers of both chambers could request that subsidiary bodies look into the human rights aspects of legislation, if they deemed it necessary.

As for measures that should be taken to prevent abuses of human rights from leading to conflict, investigations should be launched and early warning systems put in place for the purpose of detecting human rights abuses. The institution of an ombudsperson or mediator should be established to intervene in the event of human rights violations or systematic abuses. The time had come to mobilize efforts with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other specialized bodies. The IPU should work with those forums to spread the culture of respect for human rights. The gravest violations of human rights were being committed against the Sahrawi, who had been living in squalid conditions in camps in Tindouf for many years. Their situation constituted a human tragedy and could create fertile ground for a future conflict.

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) said that the full implementation of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remained elusive for many around the world, even though it has been more than 65 years since that Declaration was adopted. An estimated 14 per cent of the world's population lived in conflict-affected areas. Women and girls continued to suffer the most severe abuse. The African Union had declared 2016 the African Year of Human Rights, and had placed particular focus on women. Moreover, the Pan African Parliament had a strategic objective to promote the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa. This goes to show that a culture of human rights was being established in Africa.

Nurturing a human rights culture was particularly important to the South African people and authorities, as they had experienced extreme human rights violations first-hand. Indeed, several human rights-related parliamentary commissions had been established, which reported regularly to the National Assembly. South Africa was party to nine of the United Nations human rights treaties, which had been translated into national law. Ad hoc parliamentary committees were set up to address issues of concern, monitor government compliance, conduct on-site visits and make

recommendations, based on their oversight experience. In order to tackle human rights abuses, parliamentarians should be more vigilant with respect to oversight, ratify and domesticate international treaties, ensure that the legal system was accessible to ordinary people, and increase the representation of women parliamentarians on committees dealing with security and defence issues.

Mr. J.M. RAKOTOMAMONJY (Madagascar) said that parliaments were the incarnation of democracy and must truly reflect the will of the people. The authorities in Madagascar were committed to respect for human rights. Moreover, human rights were enshrined in the Constitution. Madagascar was party to numerous international treaties, which had all been translated into national law. The death penalty had been abolished. Also, efforts were being made to tackle trafficking in persons. A tradition of religious tolerance prevailed. Continued efforts were required to ensure that democracy and human rights were upheld. Malagasy society was built on the principle of inclusivity.

The President of Madagascar had pledged to fight all forms of injustice and to ensure full respect for human rights. The recent establishment of a national human rights institution was testament to the commitment to upholding human rights in Madagascar. Consideration should be given to the role of parliamentarians in the promotion and protection of human rights. Defending and protecting human rights are the tenets on which society was built. Regional parliamentary groups had the responsibility to deal with human rights issues and monitor situations where abuses could occur. Parliamentary diplomacy could be a useful tool for maintaining peace and stability.

Mr. A.K. PIMENTEL III (Philippines) said that his father, a parliamentarian, who, despite having been jailed several times for opposing the dictatorship in the Philippines, had chosen to fight for the democratic rights of his constituents at great cost to both his freedom and his family. Multiple abuses of democracy and freedom in the Philippines had eventually given rise to a popular revolution in 1986, which had ended two decades of dictatorship. Parliamentarians had a crucial choice when confronted with human rights abuses: they could either do nothing and carry on pursuing their own political ambitions, or they could tackle those abuses head on. For them as representatives of the people and guardians of democracy, the choice should be clear. Parliaments had a duty to raise the alarm in all instances where human rights are challenged. More than being just the eyes and ears of the people, parliaments were a vibrant repository of democratic ideals.

The Philippines was party to the major international human rights conventions, and had established parliamentary committees on justice and human rights with a view to promoting and protecting human rights and preventing abuses thereof. Congress had welcomed the opportunity to work together with the IPU and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a regional seminar in the Asia-Pacific region entitled: *Parliaments and the United Nations: working together to make human rights a reality at the national level*. At that seminar parliaments had been encouraged to contribute to the Universal Periodic Review process under the aegis of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Involvement in the process would not only make parliamentarians more aware of the human rights situation in their countries, but would also incite them to hold their governments to account for chronic human rights abuses. There was a strong correlation between human rights abuses and conflict. Parliaments, as the guardians of human rights, had the power to break the chain of conflict and abuse at an early stage, provided they chose to remain steadfast in the execution of their mandate.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) said that the theme of the Assembly offered an opportunity to consider the underlying causes of conflict and to audit parliamentary action so as to prevent conflicts from escalating. Human rights abuses were indeed a precursor to conflict and they must be protected through the rule of law. Parliaments should consider how often they had discussed human rights violations and whether those discussions had been open and transparent. They should also consider whether they had found the courage to demand accountability. Political oppression, economic inequality, deprivation, exclusion, despondency and marginalization were violations which were promoted by individuals in pursuit of personal goals. When the conflict was over, those individuals would divide the spoils and share out political positions, while the victims were left without any consideration, rehabilitation or compensation. In such instances, the individuals concerned escaped justice for crimes they committed against their fellow citizens. Parliament was the place for the abused and the oppressed to seek protection and redress. It was therefore essential to establish parliamentary human rights committees.

The Ugandan Parliament had set up such a committee, and had instituted a human rights check list to be used by all branches of parliamentary for monitoring government compliance with national and international instruments to which Uganda was party. An equal opportunities commission had also been set up and a certificate of gender and equity compliance had been issued under the Financial Management Act. Under the aforementioned Act, all parliamentary entities must report on gender equity in budgeting and allocation of resources, with a view to ultimately eliminating economic disparity. Several audits were being conducted by the Auditor General, not only on financial aspects but also on value for money, information, human resources, gender mainstreaming. Moreover, parliamentary forums on a variety of issues had been established to ensure that parliament kept abreast of the interests and concerns of citizens. Parliaments should lobby to be included in post-conflict negotiations, and should act as an early warning system by ensuring that concerns raised by the public stay in focus. This would enable them to raise the red flag in time to prevent conflict.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United Arab Emirates had made unsubstantiated allegations about the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those allegations ran counter to the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and good neighbourly relations. The Islamic Republic of Iran maintained sovereignty over the three islands in the Persian Gulf. In line with the Government's policy of nurturing security, stability and long-lasting peace in the Persian Gulf, it had gone to great lengths to build confidence and stood ready to engage in bilateral consultations with the United Arab Emirates so as to continue to strengthen relations and resolve any misunderstanding. The Islamic Republic of Iran maintained territorial integrity and sovereignty over the three islands, and that was not negotiable.

The sitting rose at 1.20 p.m.

Sitting of Monday 24 October (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m., with Ms. R. Alitwala Kadaga (Uganda), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders – High-level segment for Speakers of Parliament*

Resumption of the debate

Ms. M. GOJKOVIC (Serbia) affirmed her country's commitment to the principles of the IPU and its work to uphold representative democracy, the rule of law, human rights and gender equality, as part of efforts to preserve peace and security. They were a key part of human rights protection and citizen representation, and were also the "eyes and ears" of societies.

Human rights and freedoms, together with the rule of law and social justice, constituted the fundamental values of the Republic of Serbia. The Government respected the country's diversity and was committed to safeguarding the rights of all, including those of the thousands of migrants to whom it provided shelter. Measures were also being taken to bring parliament closer to the people.

Common challenges required common solutions. National and international institutions must guarantee respect for human rights. Parliaments must tackle human rights abuses and prevent the escalation of conflicts by addressing the root causes of human rights violations. Good governance was essential, as were efforts to promote women's leadership and civil society participation. Parliaments must be accessible to citizens, so that all voices could be heard. National and international legal mechanisms also played an important role.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt) said that the international community needed to establish mechanisms, based on international humanitarian law, to protect civilians and defend human rights. Violations of those rights exacerbated conflicts and posed an obstacle to peace. It was essential to ensure respect for human rights and to bring perpetrators to justice. Nevertheless, it was also important to take into account cultural differences and countries' specific characteristics and traditions, and to avoid interfering in their internal affairs under the pretext of protecting human rights.

Parliamentary bodies had a duty to represent and defend the citizens. Political will was indispensable to efforts to protect human rights and promote parliamentary practice. Parliaments must serve as an early warning system and ensure a rapid response to violations. In Egypt, the National Assembly worked to strengthen human rights, which were enshrined in the Constitution, and promulgated laws to promote equality and combat discrimination. It also coordinated with other institutions to ensure that rights were respected.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan) said that the Government's policies, based on the principles of sustainable peace and happiness, sought to foster development through good governance and legislation. The Government had ratified a number of international human rights treaties. The National Assembly played an important oversight role, and its human rights committee reviewed human rights developments and drafted recommendations. In view of the important role that women played in shaping the political and social landscape, funds had been allocated to empowering women and strengthening their leadership capacity. A committee had been set up to address issues affecting vulnerable sections of society, including women and children. Moreover, organizations representing those groups worked together with the authorities.

The IPU must continue to promote human rights and to adopt resolutions that enjoyed the support of both the international community and the United Nations. Oversight must be provided by human rights groups, governments and parliaments, who needed to speak out against abuse and initiate social change.

Human rights violations must not be ignored or allowed to cause chaos. He urged the IPU and its members to do everything in their power to protect freedom and justice. As Nelson Mandela had once said, "to deny people their human rights was to challenge their very humanity".

Mr. J. DA GRACA DIOGO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that parliaments must work together with governments and civil society to uphold human rights and to guarantee justice and peace. He noted that the Government had ratified international human rights instruments, or was taking steps to that effect. Legislation had been adopted to protect human rights and guarantee gender equality and women's political participation. A national institute for gender equality had been established and the State's secular principles ensured respect for freedom of worship.

There was a need to adopt practical measures, including initiatives to raise awareness of existing legislative provisions and to change peoples' attitudes. Parliaments must set an example by championing human rights and providing oversight. Such an approach, coupled with efforts to achieve gender equality and women's political participation, would help to resolve conflicts and promote human rights.

Mr. N. BERRY (Lebanon) said that Israel's violations of the human rights of Palestinians, including by usurping their land and restricting their movements, continued despite petitions and calls for action. As a result, the Government of Lebanon was dealing with an influx of Palestinian refugees.

Parliaments needed to find equitable, political solutions to conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Libya, and the establishment of parliamentary democracies in those countries. However, it was also important to respect the specific characteristics of each State. Parliaments must also tackle international terrorism whilst respecting the rights of minorities and human rights in general. It was essential to find solutions that worked for all parties.

Mr. Y.A. RETA (Ethiopia) welcomed the theme of the 135th IPU Assembly, and stressed the important role that national parliaments played in the promotion and practical application of international human rights instruments, including by monitoring compliance. Oversight by parliamentary bodies was of paramount importance, and governments needed to be mindful of the potential human rights impact of their activities. It was necessary to promote fundamental freedoms and to put an end to human rights violations that could fan the flames of conflict.

An appropriate response to human rights abuses involved introducing appropriate legal provisions and ensuring their implementation through monitoring mechanisms. In Ethiopia, parliament had a strong supervisory role. As part of its core human rights responsibilities, the national parliament had adopted legislation to safeguard human rights and also established monitoring bodies to ensure the State's compliance with its human rights obligations under domestic and international law. Human rights monitoring bodies included the national human rights committee and an Ombudsman's office. Both entities provided education and training, and investigated complaints against the State. They issued reports and recommendations to parliament.

Unfortunately, unrest in certain regions of Ethiopia had resulted in casualties, loss of life and damage to property, as anti-peace elements and terrorist groups had exploited people's genuine grievances. That situation had led the Government to declare a state of emergency. Nevertheless, a series of checks and balances were in place to safeguard human rights under those difficult circumstances.

Ms. S. MAHAJAN (India) indicated that human rights were inextricably linked to the concept of human dignity. Parliaments and parliamentarians played a vital role in protecting and promoting human rights, and in tackling human rights abuses. The Constitution guaranteed fundamental rights to all its citizens, and a range of legislative measures had been adopted to promote and protect human rights. Human rights commissions at national and state level, as well as various parliamentary committees and commissions, worked to safeguard the interests of minorities and vulnerable sections of society. Citizens could address their concerns to public institutions. Moreover, the Government was committed to promoting gender equality in social, economic and political life.

Good governance involved openness, transparency, accountability, participation and responsiveness to the needs of the people. Measures to strengthen complaints mechanisms and to ensure that democratic institutions were truly responsive contributed to a culture of respect for human rights, as did an independent and impartial judiciary, free and independent media and a robust civil society. In a globalized world, one country's successes or failures had a domino effect. Therefore, all nations must endeavour to promote and protect human rights without interfering in

the internal affairs of sovereign States. The IPU provided a forum for exchanging best practices and experiences relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Terrorism had emerged as the biggest threat to human rights. It destabilized governments, undermined civil society, and threatened peace, security and development. The international community needed a coherent policy to effectively tackle terrorism.

The greed for power often lay at the root of conflicts, which had the devastating impact on women and children. Children represented the future and it was essential to ensure that the world they inherited was based on dignity, peace and love.

Mr. A. ALJARWAN (Arab Parliament) said that all nations should view ensuring a rapid response to violations, in order to prevent conflicts, as a shared responsibility and priority. The Arab Parliament was keen to work together with fellow parliamentarians from around the world. For example, it was working on joint projects with the African Parliament at regional level.

Harmonized legislative measures were needed to combat terrorism, which is a major threat to peace and stability. The Palestinian people also needed international support in order to uphold their right to self-determination. In line with the statement issued by UNESCO, it was the legal and political responsibility of all States to support the Palestinian people and to protect the holy sites in the region. It was also imperative to protect and support the Syrian people, and to tackle the refugee crisis. The people of Iraq, as well as those of a number of other States in the region, also needed the assist and support of the international community. Measures were required to ensure security and peace for all. Iran's interference in the affairs of Arab States was in breach of international law. Iran must work together with Arab States to resolve disputes relating to the islands in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. G.M. MESU (Equatorial Guinea) said that parliaments must protect and safeguard human rights. They must also provide oversight, in order to ensure that those rights were respected. Equatorial Guinea was a member of the international community and signatory to a number of international and regional human rights treaties. Its commitment to human rights was enshrined in the Constitution. Recent constitutional and legislative reforms, including limits on presidential terms of office and the creation of an ombudsman's office and a court of auditors, sought to guarantee the rights of citizens. Basic freedoms, including freedom of religion, were guaranteed. The national human rights committee reported to parliament and monitored respect for human rights. A petitions committee had been established to handle citizens' complaints.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that human rights were universal and must be guaranteed by the international community. The relationship between human rights violations and conflict was complex and multifaceted. Abuses precipitated violence and the situation was further complicated by third-party interventions, lack of humanitarian access and the involvement of a range of actors. Breaking cycles of violence, particularly in poor countries, was an extremely challenging task, particularly as conflicts had become more fluid in nature. Good governance was impossible in countries which were trapped in cycles of conflict. Violence had a devastating impact, including on economic development, and hindered access to education, healthcare, and other basic human rights. Conditions on the ground often prevented humanitarian intervention.

The IPU had sought to enhance the role of parliaments as guardians of human rights, promoting standards and fostering debate on important issues. It had facilitated the implementation of international human rights treaties, and mobilized parliaments to combat problems such as human trafficking.

Mr. S.A. SADIQ (Pakistan) said that parliamentarians had a duty to break the cycle of violence and to protect fundamental rights. Their failure to do so would inevitably lead to conflicts fuelled by human rights violations. The parliament of Pakistan was actively strengthening the country's human rights regime, including through the creation of an independent national commission on the status of women and a national human rights commission, as well as the enactment of a range of bills designed to safeguard the rights of women and children. The presence of a cross-party women's parliamentary caucus ensured a balanced gender perspective in the work of parliament.

Nevertheless, legislation alone could not prevent human rights violations if people were not aware of protection mechanisms and laws were not effectively enforced. The Government had developed a comprehensive human rights action plan, focusing on access to justice, measures to strengthen human rights institutions and promote human rights education and the implementation

of United Nations treaties and conventions. A toll-free legal advice helpline had been launched and funds had been allocated to support victims of human rights violations. The Government had also ratified core international human rights treaties and was engaged in the work of various human rights forums.

The occupation by Indian forces of the states of Jammu and Kashmir was a major threat to peace. A curfew had been imposed and more than 150 people had lost their lives. Indian forces had arrested Kashmiri, and the Indian Government continued to violate the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. The Indian government had not heeded concerns expressed by a number of States and international bodies, as well as calls for a fact-finding mission. Parliamentarians had a duty to condemn human rights violations and to identify tangible measures to put an end to abuses, particularly when they involved State actors.

Mr. A. HOUNGBEDJI (Benin) said that human rights violations were a threat to peace. An early response mechanism was required. He expressed support for the IPU's efforts to develop effective mechanisms to strengthen peace and give parliamentary democracy a more prominent role. Parliaments also needed to provide oversight of government activities. Repression and abuse of human rights and civil liberties threatened peace and security. Violations and conflicts had a serious impact on society as a whole and on minorities in particular. Parliaments had a role to play in preventing conflict and human rights abuses. Rapid response mechanisms were needed, as were forums for dialogue. In order to enhance accountability and prevent abuses, it was also important to hold regular elections. He encouraged parliaments and parliamentarians to set an example and share good practices.

Mr. A. Hounbedji (Benin), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. T. SMITH (Australia) said that human rights were essential to democracy, as were good governance, the rule of law and strong public institutions. The Australian Government was working to extend the democratic franchise, improve opportunities for the indigenous population, enhance gender equality and promote good governance. As it was vital for women to be equal partners in the democratic process, the Government participated in national and regional initiatives to promote women's empowerment and combat discrimination. It participated in providing practical assistance and advocacy, including through overseas programmes and initiatives involving civil society. The State's candidacy for the Human Rights Council 2018-2020 reflected its strong human rights principles and engagement with the international community. At national level, a parliamentary joint committee on human rights was responsible for the scrutiny of all bills.

He stressed that parliamentarians had a special role to play in early response efforts, and welcomed the work of the IPU in that regard.

Ms. H. ABBAS (Syrian Arab Republic) called on the IPU, and all parliamentarians, to take a stand against terrorism and its devastating impact on human rights. Noting that certain governments directly or indirectly facilitated terrorism, she stressed the need for the international community to work together to combat terrorism and to support Syria in its battle against that threat. The impact of economic sanctions on the Syrian people had been devastating. She called for those sanctions to be lifted, as they violated basic human rights and represented a form of economic terrorism. Finally, she stressed the need for a political solution that guaranteed Syrian sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, on the basis of dialogue and without external interference.

Mr. M. ALI HOUMED (Djibouti) said that parliaments must always participate in efforts to defend human rights and ensure stability by adopting legislation and implementing international human rights instruments. The Government of Djibouti worked to protect citizens' basic human rights, including the right to education, housing and health. The democratic system ensured free elections and respect for human rights, which were enshrined in the Constitution. The Government was currently examining draft legislation on the status of refugees.

Wherever governance was based on exclusion and discrimination, human rights violations posed a threat to peace and political stability. The IPU needed to develop rapid response mechanisms to safeguard democracy and preserve peace. He welcomed the efforts made to build peace through mediation and dialogue, and stressed that parliaments and parliamentarians needed to support the IPU leadership in its work to strengthen peace and enhance the role of multilateral parliamentary democracy.

Mr. A.R. IBRAHIMI (Afghanistan) said that failure to protect and promote human rights led to injustice, frustration and, ultimately, armed conflict and violence. Parliaments were responsible for preventing violations by adopting appropriate legislation and providing oversight.

The Government of Afghanistan had been accused of violating human rights on a number of occasions. While admitting that human rights violations had occurred in his country, particularly during the period of Taliban rule when citizens had been deprived of their fundamental rights, he said that it was nonetheless important to establish the circumstances surrounding those violations. At present, violations were reported only in areas controlled by rebel forces, which used civilians as human shields. Although Afghan security forces took every precaution to avoid civilian casualties in their fight against terrorism, it was not always possible to entirely prevent unintended casualties. He hoped that the efforts of the Afghan military would be appreciated, and would not be viewed in the same light as the violations committed by the Taliban forces.

It was important for the international community to support the Afghan people, to help them achieve stability and develop their infrastructure, with a view to ensuring prosperity in the future. While he stressed the damaging impact of the Taliban on human rights, he nonetheless indicated that the Afghan government had expressed interest in peace talks.

Until Taliban havens, funding and equipment were eliminated with the support of the international community, it would be impossible to improve the situation and ensure respect for human rights. Afghan parliamentarians cooperated with various human rights bodies to tackle human rights violations and ensure a sustainable peace. The Government had adopted human rights legislation, including a number of international conventions, and sought to provide oversight as to their implementation. Parliaments should also be mindful of the significant challenges facing his country, exacerbated by foreign interference, the refugee crisis and security concerns, and should support the Afghan people in the effective implementation of national programmes, particularly those designed to strengthen human rights.

Mr. B. SARAHI (Nigeria) stated that effective protection of human rights could only be achieved through international cooperation. The IPU had correctly identified the pervasive failure to respect human dignity as a source of conflict. Violations were often compounded by poor governance and injustice, whether real or perceived. Being the guardians of human rights, parliamentarians must continue to develop legislative frameworks so as to ensure that human rights legislation was properly implemented.

In Nigeria, human rights were enshrined in the Constitution, and the National Human Rights Commission provided oversight, investigated cases of violations and helped victims obtain redress. Legislations had been adopted to protect children's rights, stem violence and prevent discrimination, harassment or stigmatization of marginalized groups. Moreover, measures were adopted to protect women's rights and to promote women's participation. Moreover, specific steps had been taken to protect and support internally displaced people in the north-eastern part of the country, in particular through budgetary allocations and mechanisms so as to ensure accountability and the effective management of the humanitarian situation. The Government was taking steps to foster development and protect economic and social rights. It was also taking steps to create employment, promote entrepreneurship and foster financial inclusion.

Where appropriate human rights legislation was in place, problems mainly arose due to inadequate implementation and enforcement or to the absence of oversight. Parliaments and parliamentarians must demonstrate courage, accountability and a willingness to stand up for the people they represented. They needed to speak out when laws were violated, and work together with other branches of government to ensure that human rights violations were not only condemned but also effectively tackled.

Mr. D. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that human rights violations undermined development. Protection and promotion of human rights were key to strengthening democracy. Parliamentarians could defend and promote human rights in a variety of ways. First of all, it was important to maintain open dialogue and cooperation at international level by contributing to the work of international and regional human rights bodies, including during times of conflict. At national level, parliamentarians should work with governments to translate international commitments into national legislation, and to provide democratic oversight. Although no country was immune to human rights violations, failure to effectively tackle that issue increased risk of conflict. Civil society played a vital role in reporting abuses. It must therefore be protected. Parliamentarians needed to cooperate with civil society and human rights institutions to promote dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. It was also essential to protect human rights defenders.

In countries experiencing instability or conflict, women and children often suffered the most. It was important to remember that women could play an instrumental role in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The Irish Government sought to contribute to the Women, Peace and Security agenda by sharing the lessons learned and approaches used at national level. Moreover, the Government supported women's participation in conflict prevention and mediation through the Global Acceleration Instrument. Gender equality and political participation were essential to building peace. At the national level, parliamentarians could operate as agents of change within political parties and movements. Finally, parliamentary oversight was essential to ensure that any humanitarian assistance supported by official aid programmes was delivered in a manner that did not expose women and girls to violence. That approach included the empowered participation of women in strengthening national governance, in particular in unstable situations and protracted crises. Parliaments must reaffirm their commitment to the universal, indivisible and interrelated nature of all human rights, ensure accountability for human rights abuses, and protect the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Mr. A.H. DA COSTA (Timor-Leste) said that parliaments had a duty to protect human rights and to uphold democracy. They needed to serve as beacons of hope for citizens. The IPU Assembly provided an opportunity for parliaments to renew their commitment to the citizens and to identify practical measures to protect human rights.

The national parliament was developing mechanisms to prevent conflicts and to respond to human rights violations, a task that usually fell to the justice system. Steps had been taken to establish a prevention framework, in consultation with other institutions, sectors and civil society, in order to ensure stability and prevent conflicts from escalating. The national parliament was also developing an automatic response mechanism, as a channel for citizens to report grievances.

With regard to human rights, one specific area of concern was the failure to guarantee the people of Western Sahara their right to self-determination. At regional level, the ongoing legal dispute with Australia concerning the countries' permanent maritime borders was causing uncertainty and was adversely affecting his country's security, immigration system and fisheries sector. Permanent maritime borders needed to be established in compliance with international law, and the Government of Timor-Leste was currently engaged in constructive negotiations with Indonesia.

Mr. F. DA PIEDADE DIAS DOS SANTOS (Angola) said that human rights violations required a coherent and sustainable response. Social tensions sometimes stemmed from violations of economic, social, cultural or environmental rights. There was a need for closer parliamentary cooperation to identify effective political solutions, particularly within the framework of the United Nations. He stressed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Agenda 2063 of the African Union were key political tools to promote human rights.

Reprisals against human rights defenders were a cause for concern. There was a need for parliaments to adapt legislation to ensure compatibility with applicable human rights law and to raise citizens' awareness of such legislation. Parliaments must provide oversight, take action to combat child labour and trafficking, and create an international platform for exchanging information and experiences. Growing inequality at national and international levels threatened development. Parliaments had a responsibility to reverse those disturbing trends. Cooperation was necessary to identify sustainable solutions for the least developed countries, in order to protect universal human rights. International political will was required to prevent or end conflicts. It was necessary to establish an international, multilateral forum, and to reform the United Nations system.

Despite current difficulties, the Government of Angola was implementing macroeconomic measures to diversify the national economy, and was pursuing a long-term development strategy. The Angolan parliament was committed to representing the people of Angola and defending human rights, in line with international norms.

Mr. S. Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, took the Chair.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, exercising the right to reply, said that the representative of the Arab Parliament had made groundless allegations of interference in the affairs of other countries. The Government supported the Palestinian people and respected the sovereignty of Arab countries. He added that it had responded to requests from those countries to help them to combat terrorism. Other countries, however, were clearly interfering in the domestic affairs of Iraq, Yemen and Syria, and were hostile towards his Government. Any unfounded accusations merely diverted attention away from real issues and threats, such as the interference of Western governments in the Persian Gulf and other regions.

The representative of INDIA, exercising the right to reply, said that the statement made by the representative of Pakistan concerning Kashmir was wholly inaccurate. The state of Kashmir was, and would always remain, an integral part of India. She drew attention to the cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan, itself a breeding ground for international terrorism. The Government of Pakistan was diverting billions of dollars of aid to spread terrorism abroad, with impunity.

The people living in the affected Indian states were victims of Pakistan's policies. The Government of Pakistan would be well advised to set its own house in order before accusing others of human rights violations. It should stop inciting and supporting terrorism and refrain from interfering in India's internal affairs.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda (A/135/2-P.1 to P.8 and A/135/2-Inf.1.rev.3)

The PRESIDENT outlined the procedure to be followed, pursuant to rule 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, for voting on an emergency item to be included in the Assembly agenda. The Secretariat had received eight proposals for the subject of the emergency item:

- *Helping to consolidate international peace and security through the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments* (Morocco);
- *Respecting the separation of powers as an essential element of democratic systems and as a guarantee of the proper functioning of parliaments as unique institutions within democracies* (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- *Guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way to countries of destination* (Uganda);
- *Addressing the South Sudan conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding peace and security* (Kenya);
- *The role of parliamentarians in protecting the principles of State sovereignty and State immunity from prosecution in the national courts of another State, and in preventing the adoption of unilateral legislation undermining these principles, which constitutes a violation of international law, international treaties and the Charter of the United Nations* [Parliaments of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates)];
- *The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo* (Germany and Mexico);
- *The role of parliaments in combating terrorism for sustainable peace, security and development* (Bangladesh);
- *Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union* (Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic).

All of the proposals had been found admissible under rule 11.1 of the Rules of the Assembly. He therefore invited the sponsoring delegations to introduce their proposals.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco), presenting the first proposal, said that having withdrawn the same proposal at the 134th Assembly, the Moroccan delegation was resubmitting it for consideration and hoped it would receive the Assembly's support. The Moroccan parliament attached great importance to the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, and believed that the Palestinian cause was the key to resolving a number of problems in the Middle East. With that issue resolved, countries in the region would be able to turn their attention to development.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), presenting the second proposal on the separation of powers, said that the absence of democracy and the violation of parliaments were serious issues. The Venezuelan parliament was currently experiencing a crisis in which the Executive had prevented it from deciding its own budget and had left parliamentarians without salaries. The Supreme Court of Justice had restricted parliamentary immunity, and three parliamentarians had been imprisoned. Breach of the institution of parliament amounted to violation of human rights. Her delegation sought the support of the global parliamentary community to ensure respect for parliament as an institution, not only in Venezuela, but in every country in the world.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba), speaking in opposition of the proposal made by Venezuela, said that his delegation condemned any initiative that disturbed peace or democratic stability and threatened the sovereignty of States. He expressed Cuba's support for both the Venezuelan Government and the President. The use of parliamentary bodies and international forums to promote interference in the sovereignty of States should not be accepted.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) introduced a proposed emergency item on guaranteeing the safety of migrants on their way to countries of destination. She also said that despite previous debates on the human rights of migrants and an IPU resolution on the moral imperative for fairer migration, involuntary migration continued to take place at high risk to those on the move. They lived in a situation of hopelessness, exclusion and lack of economic opportunity. Although the situation was grave, she proposed to withdraw the proposal in favour of that submitted by Kenya.

Mr. K. WA KABANDO (Kenya) said that his delegation wished to propose an emergency item on the conflict in South Sudan. Barely five years after that country attained independence and after it had signed a comprehensive peace agreement, serious political disagreements had degenerated into war. The country continued to be ravaged by war despite the interventions of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. That had resulted in death and displacement, disrupted law and order, and threatened peace and stability in the region. The issues of migration and the economic suffocation of neighbouring countries were worrisome and should be addressed at the international level.

Mr. M. ALJEFRI (Saudi Arabia) presented a proposal on the role of parliaments in protecting the principles of State sovereignty, on behalf of the Parliaments of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The adoption of unilateral legislation undermined the principles of State sovereignty and State immunity from prosecution in the national courts of another State. Such action would lead to chaos in a situation where others took to adopting similar laws out of concern for reciprocity of treatment. Proliferation of that approach would poison international relations. Each State was entitled to self-determination without foreign interference. Legal immunity must therefore be protected. Parliaments adopting legislation which undermines the immunity of other parliaments would not only weaken international relations but also affect capital flight, access to the market economy and investments. That would impair economic development and increase insecurity. The proposed emergency item affected all countries.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico), presenting a joint proposal with Germany on the war and severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo, said that the civil war in Syria was about to enter its sixth year and had taken the lives of many thousands of people and resulted in the displacement of millions. The situation was highly complex, and was rife with extreme cruelty and unending violations of fundamental human rights. The highest priority must be to save the thousands of lives that were under threat. Attacks on the civilian population had been brutal: schools, settlements and basic infrastructure, such as hospitals, were being bombed daily. Those attacks must cease and the blockades must be lifted to enable humanitarian aid to reach those in need. The IPU must call for a ceasefire as a matter of urgency.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that while the Assembly was voting on which item to add to its agenda, people in Syria were losing their homes and were in dire need not only of medical care but also of food and water. In the time it took her to deliver her presentation, many would die. Since 2011, hundreds of thousands of people had lost their lives; millions had lost their homes and countless had become refugees. Violence continued to escalate with attacks on aid convoys, bombing of hospitals and brutality against civilians. The situation in Aleppo was devastating. There was no other issue of comparable urgency in the world. Relief for the suffering population was needed as a matter of extreme urgency, through the establishment of corridors for immediate, unimpeded, permanent humanitarian access. Aid to the region must be increased, and support provided to aid organizations on the ground. The world's parliaments must urge governments, the United Nations and the international community to work together for lasting peace and to help the Syrian people immediately. Who, if not the world's parliamentarians, was best placed to take action?

Mr. A. KUZBARI (Syrian Arab Republic) speaking in opposition to the proposal by Germany and Mexico, expressed his delegation's deep concern that his country had not been consulted in the preparation of the proposal. The proposal did not address terrorism, which was at the heart of the conflict in Syria. Internationally recognized terrorist groups had inflicted suffering on the Syrian people. The Syrian Government was committed to fighting those terrorists, and no outside party had the right to speak on its behalf.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) presented a proposal for an emergency item on the role of parliaments in combating terrorism for sustainable peace, security and development. He said that terrorism was a growing threat to regional and international peace and security, adding that it required an urgent and coordinated international response. Since terrorism was a global phenomenon, parliamentarians the world over should take steps to counter it, under the auspices of the IPU. The IPU had adopted some 12 resolutions against terrorism over recent years. Yet words were not sufficient. Those resolutions must be implemented, and the global dialogue on terrorism must continue. That said, he wished to withdraw his proposal in favour of putting the subject on the agenda of a future IPU Assembly.

Mr. M. HAMCHO (Syrian Arab Republic) presenting a joint proposal submitted by the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic on restoring peace and security in Syria, said that the economic sanctions imposed by some States against others ran counter to international law. The proposal by Germany and Mexico to discuss the humanitarian situation in Syria failed to make any mention of terrorism. The joint proposal he was presenting took due account of the issue of terrorism and the provision of humanitarian assistance in full respect of State sovereignty. There was nothing more urgent than the need to protect the Syrian people against terrorism and to ensure that they received humanitarian aid. The vast numbers of refugees forced to flee Syria had left as a direct result of the economic sanctions imposed by other countries. Countries had encouraged terrorism, imposed economic sanctions, and then blamed the Syrian authorities for mismanaging the situation. Those sanctions were unjust and should be removed immediately.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), speaking in opposition to the joint proposal by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation, said that the 134th IPU Assembly had discussed and adopted a lengthy resolution on terrorism. The combined proposal submitted by the Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic, and its focus on terrorism, detracted from the humanitarian aspect of the crisis in Syria, which should be the subject of the emergency item.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that she wished to withdraw her delegation's proposal in favour of the joint proposal submitted by Germany and Mexico.

The PRESIDENT said that since five proposals remained on the table, the Assembly must vote to select an emergency item for discussion.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the voting procedure.

Following a roll-call vote, the joint proposal submitted by the delegations of Germany and Mexico was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 7.

The sitting rose at 7.45 p.m.

Final agenda

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| Item 1 | Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 135 th Assembly |
| Item 2 | Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda |
| Item 3 | General Debate on the theme <i>Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders</i> |
| Item 4 | The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective (<i>Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights</i>) |
| Item 5 | Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs |
| Item 6 | Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 137 th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs |
| Item 7 | The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo. |
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Sitting of Tuesday 25 October (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with Mr. K. Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 7 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item:

The war and the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo (A/135/2-P.10)

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) introduced the draft resolution contained in document A/135/2-P.10 and urged participants to focus the debate on the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo. That situation constituted a humanitarian catastrophe unlike any other. Crimes against civilians, such as the bombing of hospitals and the blocking and attacking of humanitarian aid convoys, should be condemned in the strongest terms. All parties to the conflict should cease attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure. They should cease besieging cities and driving the people living there into a situation of starvation. Humanitarian personnel, in particular medical staff, must be guaranteed free movement, and steps must be taken to ensure that aid supplies reached the civilian population. With that in view, it was essential to call on all parties to observe an immediate ceasefire. The destruction of incalculable cultural heritage of the historic city of Aleppo constituted a grave violation of the conventions and recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The IPU must send a loud and clear message that the humanitarian catastrophe must end.

Ms. M.Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that her delegation condemned the politicization and manipulation of the Syrian crisis with the objective of imposing regime change on the country. Those who had provided weapons to terrorist groups were the ones truly responsible for the thousands of civilian victims. The only workable sustainable solution to the crisis would be respectful dialogue which would allow the people of Syria to decide their own destiny without foreign interference. The draft resolution did not reflect that. Rather, it contained unfounded allegations against the Syrian Government accusing it of violating the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Those accusations were intended to detract attention away from the real perpetrators of those violations of Syria's cultural heritage. The draft included elements that clearly amounted to interference in the domestic affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, it left little room for the Syrian people and legally constituted authorities to settle their differences, as was their inalienable right. The IPU Assembly, in its resolution, should give due attention to the fundamental rights of the Syrian people, in particular the right to life.

Ms. O. SOTNYK (Ukraine) said that her delegation supported the territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. She expressed concern regarding the dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria. Millions had been forced to leave their homes. Her delegation condemned the Syrian regime's use of chemical and other unconventional weapons against civilians in cooperation with the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, as well as by terrorist groups. The Russian Federation was providing weapons and ammunition, making combat preparations and spreading propaganda to incite a full-scale war in the Middle East, and was using Crimea as a military outpost to support its operations in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Russian Federation was shamelessly manufacturing and testing weapons in Syria, and in the process, had taken the lives of some 300,000 people. The parties to the conflict were acting in utter disregard of international humanitarian law principles and demonstrating an abject lack of respect for basic human values. The bloodshed should cease immediately, and diplomatic efforts should be intensified as a means to putting an end to the conflict. The perpetrators of international humanitarian law violations must be brought to justice.

Mr. M. GAPES (United Kingdom) said that the destruction of Aleppo was testimony to the failure of the international community to take action. Over the past five years, the United Nations Security Council had been blocked by vetoes on five occasions, the most recent on 8 October 2016, by the Russian Federation. The Security Council was incapable of acting despite the Syrian

Government's was manifest failure to fulfil its responsibility of protecting the civilian population. The Government was barrel-bombing civilian areas. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis was of a massive scale. The crisis had left some 280,000 people dead, 861,000 living under siege and 11 million forced to flee their homes. It also had devastating consequences for neighbouring countries, as well as other countries in the region. Given the Security Council's failure to act, the world's parliaments must call for resolute action. It was time for international community to call for an end to the political and humanitarian crisis in Syria, which was affecting the whole world.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation shared the concerns raised regarding the suffering of the civilian population in Syria. He expressed dismay that the Assembly did not appear to have given due consideration to the draft resolution as proposed by the Russian Federation, which had called for an end to the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria. The draft text currently before the Assembly began and ended with references to war, yet failed to mention how that war had started. It also failed to mention the terrorist groups committing the gravest atrocities in Syria. He hoped that the drafting group would ensure that the resolution would be based on facts, and would be a tool for putting an end to suffering, not for political posturing.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the situation in Aleppo constituted one of the most serious humanitarian crises the world has ever witnessed. Even during war there were rules that must be followed. The Syrian Government was flouting international humanitarian law by its actions in Aleppo. Women and children were dying on a daily basis. There seemed to be no distinction between fighting terrorism and launching indiscriminate attacks against defenceless civilians. The Russian Federation and the United States should work towards promoting understanding between the two sides to the conflict. A peaceful solution must be found as a matter of urgency, with the resolution of the humanitarian situation as the main priority.

Ms. H. BSISU (Jordan) said that her delegation shared the concerns already expressed with regard to the grave humanitarian crisis in Aleppo. She presented some proposed amendments to the draft resolution, including the addition of a new paragraph urging the parties to the conflict to ensure that women were included as part of the peaceful solution to the political crisis, and to bolster the request for support to Syria's neighbouring countries, which were providing large-scale assistance to refugees. A general paragraph should also be added regarding the need for parliaments to urge governments to cease attacking civilians and basic infrastructure, and to support peaceful efforts towards resolving conflicts in general.

Ms. A.A. PALACIOS BENAVIDEZ (Nicaragua) said that the situation in Syria was particularly serious. Her delegation would have preferred to see a single merged draft resolution, combining the proposals of not only by Germany and Mexico but also those of the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, in a genuine spirit of consensus-seeking. While the proposed draft resolution took account of the impact of the crisis on families, it gave no consideration to the origins of the conflict. Yet that conflict had been caused by foreign intervention by France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The war had been launched with a view to promoting interests other than those of the Syrian people. The expansion of the Islamic State was having devastating consequences. Her delegation could not support expressions of concern by those who were responsible for the political manipulation of a people that was being decimated merely to serve the interests of foreign powers.

Mr. A. KUZBARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the German delegation, in its proposed draft resolution, was making unacceptable allegations that went against the interests of the people of Syria and constituted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. While it was true that the situation in Aleppo was dramatic, the resolution should not focus on one place only. Other cities, including Damascus, were also suffering at the hands of terrorists. The Syrian State had committed to ending hostilities, while other parties to the conflict had carried on with the fighting. Only the Syrian army had respected the ceasefire agreement. Six humanitarian corridors had been opened to enable civilians to leave Aleppo. Moreover, two had been opened for the armed forces, but they had been bombed by the Islamic State and the Al-Nusra Front. Aid convoys could not reach Aleppo because of the bombing. The situation was very grave, Humanitarian aid was therefore urgently needed. The Syrian Government was currently meeting 75 per cent of the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people. Whereas humanitarian aid, foods and medicines could not reach the populations affected, there seemed to be no limits to the amount of weapons entering

the country. Vast swathes of refugees had fled the country owing to the conflict, which had been imposed on Syria, and the economic sanctions imposed unilaterally by other States. The Government's condemnation of those sanctions had not received adequate support. Syria's cultural heritage, in particular the ancient archaeological site of Palmyra, had been destroyed by Daesh. Those who claimed to work towards bringing an end to the crisis in Syria should help the Government tackle terrorism, end the economic sanctions against it, and allow its people to return peacefully.

Mr. M. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that his delegation was gravely concerned about the continued conflict in Syria with its devastating consequences on the Syrian population. Violations of human rights by all sides and the use of lethal chemical and explosive weapons in densely populated areas, hindering humanitarian access, and direct targeting of civilians and essential civilian infrastructure had been sordid realities of the conflict. His delegation was gravely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation for innocent civilians in Aleppo, and urged all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian and human rights law. Violence should cease and humanitarian access must be granted immediately. A peaceful solution must be found through dialogue and negotiation, since continued fighting would only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Regrettably, the United Nations Security Council had been unable to bring an end to the conflict. Peaceful negotiations must be undertaken to restore order. All parties to the conflict should work to that end, in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the crisis in Syria was one of the most unfortunate situations in the world and had cost the lives of thousands of innocent people. The proposed resolution should be based on facts and realities in the region, and should reflect the root causes of the crisis. Foreign intervention was by far the most aggravating factor in the situation in Syria. The support provided by some countries to terrorist armed groups was one of the main drivers of the crisis. The proposed draft resolution did not present a balanced view of the situation. The biggest source of insecurity in the region – the presence and activities of terrorist groups such as Daesh and the Al-Nusra Front – had not been addressed in the resolution. The crisis could only be resolved through dialogue, with due respect for territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Humanitarian access was being hindered by unjust economic sanctions and terrorist activity. Humanitarian aid should be stepped up, sanctions must be lifted, and terrorism must be rooted out.

Ms. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) said that she wished to express the Palestinian people's solidarity with the people of Syria. The unjust war was a tragedy for the innocent people of Syria. All those involved must ensure that hostilities cease as a matter of urgency. The Palestinian people in Gaza had endured bombings and attacks, destruction and death, and had lost their homes and schools. There was no military solution. Humanitarian interventions must be supported and the international community should provide assistance to refugees.

Ms. M.A. CALLE (Ecuador) said that it had been 15 years since the United States had invaded Afghanistan, and five years since Muammar Gaddafi had been assassinated. Yet, the United States had failed to put into effect its declared vision for both Afghanistan and Libya. The Syrian Arab Republic was a sovereign State and, as such, was entitled to self-determination and to deciding its own future. Foreign interference in its affairs must not be tolerated, and neither should support for terrorist activity. The Assembly should take account of the views of the Syrian delegation. The delegation should be afforded the opportunity to guide the discussion on the emergency item and the resolution. It was not bombs, weapons and terrorism alone which were decimating the population of Syria. The media continued to spread misinformation about the situation.

Ms. B.F. GUZMAN GOMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that conflicts such as the one in Syria were caused by the interference of foreign powers. States should have the sovereign right to determine their own future and to decide how their resources would be used. The emergency item could not be discussed without consideration for the views of the Syrian delegation. To adopt a resolution on Syria without Syria's agreement would be to deny Syria's right to self-determination and to support interference in its affairs as a sovereign State. It would be unacceptable for the IPU to proceed in that manner. The resolution therefore should not be adopted. The IPU should be a forum for supporting peace and relations, based on mutual respect.

Mr. T. DOHERTY (Canada) said that the ongoing conflict in Syria had triggered the worst humanitarian crisis that the world was currently facing. According to the United Nations, 13.5 million people in Syria were in need of urgent help. That included 6.5 million IDPs. Over 250,000 had been killed. Kidnapping, enslavement, torture and rape were of an unprecedented scale. The world's parliaments must call for an end to such abhorrent acts. Thus far, Canada had contributed one billion Canadian dollars in humanitarian, development and security assistance, and had resettled 25,000 refugees in the period between November 2015 and February 2016. He did not believe that the media were spreading falsehoods. The situation was an emergency, regardless of what others might say, and everyone must and could do more. The world's parliamentarians must speak out against the atrocities being committed in Syria, and should come to the aid of those who are facing the most vicious crimes against humanity.

Mr. T. SMITH (Australia) said that his delegation supported the choice of emergency item, which reaffirmed the international community's ongoing concern about the humanitarian crisis in Syria. He condemned the indiscriminate, barbaric attacks in Aleppo, which were targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure. Such deplorable attacks were an affront not only to humanity but also to international humanitarian law. The shameful attacks against hospitals in Aleppo must be to be denounced in the strongest terms. The heartless denial of access to humanitarian aid, particularly in eastern Aleppo, was exacerbating the already grave human suffering; it must not be tolerated. Sustainable humanitarian access required an absolute minimum of 48 hours of ceasefire to allow food and medical aid in, and urgent medical evacuations out. A negotiated political solution was the only way to protect and uphold human rights in Syria. The right to life, the right to self-determination, the right to liberty and the right to security, which were the fundamental precepts of humanity, were being impaired by the crisis in Aleppo.

Mr. A. JASEM AHMAD (United Arab Emirates) said that the resolution before the Assembly should focus on the issue of terrorism, and on measures to allow aid to reach those who were suffering from daily attacks. Specific implementation measures were needed. Moreover, the link between the IPU and the United Nations should be used to ensure that the resolution was in line with other international documents. Due account should be taken of the humanitarian situation and of the need to uphold the principles of peace and security. Account should also be taken of the consequences of the war and the suffering stemming from it. International peace and security came under threat whenever international law and agreed principles were not respected. Dialogue must take precedence over the use of force.

The CHAIRPERSON announced that a draft resolution on the item would be finalized by a drafting committee comprising members of the delegations of Argentina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal and Russian Federation.

Ms. J. Luveni (Fiji), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General debate

Human rights abuses as precursors to conflict: Parliaments as early responders

Resumption of the debate

Mr. C. CASSAMÁ (Guinea-Bissau) said that the global community faced multiple challenges, including broad social injustice. Those who should be responsible for upholding and promoting human rights were the very ones who violated those rights. Systematic human rights violations occurred with impunity despite the prevailing international human rights promotion and protection legal framework. The number of victims of conflict was multiplying at a shameful rate even as the global community was becoming more technologically, economically and socially advanced than ever before. Global society was divided. Human right violations would occur if democracy and the rule of law were not applied properly. Concerted parliamentary action was therefore required. Parliaments, as representatives of the people, should be the guardians of human rights. The Parliament of Guinea-Bissau had established special committees to monitor respect for human rights at the national level. The international community must defend human rights as a matter of urgency and protect them against violations by States or private entities. Particular focus should be placed on overcoming shortcomings in the protection of human rights in developing democracies.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments were responsible for ensuring that States respected, promoted, protected and upheld human rights, and must therefore be unyielding guarantors of the rule of law. The universality of human rights must bring all parliaments together to denounce abuses, which were fertile ground for conflict. To prevent conflicts from breaking out, parliaments must enact robust legislation and exercise stringent oversight of the executive. Parliaments should also champion the application of international law and standards on human rights protection. They should ensure that independent human rights monitoring mechanisms were established at the national level. Moreover, a robust judiciary was essential. Lastly, parliaments must engage with civil society and the media to remain at the forefront of information and responses to human rights abuses.

Mr. K. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka) said that all human beings were born equal and were entitled to equal rights. Parliaments had the primary obligation to protect human rights, and must be mindful of States' obligations in regard to human rights under both national and international law. Equity and non-discrimination must be enshrined in national legislation. Parliaments must ensure that human rights and development are allocated adequate budgetary funds. Checks and balances were essential to ensuring accountability. Mechanisms must be in place to allow victims to file complaints and to seek redress. Absence of such mechanisms could lead to tension and conflict. Parliamentary human rights protection must be non-partisan.

Sri Lanka had emerged from a 30-year terrorist conflict. Its parliament was thus aware of the importance of rebuilding trust and harmony by ensuring an appropriate balance between reconciliation and accountability. A coalition government had been established, with a president and prime minister from different political parties, thus heralding a new culture of consensual politics. The leader of the Tamil National Alliance had become the leader of the opposition. That sent a loud and clear message that opportunity would be granted to all, irrespective of ethnicity, race, religion, gender, language, class or social status.

Violent extremism was a major driver of conflict, which could be prevented through inclusive development, good governance and respect for diversity. Parliaments should not just provide forums for political parties to express their views, but rather they should provide a forum for engaging with the citizenry. Democracy would become vulnerable if the citizenry lost faith in the legislature. Parliaments therefore had a role in reassuring the citizenry and protecting it against tyranny and oppression by upholding the rule of law. They were failing in their duty if they did not shoulder that sacred responsibility for all of mankind.

Mr. P.H. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that the struggle for the liberation of Namibia had ended the repressive system of occupation and produced an inclusive society where people could determine their own destiny. Dignity and democracy fostered peace and stability in society. Citizenry the world over simply wanted to be assured that it was in charge of its own affairs and that its views were heeded in regard to decision-making. With that in mind, the Namibian Constitution had been drafted with a view to upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms and to ensuring that the country would be governed by the rule of law with a separate executive, legislature and judiciary. An elected parliament could offer hope to the citizenry in countries that were besieged by lawlessness.

Civil society and the media were important partners for legislators, in that they reported and spoke out against human rights abuses and called for those responsible for such abuses to be brought to justice. It was the duty and obligation of parliamentarians to promote good governance, prevent or pre-empt conflict, and serve as arbitrators in the event of conflict. They should take a strong stance against all human rights abuses and ensure that those responsible for such abuses were brought to book. They must learn from the lessons of the past to ensure that past mistakes would not be repeated.

Mr. A. OUSSENI (Comoros) said that in modern society, human rights were viewed as a package of universal, fundamental and sacred values that were applicable to all. States were duty-bound to protect and uphold those rights without any form of discrimination. There was a clear link between violation of human rights and degeneration of social norms, including civil peace and stability. Moreover, there is a high likelihood of that leading to conflict. Recent history had shown how nations and peoples once considered to be stable and peaceful could descend into violence, horror and conflict as a result of accumulated frustration and repeated violations of their rights.

Parliamentarians must ensure that international law is ratified and properly implemented, and also that it is incorporated into domestic law. The Parliament of Comoros had thus established new institutions to guarantee good governance, and had adopted comprehensive and inclusive legislation, including on religion, which contributed to social cohesion and civil peace. As

representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a duty to address issues openly and transparently, and to ensure that complaints were heard and problems were resolved through the appropriate channels. The current debate would serve to strengthen parliamentary resolve and commitment to upholding human rights and would thus contribute to maintaining peace and security.

Mr. A.L. MAKANA (South Sudan) said that in a changing world, parliamentarians could play an effective role in mitigating and successfully tackling societal challenges. South Sudan had been affected by armed conflict and its consequences since 2013. The Parliament of South Sudan had been actively involved in seeking peaceful solutions to the conflict, through dialogue and negotiation. Some of its members had made a significant contribution to the August 2015 peace agreement. That agreement had included expansion of the National Legislative Assembly to include 400 members. A new government called the Transitional Government of National Unity had been formed and was working towards achieving full implementation of the peace agreement, with the support of the population. While much progress had been made, challenges remained. They included persistent fighting between some armed groups and the government, pervasive economic difficulties, large displaced populations and the unfettered proliferation of small arms and light weapons. There was an urgent need for the support of the international community in overcoming those challenges.

Ms. N. MOTSAMAI (Lesotho) said that parliaments had a mandate to uphold citizens' rights and aspirations through actions to achieve peaceful coexistence. Peace and stability were indispensable preconditions for democracy and sustainable development. Parliaments must translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action at the national level by passing legislation, agreeing to budgets and holding governments accountable for their commissions and omissions. Human rights were enshrined in several international and regional instruments, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the documents of the Organisation of African Unity. Violation of those rights must be eliminated.

Parliamentarians, individually and collectively, must remain vigilant so as to prevent human rights abuses, as well as arbitrary, illegal or unconstitutional conduct by government or public agencies. They must also scrutinize and amend legislation and monitor its implementation. They must ensure that any international instruments which were endorsed by the government were put into effect at the national level. They must also encourage transparency in government action, and thereby enhance public confidence. Likewise, the legal framework relating to parliaments must be democratic and must be anchored in human rights principles. With that in mind, the Parliament of Lesotho had established a human rights commission, in line with the Paris Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions. Human rights abuses were clear early warning signs of instability; parliamentarians had a sacred duty and moral obligation to uphold the rights of citizenry at large and to preserve human dignity.

Mr. E.D. ADJAHO (Ghana) said that human rights promotion and protection was essential for democracy, peace and development. Human rights violations mostly resulted from policy choices which impeded not only freedoms and participation, and but also the equitable access to resources and opportunities. Weak institutional capacity of the State to deliver on its social and economic policies caused poverty and inequality. In such situations circumstances, victims often resorted to violence in a bid to force greater wealth redistribution and to reclaim their dignity. In a spirit of promotion and protection of human rights, Ghana had signed and ratified all relevant international treaties and conventions. Moreover, its Constitution provided for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It has established a national human rights commission to investigate complaints in regard to violations. An independent judiciary and media were also a means to hold the government to account. Despite those efforts, violations of human rights persisted.

Parliaments must provide for legislation and funding in order to resolve difficulties. They must also monitor the actions of the executive. They must ensure that governance institutions were allocated sufficient resources to address the concerns of the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable. The primary dividend of good democratic governance was incremental improvement in the living standards of the people. Parliaments must tackle corruption head on and should put in place specific legislation on protecting those living in vulnerable situations. The role of international parliamentary associations was particularly important for sharing experiences and recognizing early warning signals of human rights violations in emerging and ongoing crisis situations. Parliaments, as the representatives of the people, should play a key role in raising the alarm and taking action in the event of human rights challenges.

Mr. J. VUCĀNS (Baltic Assembly) said that the Baltic Assembly had been established as an organization for cooperation among the national parliaments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with the aim of consolidating resources for achieving common goals, harmonizing legislation and coordinating policies. The Baltic States were the bridge connecting northern, western and eastern Europe. It was important to maintain contact and communication, and also to exchange experiences and best practices between parliaments, because that helped strength democracy and the rule of law, which were the foundations of society.

The parliaments of the Baltic Assembly, in cooperation with those of the Nordic and Benelux countries, were making concerted efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Some 510 trafficking flows had been detected around the world, with victims of 152 nationalities identified in 124 countries. In order to ensure that parliaments responded to trafficking in a timely manner, the Baltic Assembly had taken steps to strengthen legislation, launch cooperation initiatives and exchanges of experience and information between parliaments, governments and NGOs, foster cooperation between law enforcement institutions, and raise public awareness. While it was not easy to combat trafficking, failure to do so would be unacceptable since trafficking constitutes a grave abuse of human rights. The world's parliamentarians must work together to eradicate it. The work of parliaments must be firmly anchored in the principle of upholding human dignity.

Mr. F. PINEDO (Argentina) said that everything must be done to prevent human rights abuses. His delegation was particularly concerned about the high incidence of abuses children's rights. Children were the most vulnerable members of society, and often the decisions affecting them were made without due account of their interests. The right of the child to be heard, particularly in custody cases, was enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. His delegation wished to launch a process of establishing an international court for children's rights, beginning with a voluntary arbitration mechanism.

In connection with the situation of Syrian refugees, it was noteworthy that Argentina had a longstanding tradition of hosting migrants and had welcomed those who had fled conflict, starvation and other atrocities. Diversity should be seen as a source of strength and development. Argentina's refugee resettlement programme provided for family reunification for members of the Syrian and Lebanese communities. That had developed into a mechanism for hosting refugees, including those who did not have family ties in Argentina. The programme had received support from the Catholic Church and other faith-based entities. The people of Argentina had demonstrated their commitment to those fleeing war and conflict. That commitment should be shared, in order to distribute the burden of the refugee crisis equitably.

Ms. M. TRIANTAFYLLOU (Greece) said that crises were threatening modern society. The rights and freedoms acquired over the course of history, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, were being impaired. European and global leaders had handled the recent refugee crisis deplorably. Owing to closed-border policies, only a few countries shouldered the bulk of the burden. Such policies demonstrated a lack of political will on the part of the West. Aggressive geopolitical interventions, such as was the case in Ukraine, and extended austerity policies were driving Europe away from its founding values.

The economic prosperity achieved over recent years was not sufficient to guarantee respect for human rights. Economic growth was often achieved through the use of radical competition tactics, which could undermine other economies, exploit the labour force and accumulate wealth in the hands of a few. Even affluent societies were showing alarming symptoms, such as high unemployment, insecurity, terrorism and xenophobia and a rise in the crime rate. People felt that their problems were not being addressed and that established political systems were ineffectual.

Parliaments, at the national level and through international cooperation, should agree on a stricter framework of accountability for the defence of human rights. They should ensure that people's grievances were heard and that they obtained redress. Further, parliaments must also ensure that the voices citizenry were considered in decision-making, in order to mobilize the public and raise hope. Citizenry at large should have the right to choose a means of governance and to elect its leaders. The time had come for hypocritical nations to stop trying to export certain models of democracy.

Ms. YAN JUNQI (China) said that the world was still far from peaceful. Global challenges, such as terrorism, the refugee crisis, communicable diseases, climate change, religious conflict and racial discrimination were on the rise. Poverty persisted, and conflicts were emerging. Around the world, human rights faced a series of challenges. Even the most basic rights to life and development were not guaranteed. Many longstanding human rights problems were being increasingly politicized.

There was no single human rights or development model that could be applied in all countries, and no one-size-fits-all model of democracy. Attempts to export democracy models had resulted in large-scale conflicts and humanitarian crises. The basic international relations principles, in particular the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States must be upheld at all times. All States should be considered as equal members of the international community. Human rights should be applied impartially, objectively and inclusively to all, without politicization or double standards. States should respect one another's chosen development and human rights models, and should consider diversity a resource.

Human rights were closely linked to the culture and values of countries and must therefore be applied in accordance with national realities and needs. Mutual understanding should be enhanced through dialogue and cooperation, with differences and disagreements being reconciled peacefully through negotiation. Power politics were not democratic, and the exertion of pressure would never foster a culture of respect for human rights. Common interests should be pursued by practical cooperation and consensus-building. Economic, social and cultural rights were the foundation for development and thus of the enjoyment of all other rights. In China, efforts had been made to ensure that fundamental rights were enjoyed by the whole population, through the provision of social services, health care and education, as well as the promotion of equality and mutual respect. The Chinese authorities were committed to cooperating at the international level to ensure that human rights were fully respected the world over.

Mr. T. AL-AREKAT (Jordan) said that guaranteeing the fundamental rights of all members of society was the key to social justice. The rule of law would be upheld if the judiciary and law enforcement agencies were independent and applied the law equally and consistently without any discrimination. Fair and transparent legislation and good governance were vital. Violations of human rights were being committed on a daily basis all over the world. Despite the prevailing international legal framework on human rights, failure to uphold basic human rights was undermining peace and security at the local, regional and international levels.

The Middle East was geopolitically at the forefront of the international fight against extremism and terrorism. Poverty and lack of social stability had led to protracted, devastating conflicts, which could only be resolved through a comprehensive political approach where the root causes of the problem were addressed. In that regard, a political solution to the crisis in Syria must be sought as a means to address the legitimate needs of the Syrian people. Political reunification was required in Iraq. Also in Yemen, the solution chosen by the people through national dialogue should be upheld. Conflicts could not be resolved without proper respect for human rights.

In Jordan, measures had been taken to provide shelter and refuge to those fleeing the crisis in Syria, guaranteeing them basic services despite limited capabilities and economic constraints. Jordan was struggling to shoulder the burden of easing the suffering of neighbouring populations, and required international support in that effort. The stalemate in the Israel-Palestine peace process was a further threat to global peace and stability.

Mr. E.K. Gudfinnsson (Iceland), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. L. BORBELY (Romania) said that effective early warning systems could save thousands of lives. Parliamentarians should serve as an early warning system for human rights abuses. Parliaments should provide a link between all stakeholders in society, and ensure that human rights were applied equally to all. Human rights were universal and were enshrined not only in international laws and declarations, but also in the unwritten fundamental rules and values of society. Each of the 17 SDGs had a human rights dimension. It was therefore essential to attain them so as uphold fundamental rights and freedoms.

He was a member of the Hungarian minority in Romania, and his home town had experienced conflict. That conflict had been resolved through dialogue and strengthening mutual understanding. Minority rights issues had been addressed and there were now some 19 minorities represented in the Romanian parliament. Over the past two years, Romania had hosted three regional parliamentary seminars on international human rights issues. Inter-parliamentary cooperation was the key to reaching the critical mass required for devising visionary policies for the future. Parliaments were a catalyst for discussions on human rights within society, and thus for the prevention of conflict. Those attending IPU Assemblies and seminars should be standard bearers for democracy and human rights around the world.

Mr. S. SUZUKI (Japan) said that in a globalized world, human rights abuses could lead to cross-border conflict. Such abuses committed by governments must not be condoned. Parliaments had a duty to oversee the activities of their governments and ensure that human rights were

guaranteed. They must also take relevant legislative measures and raise public awareness of human rights, in order to give the population the tools for gauging whether government policies were reasonable and whether parliamentary oversight was functioning properly.

In Japan, human rights education was provided through the school curriculum with a view to equipping Japanese people with knowledge and awareness about human rights. An inclusive approach was needed, based on mutual respect and dialogue, was needed in order to prevent human rights abuses, which were precursors to conflict. The discrimination and misunderstandings that underpinned human rights violations must be tackled at the national and international levels. Collaboration and sharing of experiences and best practices between parliaments should be enhanced so as to deepen understanding. The IPU played an important role as a forum for valuable dialogue in the search for solutions to global challenges.

Mr. K. ÖRNFJÄDER (Sweden) said that elected representatives had a duty to address human rights challenges, and to hold the executive accountable for its performance and for its handling of violations. With that in mind, the Swedish Government had established the institution of an equality ombudsman, to receive and investigate complaints of all forms of discrimination. It had also a national audit office under the auspices of the Parliament, to examine the use of central government funds. Monitoring and oversight by the Swedish parliament had been introduced for purposes of helping the government and public bodies to work efficiently and in conformity with the rule of law, and to enhance citizens' trust in the way in which public bodies exercised their powers. Another aspect of the oversight was the annual review of human rights issues in other countries, which was conducted by the Foreign Affairs Committee. That review focused on international human rights issues and International Criminal Court cases. Moreover, the Committee also reported on women's involvement in peace and security, which was part of Sweden's foreign policy, in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

Further measures were being considered, such as the proposed establishment of an independent human rights institution under the aegis of parliament, and the incorporation into Swedish legislation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Efforts would also be made to enhance engagement with civil society through an allocation of US\$ 15 million to create more open meeting venues for people of different cultures and backgrounds. Civil society organizations and religious bodies would receive extra funding for their work with asylum seekers and immigrants. A gender-equality agency and a national parliamentary strategy, including a plan of action, were being established with a view to eliminating and averting gender-based and domestic violence. Efforts were being made to increase women's participation in decision-making and in national programmes and activities, including peacebuilding.

Ms. F. HARERIMANA (Rwanda) said that insecurity and violence were increasing, which was having global economic and social consequences. Consideration must therefore be given to how parliamentarians could uphold the best interests of the citizenry they represented. The Rwandan parliament was conscious of the crucial role it played through its three functions: legislation, oversight and representation. On the basis of the old adage that prevention was better than cure, the Rwandan Parliament was working to ensure that genocide never happened ever again. The people of Rwanda had witnessed the worst violations of human rights, which culminated in genocide claiming more than a million victims, and therefore understood better than anyone else the need to react to early warning signals.

Parliament had various means at its disposal to prevent conflict. That included mechanisms for receiving individual complaints. Parliament defended Rwanda's cultural values as a matter of the highest priority, and abided by the principles enshrined in the Constitution, which included building a plural society with equality for all. To that end, legislation had been adopted and national councils had been established to defend the rights of persons with disabilities, women and children, among others. Violence could only be prevented through ensuring gender equality. Anti-domestic violence legislation has been enacted.

The Rwandan Parliament fulfilled its monitoring role using checks and balances to reduce the risk of corruption. It held regular public hearings so that citizens could air their grievances. A parliamentary radio station allowed the public to interact with parliament, in particular to denounce human rights violations. Parliament was responsible for analysing the annual reports of the activities of national oversight bodies and mechanisms, including the Office of the Ombudsman and several national commissions. Through field visits, parliamentarians could report to the Government and make recommendations with regard to the situation in local communities.

Through parliamentary diplomacy, parliament could draw attention to and react to situations of violations of human rights, particularly in connection with site visits to refugee camps. Every effort was made to ensure that the Parliament of Rwanda was fully independent in the exercise of its functions.

Mr. CHIN YOUNG (Republic of Korea) said that although post-cold war democratization had enhanced recognition of human rights, conflicts continued to break out around the world, resulting in terrorism, mass population movement and large-scale human rights abuses. With the rapid advancement of globalization and technology, common rules and concepts were gaining strength. Human rights violations were recognized as a potential security threat and as an impediment to sustainable development. Parliaments had a responsibility to protect, which must not be neglected. They should enact laws on human rights education so as to create a society in which rights were recognized and respected.

International exchanges between parliamentarians could advance and promote global democracy. Particular efforts should be made in that regard in areas affected by conflict, so that best practices could be shared. More should be done to implement international human rights standards and to allow the United Nations to respond to human rights violations. Parliaments must discuss practical responses to the global refugee crisis. Lastly, he wished to draw attention to the situation in the Korean peninsula, which required international support, in particular from the IPU. The division between the North and the South was likely to lead to problems that could breach international standards. Dialogue, facilitated by the IPU, was crucial to preventing further deterioration of the situation and enhancing cooperation on promoting and protecting human rights and securing peace and prosperity.

Mr. E. MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that as the Democratic Republic of the Congo was a post-conflict country, it knew the value of peace and stability. Violations of human rights and the principles of democracy could be a source of conflict. Democracy was the key to peace and stability, and without it, there could no democracy or sustainable development. With that in view, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was making efforts to establish institutions in order to consolidate democracy, protect human rights and eliminate impunity. A national human rights commission had been established; laws had been enacted on implementing the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and competent jurisdictions had been designated to try crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Legislation had been amended to include and promote gender equality, and women's political participation was being promoted.

Democratic presidential, legislative and provincial elections had been held in 2006 and 2011. Three major issues had been noted by the independent election observers: violence had erupted during and after the results had been announced; the provisional results had been contested by the National Independent Election Commission; and the electoral roll required revision. To address those issues, the President had called for an inclusive national political dialogue to establish a comprehensive, inclusive and credible electoral process, in line with international standards. A political agreement had been reached with the opposition party, to lay the foundations for a new, peaceful election process. The agreement was open to scrutiny by politicians and civil society. In line with the Constitution, the President had been elected by universal suffrage for a mandate of five years, renewable once only. There would be no third mandate. The President was committed to upholding the Constitution.

Mr. NGUYEN VAN GIAU (Viet Nam) said that lack of respect for human dignity and failure to create conditions for democracy and development would lead to violence and conflict. Human rights must be upheld in order to maintain peace and stability, by ensuring sustainable development and implementing international law and the Charter of the United Nations. As the representatives of the people, parliamentarians must ensure that human rights were promoted and protected by enacting legislation, overseeing government implementation of national and international law, and listening to the people and representing them.

The National Assembly of Viet Nam had established mechanisms to promote respect for human rights, monitor human rights their implementation, and respond to any abuses. The Constitution had been revised to include provisions on human rights. Several international human rights instruments had been signed and ratified and their provisions incorporated into national legislation. Through its oversight role, the National Assembly had identified and averted human rights abuses, thereby creating a peaceful and favourable environment for dialogue. Through the

efforts of the National Assembly, the Government and the people, economic stability had been maintained, living standards increased and poverty reduced. Social equality had improved and people living in vulnerability situations enjoyed more robust economic and social rights.

Human rights could only be guaranteed in a peaceful environment, in security and with full respect for the rule of law. Viet Nam was ready to cooperate in exchanges of information and best practices at the international level, to ensure that human rights were enjoyed equally by all, in peace, stability and cooperation, in the spirit of the Hanoi Declaration adopted by the 132nd IPU Assembly, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The IPU was an invaluable international forum, which contributed actively to strengthening mutual understanding for a peaceful, stable and cooperative world.

Mr. C. ÇAKIR (Turkey) said that a shift was occurring in global economic and political power, along with the breakdown of established systems, and that resulted in instability and increasing conflict. Turkey endeavoured to seek peaceful solutions to conflict. It was situated at the centre of a wide region with a considerable number of conflicts. Those conflicts had direct implications for Turkey's stability and the wellbeing of its population. Over the past 20 years, the region had felt the effects of three major developments which had regional and global ramifications: the end of the Cold War; the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks; and the historic changes in the Middle East and north Africa. In the face of such dramatic events, there was a common responsibility to actively contribute to security and welfare, as well as international peace and security.

Terrorism constituted a threat to global peace and security, and that threat could affect anyone. All acts of terrorism were unjustified. Terrorist organizations acted without moral constraints and were ruthless in planning and executing their heinous acts. They should under no circumstances be supported or legitimized. On the evening of 15 July 2016, a clandestine armed terrorist group within the Turkish armed forces had attempted to stage a coup d'état. The coup attempt - during which parliament had been bombed while in session and attempts had been made to assassinate the president - had constituted a terrorist campaign, which had been stopped by the people, loyal members of the military, politicians and the police. The democratic resolve of the people of Turkey had saved the Government. Turkish people from all walks of life and regardless of religious affiliation had united, and democracy had won. As the Turkish parliament continued to recover from the threats made against it, it counted on the support of the international parliamentary community. The enemies of democracy would be fought through democracy. To that end, the channels for dialogue must be kept open at all times.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand) said that the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej had announced that if any person living in Thailand felt neglected or unhappy, that would doubtless affect national security. That statement remained at the core of Thailand's human rights policy. Thailand considered the rights to social and economic opportunities and choices essential to a peaceful and harmonious society. While political rights and freedom of expression were valued, the livelihood and economic and social well-being of the people took precedence. Thailand had a long-established practice of taking in people who were in need. Indeed, over recent years, it had provided a safe haven for an estimated two million displaced persons from neighbouring countries, providing them with basic services, such as health care, education and humanitarian assistance.

The National Legislative Assembly had adopted legislation on various aspects of human rights, and had drafted a new Constitution enshrining key human rights principles, including the duty of the State to protect the rights and freedoms of citizenry, and the rights of citizenry to file complaints against government agencies. A complaints hotline had been set up for reporting human rights violations to the National Legislative Assembly. Those complaints were handled jointly by the Assembly and the National Human Rights Commission. Thailand was committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, and the Thai parliament acted not only as an early responder to human rights abuses, but also as a preventer of abuses and champion of social and economic opportunities for all. While human rights were universal, each State had its own priorities. Thailand considered the right to life, the right to liberty and the right to the pursuit of happiness to be the foundation of a peaceful and harmonious society. The Thai parliament was committed to upholding and promoting those rights following in the footsteps of the late King Bhumibol.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms was the responsibility of every State or major international institution, including the IPU. The Ukrainian delegation expressed its full support for the IPU's efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, peace and cooperation. Particular attention should be paid to countries

at war or in situations of conflict. In that regard, he expressed grave concern for the large-scale, flagrant human rights violations in Syria, committed by the Government, which was repressing and killing its own people, accompanied by the bombing of civilians by Russian aircraft. The conflict had resulted in thousands of civilian casualties, and millions of refugees.

Moreover, the Russian Federation had committed military aggression against Ukraine, in disregard for its international humanitarian law obligations, the principles and standards of the Charter of the United Nations, and its bilateral obligations. For more than two and a half years, the Russian Federation had occupied Crimea, and was waging war on the east of Ukraine. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular those of the Ukrainians and Tatars living in occupied Crimea, were being flouted by the Russian authorities. The war in the Donbas had resulted in more than 10,000 deaths, 22,000 wounded, 1,500 missing and some 1.7 million IDPs.

In March 2014, the Russian parliament had approved both the war and the atrocities being committed. That very same parliament had offered to host the 137th IPU Assembly. Acceptance of that offer by the Assembly would demonstrate utter disregard for the mass, flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the principles and objectives of the IPU and the United Nations. The Ukrainian delegation therefore urged the Assembly to reject the offer to host the 137th IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg. Should the Russian Federation be allowed to host the Assembly, he wished to urge all parliamentarians who valued human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as peace and international law to boycott it.

Mr. J.T. KOK PING (Malaysia) said that although human rights were enshrined in the constitutions and national laws of many countries that alone was not enough to guarantee human rights protection, as evidenced by the abuses perpetrated daily. That is the stark reality. Discrimination was rampant; women and children were victims of sexual violence: thousands were in prison for speaking their minds, and the very fabric of society was being threatened by crimes against humanity. Human rights abuses could lead to violence, conflict and the breakdown of infrastructure and institutions. Human rights must be protected through the enactment of national laws in line with the provisions of international treaties and the IPU Universal Declaration on Democracy.

Parliaments were the representatives of the people and must therefore be fully aware of human rights standards and legal instruments, ratify them and oversee their implementation. They must take a strong stand against grave violations, such as trafficking in children and forced labour. They should provide support to national human rights institutions, evaluate human rights situations and be the first responder in the event of violations. In order to be truly independent, parliaments must be constituted through regular, free and fair elections. They must legislate for the promotion and protection of human rights and engage with civil society to promote human rights by facilitating interaction and encouraging the exchange of experiences and information.

Mr. A. LINS (Brazil) said that the world was facing numerous human rights challenges, including the global refugee crisis (the largest migration wave since the Second World War), hunger and poverty, religious intolerance, restrictions to freedom of expression, war, violence and sexual discrimination, and lack of access to education. No country was immune to human rights violations. The cost of solutions was higher than the cost of prevention. Parliament, as the body responsible for the national budget, could play a role in prevention by defining investments and policies to solve problems. In Brazil, parliament was adjusting the budget to limit spending, while maintaining health care and education – the basic pillars of human rights – as priority areas for investment. Education was key to improving people's lives and wellbeing.

Brazil welcomed the SDGs as a roadmap to addressing all human rights challenges and investing in the future. The Brazilian Government and people were committed to overcoming social challenges. In that regard, Brazil had been a pioneer in poverty reduction and the development of equality policies. Moreover, it had been removed from the world map of hunger. The Millennium Development Goals had been met, and efforts were now well underway to meet the SDGs. The Brazilian parliament remained concerned about violations of the principles and competences of the legislative, which constituted a threat to democracy. The separation of powers was crucial to enabling the executive, the legislature and the judiciary to function independently and in harmony with each other. Lastly, he congratulated the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on 40 years of admirable work.

Mr. A. SCHIEDER (Austria) said that parliaments, as the protectors of human rights at the national and international levels, had a critical role in crisis prevention. International cooperation with a parliamentary dimension was needed more than ever before, so as to devise durable solutions to ongoing conflicts. Parliamentary diplomacy was a flexible tool: parliamentarians could speak with those in the opposition; they could also conduct field visits to minority groups and human rights activists without breaking any taboos. They could establish contacts with other nations and peoples, and in times of embargo could smooth the path to a solution.

Parliaments had a responsibility to communicate with one another, raise awareness about human rights issues and respond to abuses and threats. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was one forum where parliaments could react to and discuss human rights and humanitarian issues. Austria would take over the OSCE Chairmanship in 2017 and would focus on building trust, mitigating military conflict, and combating extremism and radicalism among young people. At the national level, parliaments should be the guardians of human rights so as to avert abuses and conflicts. There were several mechanisms in place in Austria to guarantee independent monitoring of human rights, including the office of the Ombudsman. Moreover, the International Ombudsman Institute, the only global organization for the cooperation of more than 170 of the world's independent ombudsman institutions, was in Austria.

When looking at human rights abuses as precursors to conflict, consideration should be given to the role of social media, which was often used as a tool for human rights violations, in particular hate speech. Parliamentarians should act as role models when communicating in parliamentary debates and public events, by using respectful language and speaking up against intolerance. Peaceful coexistence was based on respect, which depended largely on how people spoke to each other. The use of respectful language could de-escalate potentially hostile situations. Parliaments should call for better regulation for social media whereby hate, racism and sexism would be prohibited. Parliamentarians should work together on that issue by bringing pressure to bear at a multinational level. In closing, he congratulated those who worked with the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians for their tireless work and endurance in the name of human rights.

Mr. A. NGARO (New Zealand) said that the IPU had provided an ideal forum for the world's parliamentarians to join together to share experiences, discuss critical issues and find a way forward. The key to preventing human rights abuses was to work together and to ensure good balance between ideology and common sense. Most importantly, relationships of trust must be built. In order for parliaments to be early responders in crisis, lines of communication and trust must be open. By sharing information, experiences and concerns, issues could be addressed before they escalated.

New Zealand had a proud history of human rights and global cooperation. It had been a founding member of the United Nations and one of the first signatories the world's major human rights instruments. It had been the first country to grant women the right to vote and participate in politics. Despite New Zealand's dedication to equality, challenges remained and further measures were needed. In that regard, New Zealand had changed its electoral system from first-past-the-post to mixed member proportionality so as to allow for diversity of representation and increase the number of women in parliament. There was still much to learn, and challenges must be addressed through communication and building trust.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) said that although it had been 78 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, significant human rights violations persisted around the world, along with intentional attempts to weaken the system that protected those rights. Conflicts raged around the world owing to lack of adequate prevention measures. The global response to human rights violations must shift from reaction to prevention. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had people at its centre, leaving no-one behind. The role of women in prevention was particularly important, since it was they who were often subject to violations of their fundamental rights.

The human rights situation varied considerably from country to country; discrimination, violence, inequality, poverty, conflict and insecurity, as well as political intolerance, threatened fundamental freedoms. Mexico had enacted legislation recognizing the progressive nature of human rights, based on the *pro persona* principle. Parliamentarians had a key role in steering human rights protection and responding swiftly to identify situations where conflicts could arise as a result of violations, by working together in a coordinated manner and in a spirit of solidarity. Effective early warning information systems were crucial for monitoring the application of human rights standards. Legislators must take responsibility for upholding and protecting the rights enshrined in international law, by incorporating them into domestic legislation. An IPU committee for conflict prevention could be established, to facilitate cooperation between the world's parliamentarians to share information and experiences and thus contribute to the detection of human rights violations that could potentially give rise to conflict situations. The world's parliamentarians should unite to ensure full respect for human rights for all.

The sitting rose at 1.15 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday 25 October (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate

Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: parliaments as early responders

Resumption of the debate

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that the National Assembly of the People's Power encouraged citizens to participate in political life. Citizens were regularly consulted by elected representatives, took part in public debates and were able to file complaints and petitions. The Government had never repressed the population or used violence against it, and made every attempt to ensure citizens were not mistreated or discriminated against. An extensive discussion on economic and social policy was currently taking place across all of society with a view to recognising more diversity, including on property rights. There was also talk of new a constitution that would establish even greater participation for citizens. Cuba would never give up its socialist model.

Sadly, some foreign powers had been falsifying Cuban reality and using national security as a pretext to intervene. Cuba's biggest obstacle had been the United States embargo. Cuba would like a neighbourly relationship with the United States but they must first lift the embargo and return the naval base at Guantanamo. Her country would never accept any form of interference in its economic, political or social affairs.

Mr. I. SANI (Niger) said that many regional and global mechanisms were in place to protect human rights. His own country had established the Nigerien National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties. The biggest threat to human rights in Niger was terrorism, which had led to kidnapping, rape and forced displacement. Nigerien parliamentarians had sounded the alarm on the matter both to their Government and abroad. They had also carried out awareness-raising campaigns to prevent young people from being radicalized. He hoped the international community and IPU would assist countries facing human rights violations.

Mr. M. MOUSHOUTTAS (Cyprus) said that parliaments had a pivotal role in protecting human rights. Their role involved passing legislation, ratifying international human rights treaties, holding the executive to account and interacting with national human rights institutions. Parliaments therefore functioned as early responders to conflicts. Indeed, throughout history they had helped to reduce conflict risks, mitigate their effects, negotiate their end and assist in rehabilitation efforts.

A parliament's capacity to respond depended on its potential and influence. Parliaments with well-developed law-making systems and effective oversight powers over the executive were in a position to act preventively. Greater efforts were needed by parliaments in countries still faced with political, constitutional, economic, social and other constraints on human rights. It was important that parliaments responded in a timely manner in their own countries, as well as in the world at large.

Mr. P.F. CASINI (Italy) said that a country must be able to uphold its own identity, history and traditions whilst also ensuring respect for shared values such as human rights. The IPU should be a platform for promoting such shared values.

To prevent conflicts, parliaments must have their own mechanisms for its members to voice their views. Those mechanisms must be independent of the government. Governments should not be allowed to silence parliaments simply because they consider them to be a nuisance, as is the case in Venezuela. Countries should also refrain from using fora, such as IPU, to boast about their government's achievements. Rather, they should bring the specific voice of parliaments to the table. Parliamentary diplomacy must be about dialogue. Parliamentary immunity must also be respected so as to protect the independent judgment of parliamentarians.

Ms. A.-M. VIROLAINEN (Finland) said that if not addressed properly, human rights abuses could escalate into full-scale conflicts. It was necessary for parliaments to recognize early warning signals. The Finnish Parliament had recently recognized racist hate speech as an early warning signal, and has responded by organising a debate. The aim was to send a message across party lines that such behaviour would not be tolerated. At the same time, the debate acknowledged any legitimate concerns on the matter.

Interaction between parliamentarians and the electorate was essential to democracy. Failing to heed the concerns of the people would convey an attitude of indifference and breed mistrust. It was in that context that populist undercurrents gained ground. The basis for sustainable politics could not be discrimination against a group of people. The role of parliamentarians should therefore be that of guaranteeing safe, fair and equal conditions for all.

It was particularly important to safeguard women's rights. Ensuring women's participation in politics, access to education and to a decent financial situation impacted positively on societal development. While women's rights were a priority for Finland, there were many societies in which girls were at a high risk of being victims of human rights abuses. In order to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), girls should be given special attention.

Special session to mark the 40th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), President of the IPU, said that the special session would commemorate the work of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and renew IPU's commitment to its work. As promoters of the human rights of citizens, parliamentarians sometimes encountered human rights violations themselves. The global community must express solidarity with the Committee so as to mitigate such violations.

Mr. A.B.M. FAZLE KARIM CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), President of the Committee, said that the session was an opportunity to pay tribute to the Committee and to parliamentarians who are under threat. He introduced the agenda and the speakers that would give presentations. He would screen a film entitled *Fight for the Rights of Persecuted MPs - Fight for Strong Democratic Parliaments Serving the People*, which would briefly explain the work of the Committee. Parliamentarians should use the film to raise awareness about the Committee across the world.

The film was screened.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland), *Vice-President of the Committee*, said that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was founded in 1976 at a time of military coups in Latin America when parliamentarians were facing serious abuses. It was the only global mechanism that investigated individual complaints. The Committee had helped more than 2,000 parliamentarians from more than 100 countries. Vengeful politics were rife despite it being in the interest of those in power to treat their opponents with dignity.

The basic human rights vital for parliamentary work were increasingly threatened using the fight against terrorism as a pretext. Those rights included freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and access to information. The most recurrent abuses were arbitrary detention, lack of a fair trial and unlawful suspension of parliamentary mandate. Most victims were parliamentarians from the opposition, suggesting that those with a critical attitude were most at risk. The situation was exacerbated by public hostility and aggression towards parliamentarians. The number of cases brought before the Committee was growing. There was therefore an urgent need to protect parliamentarians

It is noteworthy that the Committee never gave up until a solution was found. Its role was not to condemn the authorities but to promote dialogue and reach satisfactory settlements in accordance with international human rights standards. Most of the authorities it worked with tended to cooperate.

The Committee had much to be proud of. For instance, it had contributed to the release of many parliamentarians from prison and helped them to obtain justice and effective redress. It had also provided assistance with forensics and helped to ensure fair trials. The case of Senator Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen was one specific success story. However, it was not always good news. Senator Solari Yrigoyen was arrested together with another parliamentarian, Mario Abel Amaya, who died in detention despite strong IPU involvement. Similarly, the cases of 61 assassinated parliamentarians had been under examination for many years.

When the rights of parliamentarians were violated, many other people also faced abuses. The work of the Committee therefore helped to improve the overall situation in the countries concerned. The abuses were often the result of systemic dysfunction, an absence of an independent judiciary and abuse of power. Parliamentarians should assist the Committee by taking action in their own countries and voting on decisions at IPU.

Ms. O. SOLARI YRIGOYEN (Argentina), *giving a personal testimony*, said that her grandfather, Hipólito Solari Yrigoyen, had been a two-time senator for the Argentinian province of Chubut. After the military coup of 1976, an authoritarian regime had been put in place. He and a fellow parliamentarian, Mario Abel Amaya, had been abducted from their homes, imprisoned and tortured. Amaya had been killed and Solari expelled from the country. Solari had also previously been a victim of two bomb attacks. In the Senate, he had taken up cases of political prisoners, advocated for minorities to be represented in trade unions and asked for explanations for every death that had occurred. He and Amaya had thus been punished for defending human rights in parliament. The intense international pressure, particularly from the IPU, was crucial for Solari's cause. Despite the threats he received and the attempts on his life, Solari had never stopped fighting for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Solari's message to the IPU was that it must continue that fight in the spirit of Rudolf Von Jhering. The Committee should continue to be guided by justice.

Mr. I. MAHMOUD AHMED (Eritrea), *delivering a video testimony*, said that his parents, Aster Fissehatsion and Mahmood Sherriffo, had played a leading role in the independence of Eritrea and had later become parliamentarians. Peace had prevailed for ten years after independence, but the President had later become a dictator. The President had tried to silence parliament and had imprisoned his parents. He urged the IPU to continue fighting for the release of his parents.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), *Panellist*, said that her country had launched a campaign called *Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians*. The campaign encouraged members of the German Bundestag to "adopt" and support persecuted parliamentarians and human rights defenders from around the world. It was a cross-party initiative allowing those who would not usually work together to join forces in defending a case. The programme was not formalized, and parliamentarians were free to decide exactly how to assist the adopted persons. Activities undertaken ranged from writing letters and observing trials to visiting people in prison. The initiative was particularly significant, given the shrinking space for NGOs and civil society in current times. Every parliament should establish a similar mechanism to monitor human rights violations against parliamentarians and human rights defenders.

General Debate

Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: parliaments as early responders

Resumption of the debate

The general debate was resumed with Ms. S.B. Hanoomanjee (Mauritius), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that fundamental rights and freedoms were guaranteed under his country's Constitution. Every citizen was entitled to free healthcare and education, and the number of women and young people working in public institutions had increased. Law enforcement bodies monitored human rights, as did the impartial and independent Ombudsman. It was important to recognise that human rights were a dynamic phenomenon and that their scope varied from country to country. They should not be interpreted unilaterally or applied according to double standards.

The Russian Federation had encountered terrorism in the past, and had thus adopted strict laws on terrorism. Unfortunately, the draft resolution entitled: *The war and the humanitarian situation in Syria particularly, in Aleppo* was silent on terrorist organizations. The international community should therefore push for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Facts were often falsified in the media and on parliamentary platforms. Ukraine had made speculative, confrontational and divisive claims. The Russian Federation had invested more in Crimea than Ukraine had itself. He requested a more constructive and amicable form of cooperation.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) said that human rights violations were being committed across the world. There had also been violations in Cambodia during the genocide of the Khmer Rouge regime. Since then, the country had taken steps towards restoring democracy and improving the human rights situation. For instance, it had passed laws, such as the Anti-Corruption Law and the Penal Code. It had ratified many international human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It had also set up parliamentary human rights committees in the Government, the National Assembly and in the Senate. Parliaments should be at the forefront of human rights protection. They should review strategies on gender equality, finalize plans to achieve the SDGs and ensure that all international human rights instruments were implemented.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom would honour the human rights of the electorate by delivering Brexit. There would be a focus on world trade to improve the welfare of the people and increase prosperity. His country would continue to cooperate with the European Union (EU) and other countries. He paid tribute to the British Member of Parliament, Jo Cox, who was murdered on account of her strong views.

Ms. M. DODA (Albania) said that thousands of Cham Albanians had been victims of a genocide carried out by a Greek neo-Nazi organization in 1944. They were tortured, killed and exiled, and their land made part of northern Greece. Greece, an EU member country, was currently denying the Cham Albanians their legal rights, including their right to inheritance, citizenship and confiscated property. That was a breach of a number of UN human rights conventions, which both Albania and Greece had ratified. The truth must be brought to light in order to normalise bilateral relations. Parliamentarians must address the matter.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile) said that parliamentarians must use their powers to monitor governments, legislate and adopt budgets in the name of human rights. They should bring all human rights concerns to the attention of parliament and initiate national and global debates. They must remain vigilant to conditions that led to social conflicts. They should ensure that government programmes and international agreements were implemented nationally. They should use the early warning and response system of the United Nations and other organizations. A standing committee should also be established within the IPU which would receive information on potential risk situations. Finally, there should be a commitment to changing cultural attitudes, for instance, by teaching respect for human rights in schools.

Transparency, dialogue and cooperation were vital to ensuring peace, security, development and respect for human rights. However, it was not enough for governments alone to cooperate. Friendly relations should also be established between parliaments through parliamentary diplomacy.

Ms. M.A. CALLE (Ecuador) said that many countries had been using the responsibility to protect as a pretext for interventions in furtherance of their own interests, thereby impairing the national sovereignty of the countries concerned. Such interventions had many negative consequences, such as large flows of refugees and the collapse of prosperous and stable countries. Parliamentarians must monitor how governments applied the responsibility to protect, and hold them accountable. The IPU should establish an international framework to regulate the application of the responsibility to protect. Above all, parliaments should be a forum for cooperation, dialogue and finding internal resolutions to conflicts. No military solution could be better than dialogue. Her region was against the US embargo on Cuba, and expressed solidarity with the people of Syria, who were facing terrorism. It was also unacceptable that large fines were being imposed on Ecuador and other countries to the benefit of transnational companies. Such fines wiped out state budgets, thereby denying people the right to food, health and education, and also undermining peace.

Mr. J. LACÃO (Portugal) said that the Portuguese Parliament was a strong supporter of human rights and freedoms, and that it had a number of structures in place. There was a Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees and a separate subcommittee specifically dealing with gender equality. An annual prize was awarded to individuals or organisations having made a significant contribution to the defence of human rights. Parliament was also involved in several international institutions which promoted peaceful coexistence. Those included not only the IPU, but also the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). Through such actions, Portugal aimed to contribute to an international society founded on sustainable development and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Venezuela) said that Venezuela was experiencing a humanitarian crisis whereby the human rights of its citizens were being seriously violated. Many people had rubbish as their main source of food; disease was spreading and the homicide rate was very high. Parliament had been taken over by force. The Government was denying the population its constitutional right to a referendum, and was not respecting the human rights decisions rendered by international courts. There were also more than one hundred political prisoners of whom three were parliamentarians. Parliaments must be defended in order for them to, in turn, defend the citizenry for the sake of democracy. The whole world must stand against what was happening in Venezuela.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that the international community must put an end to conflicts and terrorism. Security and stability were a prerequisite to development. Human rights must also be respected. Some major powers had intentionally caused chaos by exploiting cultural and religious differences. Many principles governing international relations had been breached. For instance, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) ran counter to the principle of equality of states, and the IPU should reject it for that reason. Moreover, the IPU should support the Palestinian people who were living under illegal occupation. The legislative practices of parliaments were an essential means of fighting instability and insecurity. The specific needs of countries must be taken into account.

Mr. A. Schieder (Austria), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. A.M. ALI (Iraq) said that the socio-political situation in Iraq had devastated the country's cultural heritage and led to tremendous loss of life. Women and children were suffering; the right to food had been violated and the education system destroyed. Moreover, Turkey's military activities in the country were unlawful. Despite those challenges, Iraq had made efforts to ensure good governance by acting transparently and establishing a democratic system. Many Iraqis had also been fighting Daesh in the army or as volunteers. However, the world community had not lived up to its obligations. The international community needed to provide more help so as to ensure stability in Iraq.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that the role of parliaments in conflict prevention was linked to participatory democracy. Parliamentarians were in close contact with the citizenry, and worked in partnership with civil society in parliamentary committees. They thus gained a better understanding of problems that could develop into conflicts. Parliamentarians were also responsible for adopting laws which should be preceded by inclusive consultation. In Latvia, there were many mechanisms in place to ensure interaction with society. Under the Constitution, all citizens could file submissions to parliament. The youth parliament allowed young people to voice their views whilst gaining an insight into the work of Parliament per se. There was also an online platform called "My Voice" through which citizens were able to suggest initiatives that could be made into draft laws. Openness and interactivity with society should be the priority of every parliament.

Ms. A.A. PALACIOS BENAVIDEZ (Nicaragua) said that her country's Constitution recognized human rights as an essential value. Particular emphasis was placed on the rights of women, children, family, workers, cooperatives and citizenry in general. In the latest constitutional reforms, political parties had been obliged to include one woman for every man on their electoral lists in order to promote gender parity. The National Assembly had also established the Committee on Peace, Defence, Internal Affairs and Human Rights whose work was to monitor compliance with laws and to deal with citizens' complaints. Human rights must be coordinated with economic and social policy in regard to matters such as free health care and education, so as to ensure peace. Nicaragua was therefore working towards restoring the economic and social rights that its citizens had been denied in the past. It was also important to encourage citizens' direct participation in political life. She regretted the way in which the Venezuelan situation had been handled. There should be no political exclusions at the IPU. States should come together in dialogue rather than impose the interests of hegemonic powers.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland) said that, despite legal protections, human rights were not guaranteed, be it in peace time or in conflict. Even though it has now been 150 years after the first Geneva Convention entered into force, the minimum standards for preserving human dignity and life in conflict were often trampled underfoot. Freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, the instruments against torture and many other rights were coming under pressure in a number of countries. Extremism and terrorism also threatened human rights.

It was important to consider the human rights situation given that it served as an indicator of potential instability that could escalate into conflict. In countries where the protection of human rights was limited, parliamentarians were amongst the few who could truly ensure protection of the rights of the citizenry. In doing so, they often risked persecution, arrest, arbitrary imprisonment or even their life. Parliaments must therefore be in a position to protect the rights of its own members. Evelyn Beatrice Hall once said: “I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it”. The world must continue in that spirit by building up its human rights instruments.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) said that human rights abuses were a key source of conflicts and terrorism. Under no pretext should the sovereignty of States be threatened, such as was the case in Syria, Iraq and Libya. The Palestinian people too had suffered for more than 100 years after being cast out of their own country with the assistance of imperialism. The IPU must speak out in favour of retrieving Palestinian lands and of recognising Palestine’s independence. His country supported the French initiative to move the peace process forward, but the initiative had so far been unsuccessful. Great Britain should rectify the harmful error it made in the 1917 Balfour Act. Credence must not be given to the JASTA law since it violated the UN Charter and could trigger more conflicts.

Mr. F. ZON (Indonesia) said that large scale human rights violations were being committed across the world. The key to mitigating those violations was to take early warning and response measures. Parliaments should play an active role in that, as they are the first responders to people’s grievances and aspirations.

Indonesia had taken a number of steps towards improving human rights protection. It had included a human rights chapter in its Constitution and ratified many international human rights instruments. It had also established the Indonesian Human Rights National Commission, as well as a human rights court to deal with genocide and crimes against humanity. The Law concerning the Handling of Social Conflict was also adopted, which focused on prevention, resolution and recovery. The Law minimized intolerance, hatred and the arbitrary actions of states, emphasized human rights principles and acknowledged local wisdom in conflict resolution.

Peace could only be achieved if human rights were pursued globally under the principles of objectivity, impartiality, non-selectivity and the elimination of double standards and politicization. Human rights must be mainstreamed into every policy and law-making process.

Ms. M. ANDRÉ (France) said that human rights violations, such as oppression, sporadic violence and intimidation, could lead to large-scale conflict. A rapid response was therefore necessary. It was for that reason that France had recently launched military interventions abroad. Examples of that included the interventions in the Central African Republic and Mali both of which were experiencing grave disturbances and insecurity. Although the interventions did not resolve all the problems, they did restore a degree of stability and prevented the outbreak of a full-scale civil war. It was key to democracy for parliaments to monitor the government on such issues. In France, for the purposes of expediency, it was the President who decided whether to engage in military intervention. However, since 2008, the Government was required to inform the Parliament of any such decision. Parliament had voted on the intervention in Mali and the Central African Republic, and public opinion was also in favour of those interventions. Parliamentary commissions also played an important role in monitoring the Government. Finally, she regretted the passing of British MP, Jo Cox, who died for her ideals.

Mr. S. LAKHDARI (Algeria) said that Algeria had made significant progress after bringing an end to its conflict. It had tackled terrorism without help from the international community, by adopting a policy of coexistence and reconciliation. Citizens were placed at the heart of its development programme, which was anchored in the rule of law, human rights, justice, legality, democracy, pluralism and participation. Thanks to the participation of its citizens, Algeria was able to meet all of its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. It was also on track to meet its Sustainable Development Goals on time. Examples of success included addressing the needs of marginalized groups, encouraging opposition parties to participate, and ensuring a significant number of women parliamentarians. However, international cooperation needed to be strengthened in the face of global challenges, such as environmental deterioration, conflicts and organized crime. A lasting solution to the Palestinian question must be found and an end to the occupation in the Western Sahara must be ensured. External interference in the affairs of sovereign States, such as Syria, must cease.

Mr. I.R. AL-KUWARI (Qatar) said Qatar would cooperate with the world with a view to promoting peace, stability, human rights, sustainable development and the rule of law. In particular, the international community must work together to combat terrorism and resolve conflicts. Qatar had taken a number of steps to ensure respect for human rights. It had hosted several UN human rights meetings, established a freedom of the press centre and set up a human rights commission. The Young people played an important role in society since they would lead the country in the future. States must therefore make sure that young people were in a position to take on that role.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) said that the Constitution of Bangladesh embodied the core principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The country was a member of the Human Right Council, and had passed legislation on protecting the socioeconomic and cultural rights of all citizens. A National Human Rights Commission had been established to investigate allegations of human rights violations. Bangladesh was also a champion of women's rights with one third of seats in local government being allocated to women.

Bangladesh believed in regional and international cooperation in the fight against human rights violations. However, it was the states themselves which had the primary responsibility to prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in promoting and protecting human rights by voting on the budget, drafting laws and monitoring government actions. A first priority should be to strengthen early warning and early response mechanisms in line with UN Secretary General's Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

Mr. E. NDUWIMANA (Burundi) said that Burundi had made much progress in relation to peace and security. Elections had been held successfully despite insurrections which culminated in coup attempt. The democratic institutions were working towards combatting poverty and promoting socioeconomic development. Burundi had also chosen to end its conflicts through dialogue both internally and externally. His country opposed Resolution 33/24 of the UN Human Rights Council which was based on a biased report. There was neither genocide nor human rights violations in Burundi. The Parliament of Burundi was committed to human rights, and the country had several constitutionally recognized mechanisms in place. He wished to know why the violent insurrections had not been addressed since they were not only undemocratic but also extremely destructive. He called on the IPU to condemn the coup attempt. The International Criminal Court (ICC) had become an instrument for keeping some countries in the grip of the West. This is why Burundi had passed a law to withdraw from that Court.

Mr. K. SVENDSEN (Norway) said that his country had established the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution. The institution would monitor and report on the human rights situation in Norway, advise public and private bodies and disseminate information. It would also promote teaching, education and research in human rights, facilitate cooperation with partners and cooperate internationally.

Mr. I.T. TASLIMA (East African Legislative Assembly) said that human rights and democracy were enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. Nevertheless, the region was still prone to conflicts, unrest and human rights abuses. Kenya and Uganda had been particularly affected by terrorism and damage to property.

There was a strong correlation between human rights abuses and conflicts. A lack of free, fair and credible elections could also lead to instability and conflicts. Parliaments should be first responders to human rights abuses by passing legislation to prevent them. They should ensure that a large part of the budget was allocated to dealing with that problem. Particular attention should be paid to women and children since they suffered disproportionately and were often victims of sexual violation and exploitation. Parliamentarians must work closely with civil society, form networks and provide oversight. Democracy and human rights were linked in that the will of the people should be expressed through elections. A commitment to both was crucial.

Mr. J.H. RI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the interference of imperialist powers in other sovereign states under the pretext of human rights was in itself a human rights violation. The political and economic sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) by the United States had obliterated the rights of the entire Korean nation. He also condemned the sanctions imposed on Cuba, Iran, Syria, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The DPRK had been demonized as a human rights violator simply for standing against the arbitrary practices of the United States. In reality, the entire population of the DPRK enjoyed its political, economic and cultural rights to the fullest. Meanwhile, there was silence on the appalling

human rights situation in the United States where African Americans were murdered. Such politicization, double standards and selectivity in addressing human rights issues must be rejected. All countries which defended independence and justice should come together as one block to counter hegemonic powers.

The representative of MOROCCO, exercising the right of reply, said that the statement by Algeria concerning the Sahara was not true. There were regional organizations and entities that respected human rights. He supported a strong civil society which defended the rights of women and children in the Saharawi region. Refugees in the camps in Tindouf did not enjoy their rights to the full.

The sitting rose at 6.45 p.m.

Sitting of Wednesday 26 October

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

Item 7 of the agenda
(continued)

Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item
The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo
(A/135/7-DR)

Mr. R. DEL PICCHIA (France) *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, presented the draft resolution on the emergency item (document A/135/7-DR). The subject of the emergency item, as proposed by the delegations of Germany and Mexico, addressed an extremely difficult humanitarian situation. The IPU was deeply committed to promoting peace and security. But in a situation such as that in Syria, the IPU could not replace the authorities and the resolution could not stop the war. The resolution therefore focused on the humanitarian situation in Syria, with a view to promoting certain actions. The drafting committee had comprised representatives of Argentina, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia.

Although the drafting committee's work had not been easy, members had deliberated constructively. The exchange of views within the committee had demonstrated how strongly the world's parliamentarians felt about the war and the grave humanitarian situation. Discussions had lasted a long time as the committee had tried to seek consensus. The draft resolution being presented to the Assembly took account of the opinions expressed. While it might not satisfy all the concerns of all parties, it was a compromise. The drafting committee recommended that the Assembly adopt the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT said that despite the sensitive subject matter, the drafting committee's discussions had been cordial and courteous, in true parliamentary spirit. He recalled that, in line with Article 32.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, any delegation wishing to explain their vote or express a reservation could do so after the vote.

The resolution was adopted by consensus.

Mr. A. KUZBARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Syrian delegation entirely opposed the resolution in letter and in spirit. The Syrian Arab Republic had not been represented in the drafting committee, even though the resolution exclusively concerned Syria. His delegation should have been entitled to participate in the drafting group.

The resolution built on propaganda about the situation in Aleppo that the media had spread over several months. Such misinformation should not be trusted or taken into account. For six years, the media had been misleading the world about the situation and events in Syria. Media coverage in the West was biased and served interests other than those of the humanitarian situation. Terrorism was rife throughout Syria. People were being taken hostage, used as human shields and deprived of access to basic supplies and services. Towns were being bombed every day and the war was causing large-scale death and destruction.

He had visited Aleppo recently and suggested that those who had submitted the resolution should do the same so as to witness the situation first hand. The people of Aleppo only wanted to live in peace. The armed militia used excuses and pretexts to justify their unacceptable, immoral and inhuman acts. Truth was always the first victim of war. The ongoing war in Syria was multifaceted. The British parliamentary mission that had visited Syria recently had recognized that misinformation had been spread. Those who pretended to propose peaceful solutions were simultaneously financing weapons for the so-called resistance in Syria, whom other countries deemed as terrorists. Such double standards were unacceptable. Syria aspired to peace. He urged the international community to stop interfering in Syria's internal affairs and leave the situation to the Syrian people so that hostilities could end and peace resume.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that it ran counter to the principles of democracy to adopt a resolution about a country when representatives of that country had not been able to participate in drafting the resolution and had not been allowed to speak before the vote.

The solution to the extremely serious situation in the Syrian Arab Republic must be political, and must involve dialogue and peacebuilding without foreign interference. The resolution did not take account of Syria's right to self-determination. It also failed to mention the terrorists who were causing destruction and suffering in Syria and who were being supported by the world's major powers. The responsibility to protect had been manipulated to justify interference and aggression. Making requests to the United Nations Security Council was not within the mandate of the IPU. His delegation therefore wished to register its reservations to preambular paragraphs 5, 7 and 8, and operative paragraph 5 of the resolution. The delegation of Cuba stood in solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic, which was paying a high price for the aggression being directed against it.

The PRESIDENT recalled that, when resolutions on emergency items were being prepared, geopolitical groups were asked to nominate representatives to the drafting committee. The Arab group had been asked to propose such representatives and had nominated Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Syrian delegation had participated in the debate on the emergency item and had not been excluded from proceedings. All avenues had been open to allow the Syrian delegation to participate in the debate and the drafting committee.

Mr. M. GAPES (United Kingdom) said he wished to clarify that the visit to the Syrian Arab Republic had in fact been conducted by a self-selecting group of individuals including some members of the unelected chamber of the UK Parliament, the House of Lords. The group had not conducted the visit on behalf of the United Kingdom's parliamentary institutions and had not been an official delegation. It had not been representative either of the House of Commons or of the House of Lords.

Item 3 of the agenda
(continued)

Special segment: Launch of the Handbook for Parliamentarians
Human Rights: Handbook for Parliamentarians No.26

The PRESIDENT introduced the Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians. He said that the Assembly's discussions thus far had reaffirmed that parliamentarians had a key role to play in the promotion and protection of human rights. The debate had also underscored the need to develop tools and practical ways of enhancing parliamentarians' understanding of international human rights standards and mechanisms. The Handbook had been tailored to the specific needs of parliamentarians, and highlighted examples of good parliamentary practice from around the world. It was the result of the IPU's continued cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

There had been many developments since the launch of the first edition of the Handbook more than 10 years previously. The United Nations Human Rights Council had been established to replace the Commission on Human Rights. The Council had been entrusted with conducting the Universal Periodic Review to assess the human rights situation in all Member States. The Review was based on the precepts that no country had a perfect human rights record, and that all countries should strive to do better and be open to constructive criticism.

Mr. M.R. RABBANI (Pakistan) *Keynote speaker*, said that many parliamentarians had felt the brunt of human rights violations. In reality, an international establishment had carved out an agenda for the world, based on the burden of the white man to rule. All policies and recognition of human rights hinged on that agenda. The walls of Jerusalem, Damascus and Baghdad – the walls of the Middle East – were splattered with blood. The soil of Asia was saturated with the blood that had flowed from the killing fields in Cambodia, the Viet Nam war, and the struggle of the indigenous people of Kashmir. In Africa, warlords and cartels ruled with impunity in total violation of fundamental rights and international law. In Latin America the drugs mafia was king.

With regard to conflict situations, peace was the requirement of the poor. Western economies were based on the arms industry. While conflict prevailed in the world, those economies continued to thrive. When considering human rights, the double standards of the West should be recalled. If blood was spilt in Africa or Asia, it was not mentioned, whereas incidents in Europe or the United States were treated as headline news. Western powers supported military dictators in transitional democracies because it suited their international agendas and interests. International law was violated across national borders through covert operations that undermined the sovereignty of other States, perpetuated anarchy and unrest, and adversely affected civilian populations. In the Middle East, regime change policies were resulting in bloodshed without consideration for the grave human rights violations that ensued.

Human rights referred not only to the personal rights of individuals, but also to the rights of States, as individuals formed part of those States. The arbitrary use of economic sanctions was endorsed in international forums, even though it undermined human rights. States were labelled as “rogue” simply because they did not follow the agenda of the majority. Cross-border human rights violations must also be taken into consideration. The plight of minorities, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants must be viewed through the same humanitarian and human rights lens by all, to ensure a suitable coordinated response to their needs.

The international response was insufficient. Action was lacking in the implementation of UN resolutions and in responding to the decisions of the International Court of Justice. There were reports that the Human Rights Council was underfunded. The conduct of peacekeeping forces was being questioned, particularly because of sexual abuse scandals. But the international community turned a blind eye to those issues. The United Nations had failed to oversee the implementation of resolutions on Kashmir. Similarly, the genocide in Palestine continued and people were subjected to the worst forms of torture. Flagrant violations of international law were being committed while the international community discussed the importance of safeguarding human rights. The IPU had played a prominent role in defending human rights, particularly through its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. Nevertheless, the overall human rights landscape remained complex and much remained to be done.

Multilateral and inter-institutional connectivity must be strengthened, in particular between the UN Human Rights Council and multilateral parliamentary institutions. The recently adopted General Assembly resolution on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (resolution 70/298) was a welcome step in that regard. The IPU should increase its cooperation with the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. The two institutions had common principles and goals with regard to promoting parliamentary democracy, peace, socio-economic development and human rights. Cooperation, particularly between their human rights committees, would enhance institutional capacity.

Human rights agendas at the international, State and parliamentary levels should be realigned with human rights realities on the ground. Cooperation and early response mechanisms should be revised and parliamentary diplomacy should be mainstreamed. Peace negotiations, reconciliation and other dialogue processes should also include parliamentarians. Peacebuilding efforts should seek to strengthen democratic processes. The role and capacity of parliaments in conflict resolution should also be enhanced, moving from reaction to a proactive, pre-emptive approach. Parliamentary human rights committees could play a key role in early warning systems through their support to research activities and their public hearings. Committees should be gender balanced. They should be empowered to question the government without fear of reprisal about how it had fulfilled its human rights obligations.

He called for a moment of reflection to pay tribute to missing persons and members of their families. In situations where members of parliament and political activists disappeared never to return because their interests differed from that of the establishment, their families were left to mourn or wait in expectation.

Ms. P. HICKS (Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR), *Special guest*, welcomed the opportunity to launch the updated Handbook and said that the IPU was an important partner for the OHCHR. Positive collaboration between the IPU and the OHCHR had continued in areas of common concern, such as enhancing the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review, encouraging parliamentary participation in interactions between States and the human rights treaty bodies, and work with national parliaments on a wide range of issues.

If change was to occur, it was crucial to recognize that the protection of rights must be a global endeavour, that rights were universal, and that all States violated them. Human rights violations were a source of conflict; it was crucial to tackle them. Investment in preventing and minimising such violations would save lives and resources. Parliaments could contribute by: alerting governments to tensions before they escalated into widespread conflict; overseeing government action; and holding government accountable if it remained complacent in the face of continued violations or deferred action until boiling point was reached.

OHCHR broadly shared the bleak picture of human rights as painted by Mr. Rabbani. The Handbook was a response to that picture and the updates since it was last published showed that the world had changed. As the Handbook set out, there could be no development without peace and security, no peace and security without development, and human rights were central to development, peace and security alike. The Handbook also discussed the full range of human rights. It recognized that they were interdependent and indivisible. It also rejected the idea that problems related to civil and political rights could be solved without addressing economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development.

Each day, the world witnessed graphic, disturbing evidence of the human cost of the failure to respond to human rights violations. Parliamentarians could and must make a difference, including by representing civil society, combating hatred and xenophobia, and ensuring that people throughout the world saw the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a reality. The Handbook recognised the evolving nature of threats to human rights and the need for responses. It was designed to help parliamentarians to access new tools, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and more long-standing mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review. The Handbook also discussed key human rights challenges, including responding to violent extremism and protecting human rights in the digital age. It gave examples of good practices and provided practical checklists for parliamentarians. Her Office was proud to have worked with the IPU in preparing the Handbook and hoped that it would assist all parliamentarians in their work.

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India) expressed his delegation's regret that Mr. Rabbani had used the IPU as a platform to make unsolicited political comments about a particular country. Such comments went against the spirit of multilateralism on which the IPU had been built. The United Nations resolutions on Kashmir called for Pakistan to leave the occupied territory. It was therefore the responsibility of Pakistan to uphold those resolutions. The situation in Kashmir had been caused by an unlimited flow of terrorists and weapons from Pakistan. Pakistan was a breeding ground for terrorism. It was causing instability in the whole region, including in Kashmir and particularly in Afghanistan. When considering human rights violations, Pakistan should consider the situations in Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel) expressed his delegation's objections to the comments made by Mr. Rabbani, in which he had accused Israel of committing genocide in Palestine. No such genocide had been committed. More people had died in the conflict between India and Pakistan than in Palestine. It was unfortunate that Mr. Rabbani had failed to condemn the Palestinian incitement to hatred against the people of Israel and the terrorist acts committed against Israeli civilians.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) exercising the right of reply, said that the Israeli occupation of Gaza was the epitome of terrorism. Massacres of Palestinians had begun before the establishment of Palestine, and militia had been attacking the Palestinian people since before the State of Israel had existed. Genocide against the people of Palestine had been committed during the three wars against Gaza. Israel had been built on genocide. Why would it not leave the occupied Palestinian territory?

Mr. N. HASHMI (Pakistan) said that it was unfortunate that the Indian delegation had exhibited a callous inability to acknowledge that the Kashmiri people were being subjected to unspeakable atrocities by Indian security forces. The lack of objectivity on the part of the Indian delegation meant that it had not mentioned the Indian Government's stated policy of instigating acts of violence and terror in parts of Pakistan. It was ironic that a State that had unleashed a reign of terror in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and was sponsoring terrorism in neighbouring countries, claimed to be the victim.

General Debate

Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders

Resumption of the debate

Ms. N. Zangar (Tunisia), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC) said that ICRC personnel were responding to acute and protracted crises every day across the world. The ICRC was convinced that international humanitarian law was a critical tool for protecting human life and dignity during armed conflict. Strengthening respect for international humanitarian law was the most important way to improve the lives of civilians. Ratifying treaties was a critical way to ensure that the law protected those for whom it was intended. Parliamentarians played a vital role in that regard and also incorporated the provisions of international treaties into domestic legislation.

The ICRC had developed a range of tools to help States meet their obligations under international humanitarian law. One such tool was the updated version of the Handbook for Parliamentarians on international humanitarian law. It was specifically designed to familiarize parliamentarians with the general principles of the law of armed conflict and to provide step-by-step guidance on how parliamentarians could promote compliance with that law. It strongly complemented the Handbook on human rights, which had just been launched.

The many protracted conflicts around the world were presenting new challenges for humanitarian action, not only for emergency relief operations, but also with regard to sustainable action to ensure that the population's long-term needs were met. Parliamentarians were in a unique position to support humanitarian action, make a genuine difference for the people on the ground, and prevent suffering from happening again.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada) said that the parliamentarians of the world had a responsibility to prevent violent conflicts. All of the parliaments present had expressed their deep commitment to human rights, yet there was a disconnect between the words spoken in international forums and the reality of actions at home. In Canada, for example, the historical treatment of First Nations had been marked by human rights abuses. Speeches on human rights were meaningless if there was no real commitment to addressing those rights at home.

All parliamentarians must commit to addressing human rights abuses committed within their own nation's borders and by their own governments. Institutions, citizens and parliamentarians must be independent if parliaments were to be early responders to human rights abuses. Parliament must not only be able to promote human rights, but must also be able to mediate the differences in society through peaceful debate. Parliamentarians must be sufficiently independent of government to be able to speak freely on behalf of those they represented. Independence was even more crucial when parliaments oversaw government action, held the executive to account and checked its power. To be effective, they must not fear reprisals.

Parliaments had their limitations and other independent institutions must therefore be strengthened as well. For example, the media's freedom to criticize the government was an essential public function, as democracies depended on informed citizens. The rule of law was also crucial, and could only be achieved if courts were truly independent and impartial. If they could overrule government decisions, and if governments respected those rulings, trust could be built and abuses prevented. Free and fair elections required independent election officials. Efforts to create increased transparency would ensure that citizens had greater access to information and greater protection. To warrant the trust and confidence of the public, institutions must outlast parliamentarians' terms of office. Citizens must be empowered and their autonomy enhanced, since they must be responsible for holding all institutions to account. If met, the SDGs that aimed to end poverty and provide good quality education (SDGs 1 and 4) would do more to promote peace than any military intervention.

While parliaments must be formally independent, parliamentarians must also act independently in practice. Parliamentarians must stand up and support human rights if they were truly committed to them. Wherever violations occurred, they must call for action and redress, and must avoid complicity. Parliamentarians had a duty to do what was right, regardless of the political consequences. They had chosen to be trustees of the public interest and must take that responsibility seriously.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that there was a vast body of international humanitarian law and human rights law as well as extensive efforts to promote international peace and security and to safeguard and respect human dignity. However, those rules and principles were widely violated in various parts of the world. In many cases, violations had culminated in crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing. When poverty and injustice prevailed, human rights were violated, and security challenges arose. Those challenges could cause further human rights abuses. This vicious circle must therefore be stopped.

The current situations in Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Libya were the result of systematic and widespread violations of human rights. For more than 70 years, the people of Palestine had been deprived of their most basic rights, and forced to live under occupation, and the threat of aggression, constant military attack, terror, death and homelessness. The Israeli regime would not have been in a position to commit such crimes without the strong support of certain global powers, in particular the United States of America. Those same powers not only violated human rights in their own countries, but did so in other States while justifying their actions in terms of human rights and the defence of democracy.

The Syrian crisis had been manageable in its early stages. However, the interventionist policies of certain world powers and their support for extremist and terrorist groups had led to a humanitarian catastrophe, with destructive consequences that were spreading further into the region and around the world. Groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra Front, Daesh, the Taliban, Al-Shabab, Boko Haram and others had arisen because certain countries around the world had promoted extremist thinking. The parliaments of the world shared the responsibility to promote human rights and human dignity and prevent violations of the law. They must adopt national legislation and regulations, and continuously monitor their implementation.

Mr. F. AMORUSO (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean) said that the world was experiencing unprecedented extremist violence, which was threatening international security and the universal values of peace, justice and human rights. The situation had led to conflict, the consequences of which were affecting the Mediterranean area and beyond. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean had been working to promote peace and stability in the Mediterranean region for several years. It had established a parliamentary team that was ready to travel to crisis areas to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid, promote the protection of civilians in war-torn areas and enable effective dialogue with local authorities and international organizations.

The parliamentary team had attended a seminar hosted by OHCHR to familiarize themselves with international human rights law and civilian protection in conflict areas, and also to understand how to address human rights issues in situations of war when directly interacting with victims. A further event would be held in Strasbourg in cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights, in which lawyers would share information on the legal mechanisms for protecting human rights. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean had participated in the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul and was contributing to the United Nations working group on humanitarian civil-military coordination.

Ms. H. KÜTT (Estonia) said that human rights abuses were rife the world over. The most vulnerable members of society, including women, children, the elderly and indigenous people, were most severely affected. In many cases, their rights were abused through the action or negligence of their own governments. Even in the heart of Europe, in the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, human rights were being systematically and violently oppressed. This was particularly the case for Crimean Tatars and human rights defenders.

Parliaments must be early responders whenever violations of human rights occurred. They must work in partnership with civil society organizations and international advocacy groups to monitor and address human rights abuses. All governments and other actors violating human rights should know that they would be held responsible for their actions. The promotion and protection of human rights was the key to democracy and development. That is why it had been a priority for the IPU since its establishment. During the current Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights would adopt a resolution on the freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference. The equal involvement of women at all levels was crucial to fostering peace and eliminating violence. Women's participation in politics could not be achieved without the support of men and society as a whole.

Violent conflicts were visible and easily identified, although their roots could be difficult to trace. With so much daily communication occurring through the Internet, it was important that human rights should be respected online as well. The link between online communication and physical events could be very strong. The Internet was a powerful tool for organizing people and building support for positive and negative purposes. The use of the Internet to promulgate violent extremism must be closely monitored without blocking lines of communication and information. Parliamentarians must continue to strive to counter the escalation of conflicts and work towards a future in which human rights were beyond question in all States.

Ms. K. ATSHEMYAN (Armenia) said that at the end of 2015, the people of Armenia had adopted a reformed Constitution. It would transform Armenia's system of governance into that of a parliamentary democracy. Elections were due in 2017. The National Assembly would have broader functions, powers and responsibilities. The adoption of the new Constitution bore witness to a belief in a more democratic, progressive society that defended and respected human rights.

Governments around the world claimed to advocate peace and the importance of saving future generations from the ravages of war. Even though they condemned violence, conflict and ethnic cleansing, wars still persisted. Conflict took the lives of innocent people, deepened socioeconomic divides and hampered growth and development. Parliaments and parliamentary diplomacy were crucial for developing democratic institutions and overcoming conflict. Parliament was the voice of the people. It should defend their rights and prevent conflict. Fighting genocide and ethnic cleansing in one country was impossible without condemning those practices everywhere. It was equally impossible to engage women in the fight against violence if their rights were being violated too.

Armenia was in a region that was continually threatened by war and violence. Constant efforts were made to develop democracy, fight for the rights of civil society, develop civil institutions and ensure a free media. Those efforts had been successful because laws had been passed and implemented that were in line with international standards. Parliaments must work together to uphold international conventions and agreements. If ceasefire treaties were violated, sanctions should be imposed. The world's parliamentarians should be more resolute in raising their voices against violence, war and conflict. Only decisiveness and consistency would lead to progress.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel) said the Jewish nation had been formed under slavery and had experienced nearly 2,000 years of exile before the foundation of the State of Israel. The Israeli people appreciated human rights more than most, and were acutely aware of the dangers of limiting or denying them. In demanding a State of their own, the Jewish people had appealed to the universal values of justice and equality. The State of Israel had been founded on those values and on the firm belief that they applied to everyone. The Knesset and its members guarded those values, and ensured that the rights of all people were guaranteed by adopting legislation and ensuring its implementation.

Since the Six Day War, the State of Israel had exercised control over Palestine for reasons of security and history. Israel was seeking a peaceful, diplomatic resolution of the situation. That was based on the principle of two States for two peoples, with peace forged on the basis of democracy and mutual respect. Despite progress, there was still a long road ahead. For decades, the Middle East region had been awash with terrorism inspired by religion. With that in mind, the Knesset had recently adopted anti-terrorism legislation that defined terrorism. It set the delicate balance between the need to uphold democracy and human rights on the one hand, while taking account of security needs and concerns on the other.

The denial of human rights over recent years had given way to a global refugee crisis. Throughout its history, Israel had taken in several million migrants, many of whom had been fleeing war in their native countries. His own family had fled Nazi-occupied Europe during the Second World War. Israel was willing to share its experiences in providing refugees with the tools for a successful life in their new home. The world was undergoing profound changes, which were calling into question current international structures. Members of parliament had a responsibility to their constituents and to future generations to uphold civil and political rights in the face of those challenges, and to ensure that children inherited a more secure, moral and just world, as they deserved.

Ms. E. SCOLARO (World Health Organization) said that the many crises and conflicts around the world had one thing in common: millions of people were being denied their human rights. Such crises disrupted, and often destroyed personal development, including infant and early

childhood development, education, health and nutritional progress. They also had a negative impact on human dignity and human rights. Another reality of conflict was an increase in sexual violence, which was directed especially but not only against women and girls. These risks increased as a result of displacement and the breakdown of social protection structures and support.

Crises affected women, girls, men and boys differently. Women and girls often took on increased care-related tasks. A recent study had shown that girls in conflict situations received less food than boys when it was scarce and that boys generally received preferential treatment in rescue efforts. Girls were also more likely to be pulled out of school and less likely to return.

Recently, there had been many positive developments in human rights standards. However, changes in policy and interventions designed to protect women, children and adolescents had meant that ensuring their health remained a challenge. The new Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health recommended a series of actions, including a minimum initial package of services for reproductive health, nutrition, HIV, water, sanitation and hygiene. The Strategy also noted that ensuring the safety of health workers was crucial. WHO recognized the tremendous power of parliamentarians in promoting health and well-being through their ability to legislate, oversee government action, approve government budgets, and argue for important causes. Living a healthy life was a basic human right which parliamentarians were uniquely placed to prioritize in all aspects of their work.

Ms. B.M. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana) said that where human rights were violated, social strife ensued. In practice, that meant that peace evaporated, family units were dismantled, lives and livelihoods were destroyed and millions were displaced. In short a deep humanitarian crisis would occur. There were too many examples of such situations in the world. Parliaments had a responsibility to create an enabling environment for human rights to be respected and upheld. They must hold governments accountable and maintain the highest standards of respect for the rule of law. They must provide justice for the victims of abuse and build credible and effective institutions to protect citizens. Parliaments must reach out to and work together with civil society to ensure that human rights abuses were detected early and tackled at the right time. Every member of parliament must make an individual and personal commitment to defend human rights. The persistence of violations suggested that current efforts were far from adequate.

Mr. J.M. KATUPHA (Mozambique) said that the constitutions of many countries enshrined the rights and freedoms of humankind. By the same token, the civil society organizations of many countries defended human rights and promoted the empowerment of women and young people. In Mozambique, members of parliament exercised their functions without constraint, passing laws, overseeing the work of the executive and interacting with the judiciary. Despite such mechanisms being in place, many different types of human rights violations occurred in all countries. When the right to life was violated, all other rights were undermined. The root causes of those violations must be tackled. Economic inequalities, unequal access to natural resources, greed and corruption were becoming increasingly prevalent and causing global chaos. Parliaments could not rectify the situation in isolation. A coordinated, global approach was needed to set the new world order that would bring an end to human rights violations.

Ms. S. SÜTTERLIN-WAACK (Germany) said that, despite ongoing wars, Islamist terrorism and large-scale global refugee flows, the world was more peaceful than ever before. The human rights situation was becoming increasingly difficult. Freedoms of speech, association and assembly were under increasing pressure. According to Amnesty International, the highest number of executions in 25 years had been reported in 2015. Press freedom and freedom of expression had not been fully respected in two-thirds of the 160 countries surveyed, and there had been reports of unfair trials in every second country. Fear of terrorism was leading to restrictions on human rights. That trend was particularly evident in Europe, where the handling of global refugee flows was revealing worrying differences of opinion with regard to the universality of human rights.

The Bundestag expressed deep respect for all those currently defending human rights in their countries under difficult political circumstances. It welcomed all bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democratic structures, independent judicial systems and the rule of law. In many countries, politicians were among the human rights defenders at risk. With that in mind, the Bundestag had established a "Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians" programme to draw attention to the plight of individual human rights defenders around the world who were at risk or had been detained. Members of the Bundestag who participated in the programme engaged with

local authorities, visited political prisoners, pressed for detainees to receive a fair hearing and observed the conduct of any relevant court proceedings. The German parliamentary human rights committee oversaw all cases and kept a list of persons at risk. The IPU, in particular through its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, was an invaluable partner.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to use their privileged position with regard to access to information, political decision makers and the public arena. They should use that position to highlight all human rights violations and draw attention to conflicts. The world's parliamentarians should work together to reverse the trends witnessed over recent years.

Ms. S.H. HARIYADI (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, GOPAC) said that corruption destabilized countries' security, ignited all forms of human rights abuses, increased poverty, impeded development, and generated conflict. Illicit financial flows had led to vast financial losses for developing and emerging economies. Those losses were increasing year on year. Leaders who had been entrusted to make and implement laws abused that trust to increase their own power, status and wealth with impunity. The corrupt must not go unpunished while the innocent shared the burden.

As elected officials, parliamentarians had a duty to defend democracy, yet true democracy could not exist where corruption thrived. The inability and unwillingness to tackle public corruption was a violation of human rights. Political will was crucial to change this situation. Parliaments had a responsibility to reduce the potential tensions and human rights abuses that could lead to conflict. To do so, they must ratify and implement relevant international legal instruments. Tackling corruption in development assistance and aid programmes was crucial to maximize the impact of those programmes and protect the human rights of their beneficiaries. The elimination of corruption was particularly relevant with regard to achieving the SDGs.

In cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, GOPAC was developing a handbook for parliamentarians on the SDGs, which included information on monitoring development assistance. All Member Parliaments of the IPU were urged to eradicate corruption before it was too late.

Mr. AUNG KYI NYUNT (Myanmar) said that he had personally suffered for having dared to speak out for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The unwavering belief in those principles was shared by Myanmar's State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the National League for Democracy. In 1948, Burma had been one of the first countries in Asia to establish parliamentary democracy, but circumstances later led to its dissolution. Through commitment and perseverance, parliamentary institutions had been re-established and the new Government had taken office on 1 April 2016. The new parliament would be people-oriented. It would protect and defend human rights and the rule of law. Several pieces of national legislation on human rights had been enacted over recent years, and a national human rights commission had been established. Several further Bills and amendments to existing laws were in the pipeline.

All countries faced human rights challenges, particularly with regard to the protection of the marginalized and weak in society. Through its ability to represent the people, legislate and oversee government action, parliament could identify those challenges and ensure a timely response. The world's parliaments must work together to build understanding, harmony and trust between communities, while standing firm against prejudice, intolerance and extremism. Parliaments could ensure that the work of governments at all levels was relevant and appropriate. They could also make sure that sufficient budgetary funds were allocated to tackle the root causes of human rights violations and to allow everyone to access government services. They must listen to all voices, particularly those of women, who represented 51 per cent of the population. The Parliament of Myanmar was pursuing its international obligations in a connected world. It was fully aware that opportunities could not be realized and challenges would not be overcome without international cooperation in all areas of government. Parliamentarians must take the lead in building communities where fundamental human rights and human dignity were at the heart of all policies and actions.

Mr. L. FOFANA (Guinea) said that, as representatives of the people, parliaments were trusted to adopt legislation, represent citizens, and monitor government action. Parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that laws were implemented and that they responded to public concerns without excluding or discriminating against anyone and without violating anyone's human rights. Significant efforts had been made to promote human rights and the rule of law around the world. Peacebuilding initiatives deserved continued support and must involve civil society, women and

young people. Parliament should support the whole of society in efforts to overcome injustice and economic inequality. Claims to the exclusive right to power by an elite few was the most common cause of violence, and had severe consequences for the population. Unequal distribution of income from natural resources could also give rise to violence and instability, particularly among minorities. That could ultimately lead to conflict.

Parliamentarians must strive to defend the public interest by adopting legislation that guaranteed respect for equality and fundamental rights, and freedoms for all. That legislation should also ensure that citizens' interests and inalienable rights were upheld by the actions of the government. Among the various causes of conflict in contemporary society were poor political and administrative governance, corruption and unequal distribution of resources, lack of basic social services, fraudulent elections and the exclusion of minorities. The National Assembly of Guinea sought to eliminate those issues and enact legislation that prohibited them. In cooperation with other institutions, the National Assembly was calling for institutional, administrative, economic and social reforms that took account of the rights of all citizens. Parliamentarians were responsible for implementing international human rights law in their own countries. They also needed to ensure that all political stakeholders engaged in constructive dialogue to promote peace and stability.

Ms. M. BONELL (Andorra) said that parliamentarians were granted authority through the constitution of their country to be responsible for the organization of parliamentary work. That freedom was essential if parliaments were to be the guardians of human rights. There was no excuse not to act. In 2005, the IPU and OHCHR had published the first edition of the Handbook for parliamentarians on human rights. It was time to consider how that Handbook had been used. Andorra was a small country, which was mostly sheltered from large conflicts. However, it had been affected by global crises. Its size and scope of influence meant that its position in the international hierarchy was not high. Parliamentarians therefore concentrated their efforts on domestic affairs.

Andorra had signed 55 human rights instruments and had ratified five of the United Nations core human rights treaties. That was a demonstration of its commitment to protecting human rights. Through their oversight work, parliamentarians should ensure that that commitment remained continuous. They should also participate in their country's dialogue with the treaty monitoring bodies and in the Universal Period Review procedure under the UN Human Rights Council. The role of parliamentarians was essential to ensure that international commitments were upheld, both through domestic legislation and through multilateral engagement, which sought joint solutions to the significant challenges that arose in an interdependent world. Each stakeholder must shoulder his or her responsibilities to meet those challenges.

Mr. J. Zangpo (Bhutan), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. M. AL-GHASSANI (Oman) said that human rights must be protected, respected and promoted in order to bring about peace. If parliamentarians did not honour their responsibilities, they could be considered to be participating in the spread of chaos and regional conflict. It was a duty of the State to eliminate all human rights violations. Everyone deserved to have his or her rights respected. Education could play a key role in that regard, and legislation must be adopted to protect rights. The implementation of such legislation would bring an end to violations, contribute to achieving equality, reduce conflict, and result in peace. The rule of law must be guaranteed and every effort made to ensure that the provisions of the law were fully respected.

The Sultanate of Oman was a pioneer in the promotion and protection of human rights, as enshrined in its Constitution. The Constitution provided for a representative Senate, responsible for defending the rights and dignity of the individual. Oman's legislation on citizenship provided for equality before the law. Men and women had equal rights and responsibilities, and discrimination on all grounds was prohibited. Economic, social and cultural rights were universal. Everyone should have the right to health, social security and education. That is why the Senate had a duty to protect those rights and oversee the implementation of all the agreements to which Oman was party. A clean, unpolluted environment should also be guaranteed. In Oman, all vulnerable groups were protected by law and every effort was made to promote a world of peace and security where people could live in the dignity they deserved.

Mr. E. MOSES (Federated States of Micronesia) said that his delegation objected to all threats against the personal safety of parliamentarians, as such threats severely undermined democracy. Parliamentarians had a fundamental role in ensuring respect for human rights. This was primarily achieved by monitoring the actions of the executive and ensuring that they met

international standards. Micronesia was facing an immigration crisis. Large numbers of migrants and illegal fishermen had arrived over the past year. Congress had taken measures to ensure that the government did not violate the rights of those migrants. It had also contacted parliaments in countries of origin to seek cooperation and political solutions to the crisis. Violations of human rights were not new to the people of Micronesia. They had experienced foreign occupation and nuclear detonations during peace time. Both had been carried out by States that were considered to be allies. The world's parliamentarians were not only representatives of their own sovereign States; they were also members of the global community. Care must be taken not to become over-dependent on the human and natural resources of other States.

Ms. A.D. DAGBAN-ZONVIDE (Togo) said that recurring conflicts around the world, particularly in Africa, were causing deep instability. They were compromising efforts to strengthen the rule of law and enhance socioeconomic development. Some of the causes of conflict included a lack of governance, human rights violations, poor respect for the law, weak institutions, a lack of visionary leadership, corruption, low public trust in the political class, poverty, unequal distribution of resources, illiteracy and discrimination. Parliaments had a key role to play in monitoring the functions of the State. As representatives of the people, parliaments were also endowed with legal, political and social legitimacy. They were also at the centre of political and democratic debate on subjects that concerned States.

Africa was more greatly affected than ever before by poverty, hunger and conflict. The position of parliaments in the institutional hierarchy facilitated their involvement in the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Conference of West African Speakers of Parliament had therefore established a parliamentary peace council to examine cases of crisis or conflict, and contribute to their prevention and resolution. The parliaments of African economic communities and the rest of the world should work jointly to achieve peace, security and democracy, and so contribute to development in their respective countries.

Mr. A. AHMED ALHARDALOW (Sudan) said that human rights violations contributed to the spread of conflict. Parliamentarians could prevent those violations in order to promote peace and stability. The Constitution of Sudan enshrined the principles of a democratic society in which all citizens were equal before the law. Citizens' rights to freedom of association, conscience, religion and expression were guaranteed. The Constitution consolidated the rule of law, underscored the principles of citizenship and rejected any form of discrimination. Sudan was party to a number of international human rights treaties, which had been incorporated into its domestic legislation.

Dialogue and cooperation were priorities in Sudan. All political parties, including armed rebel groups, had participated in discussions about securing the future of the country, redistributing wealth and promoting long-term stability and prosperity. The adoption of the Constitution had signalled the end of a painful past marked by civil war. The Constitution's adoption had also been the beginning of a democratic and free future, in which citizens could live under the rule of law, with equality, human rights and dignity for all.

Trafficking in persons and corruption were inextricably linked and both had a damaging effect on human rights. New forms of trafficking were emerging, involving refugees and asylum seekers. Concerted efforts and commitment were required to combat these new trends, including through Sudan's parliamentary committee on trafficking. Sudan was also pursuing anti-corruption measures, as corruption was incompatible with respect for human rights. The situation in South Sudan was very serious, and the Sudanese authorities would do their utmost to resolve it. Burundi had set an example by withdrawing from the International Criminal Court. The Court was a politicized body that was not working in Africa's best interests. He encouraged other African countries to also withdraw.

Ms. N. ZANGAR (Tunisia) said that the fight for rights had existed since the beginning of history. Human rights had been consolidated in numerous texts adopted across the world and throughout the years. The most significant text was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. After the revolution in Tunisia, a new Constitution had been adopted, which enshrined human rights. A national committee had been established to address all forms of human rights abuses. Despite international treaties and global efforts, conflict and human rights abuses persisted. Many countries were undergoing conflict and economic hardship. Those countries required assistance. With that in mind, Tunisia would host a conference on investment in November 2016. Despite the economic challenges they faced, the people of Tunisia were determined to meet the objectives of the revolution.

Ms. P. SECK DIENG (Senegal) said that all people should enjoy equal, fundamental and inalienable rights, irrespective of their social status. Peace should be the primary objective. Human rights abuses led to damaging situations. If a government violated national or international law by failing to observe human rights, not respecting the principle of equality, or by discriminating unfairly, the life, liberty and security of persons were threatened. Parliaments had a key role to play in preventing conflicts that stemmed from human rights abuses. As legislators and representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a responsibility to protect human rights. They should not wait for conflicts to break out, but rather should take the necessary steps to enable early, pre-emptive action to prevent human rights abuses from degenerating into conflict.

The Senegalese Constitution guaranteed equal human rights for all and guaranteed equal participation of women in politics. It also provided specific measures for the protection of the rights of particularly vulnerable groups. Parliament had adopted laws to: grant women the right to pass their nationality to their children; eliminate trafficking in persons and human organs; and ban forced labour. Development was crucial to upholding human rights. Efforts were therefore being made to overcome economic and social inequality, and to promote access to education, health care, sanitation, renewable energy sources and community farming activities.

Cooperation was essential, and rich countries must come to the assistance of the poor. Senegal had adopted a law on Islamic finance to establish a cooperation and assistance fund. The fund would provide support to students in hardship, orphans, and those who were ill, vulnerable or marginalized, with a view to assisting their social and economic development.

Ms. R. ILAHIBAKS (Suriname) said that no country was immune from human rights violations. Ongoing vigilance was needed to ensure that new technologies did not violate human rights. Policy and legislative changes were being made in Suriname to ensure that was the case. The National Assembly was committed to empowering people to realise their rights more fully, and ensuring that rights were upheld by those responsible for their enforcement. Suriname was a diverse and multicultural society and its policies were based on inclusivity and the prohibition of racial discrimination. Suriname had undergone 300 years of colonization, during which time grave violations of human rights had been committed. The main risks now were the mass destruction of flora and fauna; management of water resource; and other issues that could potentially cause environmental disaster and so lead to a violation of human rights.

A national human rights institute had been established. A parliamentary human rights committee was also in place to work on legislation, policy and evaluating the human rights situation in Suriname. Laws and administrative measures had been adopted to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Steps had also been taken to combat domestic violence. The death penalty had been abolished. Legislation was also being considered to address unlawful police action. If an alleged perpetrator was found guilty, criminal or disciplinary sanctions would ensue. Women's participation in political processes was being encouraged by incentivising parties to put women on electoral lists and setting quotas for women in parliament. The National Assembly of Suriname was committed to promoting and protecting human rights and to upholding its national and international human rights commitments.

Mr. R. MHONE (Malawi) said that the world was increasingly moving towards democracy, rooted in good governance and human rights. Conflicts had always arisen because of perceived differences in the application of those rights. Through its Member Parliaments, the IPU was the most appropriate institution to stand up for human rights internationally. National parliaments represented the people of their constituencies. Violations of human rights took place in those constituencies, and parliamentarians must therefore be the first responders to those abuses. Parliamentarians were responsible for legislation and must therefore ensure that national laws protected human rights. Through their oversight role, parliamentarians must provide the proper checks and balances to monitor institutions that could potentially violate human rights, including law enforcement bodies. Legislation should be proactive and ensure suitable sanctions to eliminate harmful practices from society. The allocation of budgetary resources was also a crucial part of parliamentarians' work. Resources must allow for services to be provided that upheld people's rights to development, health, education, a fair trial, and other rights. In some cases, parliaments exacerbated abuses by removing the resources and legal protection that guaranteed respect for human rights, and by abolishing freedom of association and of the press. Parliaments should not forget their role as protectors of human rights and first responders to violations. They must do their utmost to ensure that the government did not abuse the rights of its people.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the primary tasks of parliamentarians were to ensure that democracy prevailed, to generate ongoing dialogue and to seek solutions. The needs of victims of human rights violations should be given priority, including their need for reparation. Parliaments must supervise other bodies, avoid becoming party to conflicts and contribute to building peace. War was the principle cause of human rights violations, but they were also caused by gender-based violence. Definitive measures must be taken to eliminate patriarchal societies and male chauvinism. The provision of basic services was crucial, and universal access to them must be guaranteed.

Using human rights as a pretext for interference was unacceptable. She drew attention to the case of the Congress of Venezuela. Full respect for the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was essential and her delegation condemned initiatives to disturb the peace. Every effort should be made to facilitate dialogue between the parties to the dispute. Human rights violations occurred when foreign powers intervened in the affairs of a State. Examples of damaging interventions were the imposition of trade embargos against Cuba for more than 50 years and the financing of terrorist groups in Syria. There must be absolute respect for the inalienable right of every State to choose its own economic, cultural and political systems. Without that respect, peaceful coexistence between nations could not be guaranteed. Peoples of all States must be allowed to enjoy their inalienable right to determine their own future.

Ms. M. SHCHOTKINA (Belarus) said that it was essential to protect human rights. Gender equality as an integral aspect of human rights was a key element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Gender equality would never be truly achieved if domestic violence was not eliminated. Eliminating family violence was a crucial element of protecting people's human rights, and parliaments had an essential contribution to make. In Belarus, domestic violence was prohibited by law. Parliaments must also ensure the provision of victim support, including psychological support, as this was crucial for recovery. In particular, children must be protected against violence and guaranteed the right to live in dignity. International practice suggested that domestic violence should be prevented not only through punishment but also through education, which should start at school. Legislation should provide for education and work to raise awareness. The problem of violence was not about individuals, but rather about society as a whole. Domestic violence bred violence and conflict at other levels. Parliaments must play an early warning role to prevent such instability and work together with civil society to respond promptly to human rights abuses. Legislation should enable an environment to be established that was conducive to promoting social peace and stability.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States – IPA CIS) said that his organization was made up of nine member states of the CIS. The IPA CIS was an important instrument for inter-parliamentary diplomacy. It was a platform for legislative work and had drafted around 300 model Bills, including on human rights issues. The Assembly also served as a forum for networking and communication between parliamentarians. It was used in difficult situations, including where conflicts had arisen between members of the CIS. In that regard, it was working successfully with the parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan to seek agreement on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. It was hoped that a delegation from Ukraine would use the platform to enter into dialogue with the Russian Federation. The IPA CIS hoped that the IPU Governing Council would approve the decision to host the 137th IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg.

Mr. P. GAVAN (Ireland) said that the issue of human rights was particularly important to his party, Sinn Féin. Party members knew first-hand what it was to have their rights undermined. It was unfortunate that the British Government had confirmed its intention to revoke its commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights, which had been the cornerstone of the Good Friday Agreement. The Agreement had brought peace to the North of Ireland and had been a roadmap for Irish unity. He urged the British Government to respect its legal obligations under the Good Friday Agreement and to think again.

Sinn Féin advocated an independent and progressive Irish international relations policy. It opposed military alliances and worked to promote international cooperation and conflict resolution. It was also opposed to United States military forces using the civilian airport in Shannon. Parliaments could and must work to defend human rights. In that regard, they must demand an immediate end to the United States trade embargo on Cuba, which was contrary to international

law and the Charter of the United Nations. The situation in Palestine was also close to the hearts of the Irish people. The apartheid system imposed by the Israeli Government was the cause of segregation, inequality, supremacism and subjugation. The time had come for parliaments to speak out against these policies of the Israeli State.

Mr. K. TAKANO (Japan) said that in a democracy, parliaments were required to protect people's rights and freedoms by ensuring full implementation of the rule of law. The Constitution was at the heart of any democratic system. It set out the necessary checks and balances for overseeing the work of State authorities and for guaranteeing basic human rights. National constitutions and the IPU Statutes enshrined the essence of how human rights should be defended. Japan contributed official development assistance to developing countries so as to build stable democratic systems. In a globalized world, no State could maintain its own peace and security alone. Japan was therefore participating in international cooperation efforts, flying the flag for pacifism and carrying out its duty as a member of the international community. Recently, the Japanese parliament had adopted a law on the exercise of its right to collective security. As the only nation that had sustained two nuclear attacks, Japan pursued an agenda of peace and security. It had developed the agenda in line with its own experiences and wished to share it with Asia and the rest of the world. Japan therefore actively contributed to regional and international development, peacebuilding and democratization, particularly through disarmament and non-proliferation activity.

Ms. H.H. LIADAL (Norway) said that parliamentarians needed eyes and ears on the ground to monitor human rights situations. They needed someone to tell the stories of the victims of abuse who could not speak up for themselves. They therefore needed a free press. Journalists held parliament and the government to account, ensured transparency and spoke up for the vulnerable and voiceless. They challenged power, questioned established truths, and brought attention to injustice and abuse. Where the worst human rights abuses were committed, press freedom was usually restricted, if it existed at all. Hitler had suppressed the freedom of the press through the "Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda", which had been a central control point for all media. That practice had been followed by many States in the intervening years and was still in place in several cases. Thus far in 2016, some 49 journalists had been killed and 147 imprisoned. During war, truth was the first casualty. Information was a weapon and every party to a conflict used it to their advantage. Independent journalists were therefore crucial.

Ms. A. CLWYD (United Kingdom) said that the 135th IPU Assembly marked the 40th anniversary of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. The Committee addressed serious human rights violations against members of parliament and so contributed to preventing violent conflict. Serious and systematic human rights abuses could be both the cause and the result of wider conflict. Even when armed conflict had not yet occurred, widespread human rights abuses could be an indicator that violence was a future possibility. Once State authorities cut off safe outlets for the expression of grievances, people began to feel that violence was the only way to make themselves heard.

Most countries and parliaments recognized that basic human rights were important to prevent conflict. But no country was immune to human rights violations. Where such violations were systematic and where there were no effective mechanisms for redress, the international community, including parliamentarians worldwide, must try to fill the gap. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians had a key role in that regard. The Committee comprised 10 parliamentarians from around the world and considered cases involving members of parliament whose human rights had been violated while exercising their mandate. The Committee's work was the most constructive aspect of the IPU's activities, as it delivered tangible results. It was the only individual complaints mechanism at the international level to specifically address abuses against members of parliament. Over the course of its 40 years of work, the Committee had helped 2,500 parliamentarians from 109 different countries. The Committee had seen that violent conflict became a distinct possibility when parliaments ceased to work effectively for long periods, and particularly when the opposition was prevented from having a meaningful role. Parliamentary solidarity must unite the world's parliamentarians for peace.

Ms. C.L. CREXELL (Argentina) said that in countries where dictatorships abandoned the rights enshrined in a State's Constitution, human rights were flouted. In Argentina, human rights were a State policy. Human rights violations still persisted, even though the global struggle to promote human rights continued, and human rights were enshrined in numerous international

instruments. Policies and the resources allocated to implement them had not been sufficient. Human rights were basic, inalienable rights, which must be defended. The time had come to move beyond statements and to act. Policies must be linked to internal development, which would guarantee peace. No situation should be accepted in which violence, slavery, intolerance, hunger and vulnerability prevailed. Parliaments could play a preventive role, rather than simply defending human rights when violations occurred. They could do this by designing policies that guaranteed fundamental human rights. Governance based on respect for human rights was the only way to bring peace to the world.

Mr. Y. JABOUR (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the crisis of the global capitalist system had generated conflicts over raw materials, internal market control and energy sources. The conflicts had taken place under the pretext of strengthening democracy, fighting terrorism, tackling corruption and drug trafficking, and defending human rights. Those pretexts came under the umbrella of the responsibility to protect, as had been invoked in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic. The people and Government of Syria were fighting to maintain respect for their national sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to self-determination.

In Latin America, North American imperialism systematically threatened countries with progressive governments, in an attempt to strengthen its hegemony. In that regard, the United Nations had repeatedly condemned the sanctions against Cuba. In Venezuela, an imperialist offensive was being conducted against the people, which aimed to overthrow the President. Furthermore, the steep drop in oil prices and neo-fascist opposition activity had led to considerable political and economic instability. The National Assembly of Venezuela had taken a series of political measures that were contrary to the Constitution and the law, and that sought to undermine democracy, create conditions for a potential civil war and justify foreign intervention. The Venezuelan Government had repeatedly called for dialogue as the only way to resolve the conflict in the country. The democratic opposition was urged to accept that invitation.

Mr. R. POZOS (Mexico) said that history had shown that early intervention could reduce the consequences of conflict. Although there were opportunities to diffuse potential conflict situations, the aim should be to prevent conflict by fostering solidarity between people, and ensuring public welfare. Given the wide variety of international legal tools available to protect individuals' rights, grave human rights violations should not occur. The international community had a joint responsibility to ensure the full implementation of that legal framework. In Mexico, corruption was affecting social issues, which could potentially lead to conflict. Efforts were therefore required to strengthen the rule of law and ensure that perpetrators of violations were held accountable. A good State protected the rights of its citizens. The rule of law ensured respect for the fundamental human rights of all without discrimination. It also enabled those who violated such rights to be punished. The political will to uphold the rule of law was thus essential in order to defend citizens' rights.

Mr. R. CHUBAROV (Ukraine) said that on 5 July 2015 he had been expelled from his home by Russian occupants and had not been able to return. Parliaments were the primary institutions that could prevent national and international challenges to human rights. However, when an authoritarian regime took charge, the parliament became a puppet, simply repeating decisions ordered by the dictator. In 2014, the Russian parliament had voted to allow President Putin to use Russian troops against Ukraine in a gross violation of the principles of international relations. Any action in breach of international law had serious consequences.

More than 1.8 million people were internally displaced in Ukraine, several thousand had been killed and vast economic losses had been incurred. In Crimea, the Tatar population had been taken hostage by the Russian occupiers for speaking openly against the military invasion. The statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation during the General Debate about the flourishing happiness of the Crimean Tatars contradicted reality and was intended to mask the oppressive policies of the occupiers. Systematic repression and discrimination against the Crimean Tatars were increasing every day. Members of the Crimean parliament who had refused to recognize Russian authority had been illegally detained. Young people who opposed the occupation were being persecuted. Many had been abducted and some had later been found dead. The Muslim population that had remained in Crimea was being systematically repressed.

In the case of Crimea, the Russian parliament had not only failed to prevent a conflict, but had enabled a war to be launched. Holding an IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg should therefore be inadmissible until such time as the Russian Federation resumed its respect for the fundamental principles of international law.

Ms. S. KSANTINI (Tunisia) said that human rights violations would continue until the perpetrators were brought to justice. The world was failing to react in many cases. In Myanmar, Muslims were being subjected to genocide, yet the perpetrators were acting with impunity. In Tunisia, a legal system had been established with effective mechanisms for ensuring that human rights were respected. Support was required to uphold the new democracy in Tunisia. She hoped that all parliamentarians present would attend the international development conference in Tunis in November 2016.

Mr. KIM CHUNG SONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation offered its full support to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic in their struggle to defend their national sovereignty. He expressed deep concern about the major powers' scramble for hegemony. The chaos in Syria had begun with the so-called humanitarian interventions of Western powers that had been carried out under the pretext of protecting human rights. Yet who could possibly care more for the human rights situation in Syria than the Syrian people themselves? Western countries talked about peace and security on the Korean peninsula while continuing to sell missiles and despatch fighter planes to the region. They were crying "fire!" while pouring oil on the flames. There were no human rights in a country devastated by war. There were no human rights where State sovereignty was violated and the government was no longer able to defend its own people. It was time to stand up to abuse, and to stand united.

Ms. R. ERSHAD (Bangladesh) said that human rights were under increasing pressure and the world was being plunged into conflict and fragility. Parliamentarians had an important role in the development of meaningful, balanced and informative policies that were fair and that protected the human rights of all citizens. Despite decades of meetings and symposia to discuss human rights, the world remained in turmoil. Many countries were in a state of civil war, in which hundreds of thousands of innocent people were being killed and all human rights standards were being flouted. Parliaments must ensure that the State was truly owned by the people. By listening to the views of the people, and particularly by increasing engagement with marginalized and vulnerable groups, respect and dignity could be fostered. That would ensure the liberty and security of all citizens.

The sitting rose at 7 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective

SITTING OF MONDAY 24 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.40 a.m., with Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-III/135/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Standing Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The ACTING PRESIDENT announced that the following candidatures had been submitted by the geopolitical groups: Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), submitted by the African Group, Mr. A.Y. Desai (India) submitted by the Asia-Pacific Group, Mr. L. Slutsky (Russian Federation), Mr. S. Yershov (Kazakhstan) and a representative of Armenia (whose name was to be confirmed later), submitted by the Eurasia Group and Ms. R.M. Bartra Barriga (Peru), submitted by the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean.

She said that the African Group had nominated Ms. B. Tshireletso for the post of President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

The Committee elected the candidates by acclamation.

Ms. B. Tshireletso took the Chair.

Debate on the resolution on *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective* (C-III/135/DR and C-III/135/M)

The PRESIDENT indicated that the Committee would examine proposals for amendments during its afternoon sitting. She introduced the Co-Rapporteurs: Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior (Kenya) and Ms. N. Marino (Australia) who had agreed to take over from Ms. S. Lines (Australia), whose new responsibilities in parliament prevented her from attending the 135th Assembly.

Ms. B. FILION (IPU Secretariat) gave an overview of the recent IPU study on sexism, harassment, and violence against women in parliament, based on interviews with 55 women parliamentarians. The study had covered physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence, which violated women's human rights and parliamentary freedoms. The problem existed throughout the world. There were troubling levels of violence in parliaments, particularly psychological violence. Women were subjected to threats, often via social media, sexist comments and harassment. A minority of parliaments had regulations or codes of conduct to prevent harassment or unacceptable behaviour. Even fewer had a policy on sexual harassment or a complaints mechanism.

The majority of women interviewed believed that violence and harassment was designed to discourage them from a career in politics. Violence and harassment were obstacles to the proper functioning of parliaments, to inclusiveness and to gender equality. Indeed, they undermined the very foundations of democracy. Parliaments needed to acknowledge the problem, define it and break the silence around it. They should adopt strict legislation and ensure that it was properly

enforced, introduce robust internal policies and mechanisms, and change the political culture. Sexism and violence were not inevitable consequences of female participation. Parliaments must set an example and make clear that such behaviour would not be tolerated.

Ms. N. MARINO (Australia), *co-Rapporteur*, said that building partnerships between men and women was a crucial means of ensuring women's participation in political processes. Women continued to face obstacles, often linked to prevailing cultural, social and economic conditions. The participation target of 30 per cent had not been achieved, and in many countries, it was below 20 per cent.

Although targets and quotas were useful transitional measures, it was important to remember that they could have either an enabling or a restrictive influence. Men also needed to act as mentors and advocates for women's rights, from the grass roots upwards. Cooperation was indispensable to political success. Parliamentarians needed to consider what practical measures could be taken nationally to bring about change.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *co-Rapporteur*, welcomed the amendments that members of the Committee had proposed. The resolution aimed to build bridges between men and women, including by ensuring that delegations were gender balanced. A paradigm shift was required.

Rather than lamenting the lack of progress, parliamentarians needed to establish what could be done both to achieve targets for women's representation and to create an equal playing field. Practical solutions were needed. Quotas worked well in some countries, but not in others. Parliaments needed to consider how to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 (on gender equality and empowering women and girls).

Mr. B. SHIPLEY (Canada) said that parliaments needed to identify and implement tangible measures to promote women's political participation. It was important to focus on education and measures to eliminate discrimination.

Canada's gender-balanced cabinet sent an important signal to other nations. It also demonstrated that women could participate at the highest levels of the decision-making process. Parliaments must set priorities to achieve their goals, in addition to implementing policies to promote women's participation.

Ms. N.V. MENTE (South Africa) said that women continued to face challenges and barriers to participation, particularly in conflict zones and in poor countries. In States where more women were elected to parliament, the standard of living was higher and poverty levels were lower.

In South Africa, significant progress had been made to increase women's political participation. Political parties and candidates respected the rights of women, there was equal participation in political life and women had unrestricted access to public meetings. Nevertheless, measures were needed to ensure parity on electoral lists. The number of South African women in leadership positions was growing, including within the African Union Commission and the United Nations. The Government had achieved its 30 per cent target for women's participation, and was doing everything possible to achieve parity.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the situation of Palestinian women was particularly difficult, as they lived under Israeli occupation and faced danger on a daily basis. Palestinian women did not face discrimination in political life, as they worked together with men in their struggle to end the occupation of Palestine and had equal access to positions of responsibility. Nevertheless, women in Palestine faced difficult living conditions and were affected by unemployment and other socio-economic problems. They often had significant family responsibilities, including as heads of families. Palestinian women would only be able to fully participate in political processes when the occupation of their country ended and they were able to fully enjoy their rights and duties.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that parliamentarians must address the democratic deficit, as equality could never be achieved without measures to end to exploitation, injustice, discrimination and oppression. Women were oppressed not only because of their gender, but also their class, race and background. They were not free to participate in political processes as long as national economies were based on inequality and injustice. Sound ideological foundations, political will and cooperation were needed to achieve gender equality. The underrepresentation of women in politics was merely the tip of the iceberg. Women, specifically working women, encountered difficulties in finding employment, were paid less than men, had poorer career prospects and had more family responsibilities. They faced domestic violence,

discrimination and, in certain cases, legal obstacles to their involvement in political life. As a result, there were few women in senior roles. To promote women's participation, working women's living conditions should improve. However, the mere presence of women in senior roles, regardless of their class or political affiliation, would not in itself mitigate austerity measures or anti-labour policies; nor would it combat the double discrimination that working-class women faced.

Ms. T. MORAIS (Portugal) said that the Portuguese Government had adopted legislation on gender equality and gender-based violence, and had implemented a quota system. Portugal had also been the first European Union Member State to ratify the Treaty of Amsterdam. Women represented 34 per cent of members of parliament. There was certainly scope for improvement in areas such as education or local government. However, Portuguese women were free to participate in politics, and to share duties and responsibilities on an equal footing with men. Women living in countries blighted by conflict had no such freedoms. They were subjected to extreme forms of violence, were unable to freely participate in political processes and lived under a form of slavery. It was vital for parliamentarians to take those women into account in their decisions and policies.

Ms. YOUNG-SUN PARK (Republic of Korea) said that the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea sought to promote gender equality. Currently, women represented 17 per cent of its total membership, the highest number in history. Women's participation was increasing in quantity and quality. It was also gradually increasing at leadership level. A range of measures, including quotas and incentives, had contributed to those changes. Nevertheless, quota systems had their limitations.

Mr. T.S. EDY (Indonesia) said that his Government was committed to enhancing women's political participation. Electoral legislation included a quota for women's participation. Currently, women made up just under 20 per cent of the members of the House of Representatives and held 26 per cent of seats in the Regional Representative Council. At executive level, women held a number of ministerial posts and a range of senior and junior mid-level positions. Their influence was also growing at local government level.

Initiatives to support women entrepreneurs included measures to ensure better access to loans. Although steps had been taken to promote women's political participation, women's leadership should be further supported. Inclusive financial support, political education and awareness-raising measures would contribute to enhancing women's participation.

Ms. H. BSISU (Jordan) said that, in recent elections, women had won seats outside of the quota system. Although Jordanian women were highly educated, more should be done to enhance their participation in political life. Measures were needed to help women balance family life with a political career. She welcomed the concept of a gender audit, which would help parliaments to set priorities.

Ms. DONGHUA ZHAO (China) said that the Chinese Government's policies were based on the principles of fairness and justice. Gender issues had been integrated into the post-2015 development agenda. The principle of gender equality was enshrined in the Constitution and the Government was implementing a wide range of policies and regulations to promote equal opportunities. The national development plan included measures to promote women's political participation.

Chinese women held senior management posts, and a growing number were entering parliamentary politics. Women also held local and municipal government leadership positions. Mechanisms to protect the rights of women and children were being improved. Courses on gender equality were taught in schools and featured as part of the university curriculum.

Mr. M.N. AL-GBURI (Iraq) said that democratic development depended on economic progress and security. Significant progress had been made on women's participation in recent years. Women held approximately 25 per cent of seats in parliament and worked in senior public posts, including in the diplomatic service. They played an important role in the economy and the education system. To facilitate Iraqi women's full participation in political life, it was vital to support Iraqi women through international cooperation, including in efforts to combat terrorism.

Ms. F. DIB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that women's participation fostered development and strengthened democracy. Women in the Syrian Arab Republic were politically active and worked in an enabling atmosphere. The full participation of women was enshrined in the Constitution, which

also stipulated that women could hold public office. Syrian women held senior posts at all levels of government and in all public institutions. However, the threat of terrorism prevented women from enjoying their fundamental rights. Terrorist groups aimed to control women, undermine their rights and reduce them to sexual objects. Legislative measures were required to strengthen the role of women.

Mr. N. HASHMI (Pakistan) said that the women of Pakistan enjoyed a wide range of freedoms, including the freedom to participate in public affairs and stand for public office. Women were also active in non-governmental organizations, trade unions and other bodies. The Constitution enshrined the right for women to participate fully, and women's rights were also protected under domestic law. Women's political participation had been growing in recent years, and 60 of the 342 seats in the National Assembly were reserved for women. Women also held 17 per cent of the seats in the Senate.

Measures had been taken to amend existing legislation and to introduce new provisions to enhance women's rights. The National Commission on the Status of Women had been established to monitor government policies and programmes in the field of women's rights and gender equality. The Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Pakistan also worked to enhance women's participation in the parliamentary process and to reform the existing legal framework.

Mr. K.P. SOLANKI (India) said that the success of democratic systems depended on gender equality. The free participation of women was vital to the welfare of the nation and fostered global progress. It was important to encourage participation and to combat stereotypes. India had ratified a range of international instruments and taken measures to promote women's participation. Parliamentarians needed to ensure that best practices were implemented nationally. India had proposed an amendment to the resolution that referred to the fact that household work often went unrecognized.

Mr. J. MOKHTAR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that in order to combat gender stereotypes, it was important to raise awareness and educate people, starting with the youngest in society. Long-term strategies were needed, including national and local programmes. The full participation of women in the democratic process was of the utmost importance both nationally and internationally.

Ms. A. ALSHAMAN (Saudi Arabia) said that both genders needed to participate equally in political processes. Women's representation in parliament remained limited, and there were too few women in senior posts in the public and private sectors. Women's skills and abilities were not properly used or represented in public life. Economic and social change was necessary in addition to legislation. Women themselves often failed to speak up and demand a change in their circumstances. In certain cases, cultural norms or traditions also imposed restrictions on women, as did as unemployment and poverty. Further measures were needed to achieve equality in parliament and to promote women's leadership. There was a need for stronger political will, reform of the education system, improvements in how women were portrayed and measures to encourage competition between the sexes. Parliamentarians must stress the need to achieve equal participation. A successful strategy would involve cooperation with religious leaders and all sections of society.

Ms. Y. MEFTALI (Algeria) said that quotas had been successfully applied in Algeria, and women currently held 30 per cent of seats in parliament. The new Constitution contained provisions on labour market equality. There were also plans to amend party and electoral law: electoral lists would contain an equal number of men and women, and women would be placed at the top of lists. Women needed to play a full role in political life and decision-making processes.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) said that women's rights were human rights. The resolution could play an important role in the struggle to ensure women's full participation in political processes. It highlighted relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. All States must be encouraged to implement that Convention. Better methods of exchanging experiences were needed to enable parliamentarians to learn from each other.

The Swedish Social Democratic Party implemented a quota system in all ballots. The Swedish parliament also sought to lead by example, and women currently held 43.5 per cent of parliamentary seats. She suggested that deadlines were needed for achieving women's empowerment. She drew attention to the HeforShe campaign, which called on men to champion

women's rights. She stressed the need for the Committee to use consistent terminology throughout the resolution, for example by opting for either "women and men" or "men and women". She urged the Committee to adopt the resolution and to develop strategies to implement it nationally in order to ensure women's full participation in political processes.

Mr. A.K. AZAD (Bangladesh) said that in Bangladesh, women held senior positions in parliament and in government. No country was immune to human rights violations. Failure to respect human dignity and to deal with abuses provided a breeding ground for violent conflict. Poor governance often compounded the problem.

Ms. R. HONTIVEROS (Philippines) proposed to amend operative paragraph 16 (6) to include an interim target of 40 per cent. The Congress of the Philippines had adopted a similar, staggered approach to implementing participation targets.

The PRESIDENT said that the deadline for submitting amendments had passed.

Ms. M. IONOVA (Ukraine) said that the level of women's political participation in Ukraine was low, but the quality was high. Nevertheless, there was an urgent need to help women enter politics, particularly at local level. The media had a crucial role to play in that regard. She also noted that sexual violence against women in the parts of the country under Russian occupation was a serious problem. The Government continued to adopt progressive documents, and had ratified a number of international instruments.

Mr. P.M. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments must play a key role in strengthening women's participation in political life. Men and boys must also be involved in such efforts.

The Government had contributed to enhancing women's participation by providing an adequate legal framework. A gender-sensitive Constitution provided for reserved women's seats in both parliamentary chambers. The recent national launch of the HeforShe campaign demonstrated that there was political will to implement change. Women had been elected to senior political posts, including President of the Senate. Parliamentarians needed to disseminate the resolution in their home parliaments and work to ensure its implementation.

Mr. F. MWIJUKYE (Uganda) said that the Government had made great strides in promoting women's participation and creating an enabling environment. Women held leadership positions, including senior posts in parliament. However, women leaders viewed seats in government as a privilege, and spent much of their time focusing on general interests, rather than women's issues.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia) said that enhancing women's participation in the decision-making process was a challenging task. In Zambia, efforts had been made to identify the root causes of the problem, and to examine existing policies and legislation. The socialization of boys and girls had been identified as a potential factor. While boys were taught to feel superior, girls were taught to be obedient and self-effacing. Those differences set certain patterns for adult life.

Although women in Zambia did hold senior posts, they were generally token appointments. Action was needed to enhance women's political participation both internationally and nationally. The *Boys to Men* project aimed to encourage boys to view girls as development partners. Another project, *Women at Work*, focused on mentoring girls and building their self-esteem. The aim was to change attitudes, starting with the youngest members of society. This would lay the groundwork for introducing progressive gender policies in the future.

Mr. D.P. LOSIAKU (Kenya) stressed the importance of gender parity, and indicated that quotas were extremely effective. In Kenya, for example, certain constituencies had been exclusively set aside for women, while others were open to candidates of either gender. In order to bring about change, measures must either be integrated into specific legislation, or incorporated into the constitutional framework. Time frames for achieving targets were needed, and penalties must be imposed to prevent violations. For example, political parties that failed to field women candidates could be sanctioned with funding cuts. It was also important to consider whether too much regulation was stifling democracy. Change must come from the people, not from legal documents, and parliamentarians represented the people.

Ms. J. AL SAMMAK (Bahrain) said that women played a vital role in society, and it was essential to ensure their participation in political processes. The gender gap varied from country to country. Some countries used quotas as a provisional solution, although this remained

controversial. In Bahrain, women enjoyed political and civil rights. They could be elected to parliament and occupied high-level posts in governmental bodies, the judiciary and the diplomatic service. Measures had been taken to create an enabling environment for women, including through quotas. Internationally, exclusively focusing on top-down mandatory measures should be avoided.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that women held 38.8 per cent of seats in the Ethiopian parliament. In local government, approximately half of councillors were women. However, there was a gender gap within the executive. The Government was aware of the problem. It was therefore implementing measures that prioritized women's education and aimed both to create a strong legal framework and to develop policies to protect women's rights. Economic empowerment was also being fostered, particularly among young people. All stakeholders should work together to enhance women's political participation.

Mr. KIM CHUNG SONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that peace and sustainable development were impossible to achieve without gender equality. He noted the work of the national coordination committee on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the mechanisms introduced to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition to legislation, steps had been taken to ease women's household burdens. Women's share of leadership roles had increased. Work was also underway to combat sexist attitudes and create an enabling atmosphere for women. Social education programmes focused on promoting family balance. Women were making an important contribution to society in his country.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that all programmes or policies discussed in parliament included a gender dimension. The main challenge for Russian women was how to reconcile a career with family life. Measures such as access to pre-school childcare were designed to support working mothers. Russian women were also active in peace movements, including the forum on peace initiatives recently held in St. Petersburg. She stressed that men and women needed to work together for peace and prosperity.

Ms. M.Y. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) said that it was difficult to change cultural attitudes and tackle prejudice and inequality, in order to promote women's economic and political participation. However, the situation in Cuba proved what could be achieved where there was strong political will. The Government had implemented comprehensive policies and allocated financial resources to enhance women's participation. Women's organizations, such as the Federation of Cuban Women, also played a critical role in the fight for gender equality.

Even though no quota system was in use, women currently held 48.8 per cent of seats in the National Assembly of People's Power and 45 per cent of seats in the Council of State. Women also held senior posts in regional government bodies, ministries and various professional and technical fields. Although much work still lay ahead, Cuban men and women would continue to work together to address the various challenges their country faced.

Mr. N. BAKO ARIFARI (Benin) said that women were not well represented in the decision-making process. For example, only 7 of the 83 members of the National Assembly were women. Currently, political parties could commit to an optional 30 per cent target for women's participation. However, efforts were being made to go further than that. A draft law on gender equality had been submitted to parliament. Unfortunately, the constitutionality of the draft law had been challenged and so blocked progress. Perhaps the IPU could develop training courses on resolving such disputes?

Ms. N. ZANGAR (Tunisia) said that women needed to participate in decision-making processes on an equal footing with men. In Tunisia, the personal status code and electoral legislation sought to promote women's rights and ensure equal gender representation on municipal and local authority electoral lists. However, women remained vulnerable to oppression and violence, which were used to exclude them from the decision-making process. It was vital to ensure that women were able to take up their rightful role in society and be appointed to important posts.

Ms. L. KHENG (Cambodia) said that the Government had taken steps to enhance gender equality at all levels and in all sectors. The national development strategy and action plan included a gender dimension. Her ministry had implemented internal measures to promote gender equality, and had established a working group on gender. Budgetary funding had been allocated to improve education and healthcare. The Government had taken measures including: scholarships for poor

women; initiatives to ensure a safe learning environment for female students; and steps to provide vocational training and support entrepreneurship. Women's independence and their participation in decision-making processes should be fostered. Just over 20 per cent of parliamentarians in the lower house and 18 per cent in the upper house were women. Women also held a number of senior government posts. Women's participation was essential to democracy, and further efforts were required to meet the targets outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Ms. E. DIENDA (Namibia) said that her country used both party list and first-past-the-post electoral systems. Three political parties had adopted the principle of equal representation under the party list system. However, there was no legal framework to ensure parties complied. The party list system was used in municipal elections. Gender equality had also been bolstered by a legal requirement for at least 40 per cent female representation in order for municipal election results to be declared valid. The first-past-the-post system had been less successful in terms of equality. It was hoped that the introduction of a quota system would improve the situation. Laws should have specific time frames in order to ensure compliance.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt) said that few Egyptian women held key posts, even though they were able to participate in economic and political life. Women's personal circumstances often prevented them from participating. For example, some men disapproved of their wives playing a role in public life. Men should also contribute to promoting gender equality. Parliaments needed to review and amend all discriminatory legislation, implement policies to enhance women's access to politics, and enable women to participate in the decision-making process. Political parties should welcome women, and negative attitudes towards women in society should be addressed.

Ms. M. BABA SY (Mauritania) said that inequalities remained, even though progress had been made. Although the Government had ratified a number of international instruments, the implementation process had stalled. That said, the Constitution guaranteed equality between men and women, and the legal age of majority had been increased to 18. Measures had also been taken to reform the education system and ensure equal wages. A transitional law on quotas had been adopted so that more women could be elected to the National Assembly. A system of mixed lists had been introduced that featured alternating male and female candidates. However, the parliamentary quotas set had not been achieved. Although a significant number of women held senior government posts, various difficulties remained. For example, women still lacked the right to pass on their nationality to their children or spouses; women's access to land was severely restricted; and no specific legislation had been introduced to combat female genital mutilation.

Mr. A. ATICI (Turkey) said that, although Turkish women nominally enjoyed equal rights, that did not translate into equality in practice. The 15 per cent of parliamentarians who were women did not have equal opportunities in the political process. The language used in parliamentary politics was overtly masculine or sexist. Although an equal opportunities committee had been established within the National Assembly, it was ineffective and its spokesperson was a man. Only the main opposition party applied a gender quota. If women won political office, it was common for them to resign in favour of their husband or brother. Efforts to change people's attitudes were therefore essential.

Ms. B.F. GUZMAN GOMEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that women held more than half the seats in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly due to a national reform process. Legislation had been adopted to ensure that half the candidates on party lists were women, and that women were alternates on electoral lists. Political will was essential to success. The President actively promoted women's participation, and more than half the ministers in government were women. In order to alter political structures, measures must be taken to ensure that economic and social change accompanied legislative reform. Political participation was a fundamental right.

Ms. K. OTA (Japan) said that in her country, women's political participation had plateaued at a relatively low level. Traditional gender attitudes were prevalent, and further measures were required to encourage more women to enter politics. Her party had drafted two legislative proposals: a draft law on gender parity and a review of existing electoral legislation. The whole of society would benefit if steps were taken to change people's attitudes in order to create an enabling environment for women.

Mr. P. WANGCHUK (Bhutan) said that his delegation had reservations about the effectiveness of quota systems. Bhutanese women had expressed similar concerns, and had questioned whether quotas might have an impact on the quality of candidates for elected posts.

Ms. M.H. RODRIGUES (Brazil) said that relatively large numbers of women participated in Brazilian politics. A range of measures had been implemented to promote women's rights and combat violence against women. An amendment to the Constitution had been proposed to reserve seats for women in parliament; the Government had declared 2016 the year of women's empowerment; and efforts had been made to foster women's leadership at regional level and to support their participation in politics. Campaigns had been run to raise awareness of existing legislation, including provisions on domestic violence. The Government had also launched a programme to promote child development and support women from the start of pregnancy. That initiative was part of major efforts to strengthen the social protection network, support families and provide basic healthcare for women.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Elections to the Bureau

(continued)

The PRESIDENT of the Committee explained that the Bureau had considered candidatures for the post of Committee Vice-President, and had decided to nominate Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus).

The Committee approved the candidature.

Adoption of the resolution on *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective.*

Ms. N. MARINO (Australia), *co-Rapporteur*, commended the resolution to the Committee. She noted with concern that the global average of women's participation in parliament was only 22.8 per cent. The resolution urged parliaments to repeal or amend discriminatory legislation. This would enable delegates at the Assembly to take action when they returned to their national parliaments. It was important to tackle direct and indirect discrimination, and to review parliamentary processes. Men and women parliamentarians must work together. Strong male mentors and champions were urgently needed. Political leaders also needed to unequivocally condemn acts of harassment and violence.

The Committee adopted the resolution and decided that the co-Rapporteurs should jointly present it to the Assembly for formal adoption.

Preparation for future Assemblies

(a) Adoption of an agenda for the 136th and 137th IPU Assemblies

(b) Proposal for a subject for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee

The PRESIDENT explained that the Bureau had considered proposals for the subject of the next resolution from Canada, Russian Federation and Sudan. Proposals from Argentina and Cyprus had also been received, but after the submission deadline. The Bureau had decided to recommend to the Committee the Russian proposal, *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Democracy*. The resolution would be debated during the 136th IPU Assembly, with a view to adopting it at the 137th. Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation) would be one of the co-Rapporteurs; the other would be appointed during the session in Dhaka.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that dozens of countries celebrated the International Day of Democracy. The proposed resolution was an opportunity to reaffirm the principles of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, to increase the visibility of IPU activities and to promote democratic values throughout the world.

The Committee approved the recommendation.

(c) Proposal for a debate at the 136th Assembly: subject item to be considered by the Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT explained that the Bureau had also considered proposals for a debate during the 136th IPU Assembly, and had recommended the following: *Act now for adolescents: The role of parliamentarians in promoting adolescent health and well-being.*

The representative of SOUTH SUDAN asked why the proposal specifically focused on adolescents.

The representative of CYPRUS suggested that the debate could be accompanied by the dissemination of research information, or an exhibition on health issues. She indicated that it would be useful to complement discussions with other related activities.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that adolescents were the age group that was most affected by problems such as drug use, exposure to HIV and AIDS, and migration. There would be sufficient time available to research the national impact of current political, social and economic issues on the health and well-being of adolescents.

The PRESIDENT said that the subject had been proposed by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

The representative of INDIA asked what progress had been made in the field of maternal health, and noted that it was important to focus on issues such as malnutrition.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that the topic was of critical importance. It was vital to ensure support for young children and adolescents. Globally, children and adolescents were susceptible to a whole host of risks, which included falling pregnant at a young age, being recruited as child soldiers and being forced into marriage. "Well-being" was an appropriate term and could cover issues such as drugs and trafficking. The subject should be inclusive and apply to all regions and geopolitical groups.

The representative of KENYA said that previous discussions had focused on mothers, children and young people in the 20 – 30 age group. The Committee had never previously discussed the subject of adolescents, who were an important demographic group.

The representative of ETHIOPIA said that "adolescents" included teenagers up to the age of 19. He requested further information on the topic of education, as access to education was an important issue in developing countries and constituted one aspect of "health and well-being".

The representative of BAHRAIN suggested that the Committee should first approve the general topic for debate and then select subsidiary topics.

The representative of COSTA RICA said that as a doctor, he was aware of the problems affecting adolescents, including issues relating to health, conflict and sexuality. He therefore welcomed the proposed topic.

The Committee approved the recommendation.

The sitting rose at 3 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

SITTING OF MONDAY 24 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

(C-1/135/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)

The summary record of the last session was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had five vacant posts. The African Group wished to nominate Mr. R. Ossele Ndong (Gabon), Mr. A.L.S. Ssebagala (Uganda) and Ms. G. Katuta (Zambia). The Asia-Pacific Group wished to nominate Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) and Ms. S. Abid (Pakistan).

It was so decided.

Expert hearing on the theme

The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States

Mr. F. ZARBIYEV (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) *Panellist*, said that the principle of non-interference was surrounded by uncertainty. For instance, it was unclear whether non-interference was a legal principle or a general rule about State behaviour. Some had even doubted its very existence.

External interference was prohibited on matters, which every State could decide freely, including its internal and external affairs. The International Court of Justice had ruled in this way in a 1986 case between Nicaragua and the United States. Intervention was also prohibited if: firstly, it aimed to secure a change in policy; and secondly, it used coercion. Coercion was defined as the subordination of the sovereign will of another State through political, economic or other means. As the issue of coercion was often forgotten, it had caused much of the disparity between theory and practice.

The principle of non-interference, particularly on matters considered to be within a State's jurisdiction, was changeable and relative. For example, the Nazis considered the oppression of its citizens to fall under the State's sovereign remit. In the present political climate, however, human rights had become an international concern. Similarly, humanitarian intervention had been considered as a potential violation of non-interference. However, the Nicaragua case had made clear that humanitarian intervention was permitted if it was non-discriminatory and aimed to alleviate human suffering.

The meaning of the non-interference principle could be stretched beyond recognition, but it was wrong to say that it did not exist.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the non-interference principle was being challenged all over the world, including in Syria, Iraq and Nigeria. Cyprus had experienced intervention through Turkey's illegal occupation. In theory, the basic principle was simple. Non-interference should be distinguished from the responsibility to protect. But equally, self-determination should not come at the expense of human rights. In practice, however, the situation was more multi-faceted. States tended to favour their own interests over higher, universal values. Double standards also persisted. When legislating and scrutinizing government policy, parliamentarians had a pivotal role in opposing practices which breached international law.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, said that non-intervention was controversial. States agreed on the need to assist victims of grave crimes, such as genocide. However, they disagreed on whether humanitarian intervention was acceptable if the objective was regime change. The present discussion would serve as a platform to put forward new ideas to national governments and for the forthcoming resolution.

Debate

Mr. S. AL-RIKABI (Iraq) said that terrorism was the greatest threat to peace and security and that it affected the entire world. Iraq was at the front line of combatting terrorism. It had been somewhat effective, including by liberating terrorist-controlled areas. More support was required, although his country was grateful for the support it had already received from the international community, particularly the international coalition. States should work together to address the intellectual roots of terrorism by, for example, closing schools that encouraged hatred, xenophobia and exclusion. States should tackle the recruitment networks that had brought foreign fighters into Iraq. States should also thwart all terrorist financing, including funds from wealthy countries and the proceeds of trading in goods such as antiques.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN and Mr. T. DOHERTY (Canada) said that their country was unequivocally opposed to military aggression and illegal occupations and would use all means available to hold States accountable. Human rights were compatible with the principle of sovereign equality and self-determination.

Canada's foreign policy priorities included support for the advancement of inclusive and accountable governance, peaceful pluralism and respect for diversity and human rights. In its work, Canada prioritized the prevention of mass atrocities and genocide, in particular with respect to early warning, assessment and resolution of conflict through peaceful means. Canada provided support for peace operations, mediation, conflict prevention, reconstruction and early recovery efforts after humanitarian crises. The country intervened militarily only as a last resort.

Parliamentarians were in a privileged position to strengthen respect for international law, including the duty of non-intervention, by scrutinizing national policy and institutions. They must also work together to advance the international institutions responsible for peace, security, accountability and human rights.

Mr. S. NEZAHBAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the interpretation and implementation of non-interference had been seriously challenged. As major lawmaking bodies, Parliaments could play a substantive role in preserving the principle of non-interference by influencing government policy. The IPU should also assist in correcting practices that undermined the non-interference principle.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that external interference in domestic policy, particularly by the international community, had increased. The main reason for the increase was instability in many countries. The number of domestic conflicts was also on the rise. The Middle East had been hardest hit by interference, which had caused tensions to soar in the region and beyond. The IPU should oblige the United Nations to more clearly define the principle of non-interference and to distinguish between internal and external affairs. Cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations should also be strengthened. International stability must be based on cooperation, sovereignty and non-interference.

Mr. A. NEOFYTOS (Cyprus) said that parliamentarians had a crucial role in safeguarding citizens' security, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The resolution should be based on the idea that any outside interference that contradicted the UN Charter undermined global peace, security, democracy and progress.

Mr. S. ALHUSSEINI (Saudi Arabia) said that the Middle East was indeed the most troubled area of the world because of the interference of non-Arab countries in the region. It was particularly important to counter any interference that undermined the principle of sovereign immunity. One example of such interference was the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, by which federal courts in the United States of America were authorized under US law to sue other countries. Such measures could lead to chaos, particularly from an economic perspective. The uncertainty they caused could impact negatively on the flow of trade, capital and investment.

Mr. V. GUPTA (India) said that India was firmly committed to the principle of non-interference and had always promoted the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiation. Indeed, India had resolved boundary issues with Bangladesh in that manner. Parliamentary diplomacy was a unique approach towards forging people-to-people cooperation. He requested clarification on the difference between positive interference and regular interference and asked whether the IPU could play a more proactive role in preventing interference.

Mr. R. DERSSA (Ethiopia) said that peace, security and development were interconnected. For instance, Ethiopia had halved poverty by promoting peace and security. Similarly, economic growth would make the country less vulnerable to internal and external security threats, such as terrorism.

Ethiopia's security structures were guided by both the federal and regional constitutions, which aimed to ensure human rights and growth. The country also had parliamentary committees responsible for security and defence. Ethiopia's efforts were encouraging, but more action was needed. It was the State's prime responsibility to ensure security. But people also had a duty to cooperate with the State and the international community.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect were modern expressions of imperialism. The international community had used many pretexts to legitimize interference, such as communism, drug trafficking and terrorism. In reality, such actions breached the principles of sovereignty and self-determination. It had become clear that interference did not solve problems related to injustice, inequality, poverty and underdevelopment; it actually exacerbated them. Unfortunately, most of the media was controlled by major powers, so that interference was often presented as praiseworthy. Cuba itself had been subject to many instances of subversive, aggressive and coercive interference by the United States, which had had dire repercussions on human rights. The clearest example was the embargo. Indeed, countries claiming to be human rights defenders frequently imposed unilateral sanctions as a form of oppression. Such double standards must be changed, first and foremost, by reforming the United Nations.

Mr. R. TAU (South Africa) said that his country was committed to the principle of non-interference. However, there were also global issues, which no country could deal with alone, including humanitarian crises, climate change, genocide and terrorism. As a result, a number of measures should be taken. Firstly, parliamentarians should strengthen the rule of law and fight injustice and corruption in their respective countries. Secondly, they should oversee the establishment of strong, independent human rights institutions and monitor their work. Thirdly, good governance must be promoted. Fourthly, State capacities, particularly intelligence capacity, must be improved. Fifthly, the IPU should advocate for the reform of the UN Security Council and then push the United Nations to resolve the Israel-Palestine question. Lastly, it must be acknowledged that interference in the form of foreign funding given to civil society organizations could lead to actions, which undermined the State.

Mr. B. TARASYUK (Ukraine) said that the Russian Federation had intervened militarily on the territory of Ukraine, which was inadmissible. Therefore, it was also inadmissible to hold the 137th IPU Assembly in the Russian Federation. Ukraine fully supported the drafting of a resolution on non-interference. However, he urged the Rapporteur to be objective, given that he had voted in favour of the Russian Federation's intervention in Ukraine.

Mr. M.A. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that his country was strongly against foreign interventions. The State had a primary responsibility to protect its population. Any outside interventions in the name of the responsibility to protect must be carried out responsibly. Military intervention should be a last resort. He asked what indicators could be used to identify whether a State was unwilling or unable to guarantee its citizens' human rights.

Mr. B. MERJANEH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect had been established unilaterally to serve the interests of major powers. The end of the Cold War had led to many external interventions (even by the United Nations), which had been initiated under the pretext of human rights, peace and security. Examples included the involvement of the West in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. In reality, such interventions undermined the principle of sovereignty. He proposed that the co-Rapporteurs take into account the document prepared by the Syrian delegation when writing the initial draft resolution on non-interference.

Mr. S. ITO (Japan) said that the principle of non- interference should be balanced against the protection of human rights. The vetoes that could be exercised in the UN Security Council prevented it from approving interventions where human rights violations were occurring. Therefore the Security Council must be reformed. The IPU would have a stronger voice on the issue if it had a stronger voice at the United Nations.

Ms. S. ABID (Pakistan) said that the responsibility to protect populations lay, first and foremost, with national governments. Any outside interference should only facilitate matters. Humanitarian intervention must never be misused to further the political motives of powerful States, particularly when the true objective was regime change. All actions must be guided by the United Nations' principles of universality, non-selectivity, transparency, impartiality, proportionality and accountability. The use of force should be a last resort.

Mr. N. AL-HADID (Jordan) said that interference through the media was also very damaging and divisive, as demonstrated in the Middle East. The IPU should intensify its efforts to guarantee the principles of non-interference and sovereignty. It should also make recommendations to governments to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. The use of force could have negative repercussions, such as terrorism.

Mr. M. GAPES (United Kingdom) said that the United Nations was failing to address the war in Syria. The UN Security Council was not ensuring the responsibility to protect because the Russian Federation continued to veto collective international action. He asked what could be done to remedy the situation. Self-determination should not come at the expense of human rights.

Mr. K. ÖRNFJÄDER (Sweden) said that national sovereignty and human rights sometimes clashed. The responsibility to protect belonged, first and foremost, to national authorities. It was only when a country lacked the capacity or will to address grave human rights violations that international interventions could be considered. The UN Security Council had repeatedly failed to live up to its commitments to maintain international peace and security. But no other body could match its legitimacy. By exercising parliamentary oversight and engaging in inter-parliamentary diplomacy, parliamentarians must ensure that governments observed the principles of the UN Charter.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said that the principle of non-interference was constantly being violated despite being enshrined in the UN Charter. The human rights rationale used to legitimize outside intervention usually served the economic and political interests of the intervening powers. Indeed, outside interference actually exacerbated situations in which human rights were under threat. Parliamentarians should harmonize domestic legislation with international law to prohibit outside intervention. They must also encourage the IPU and the United Nations to work together and assess the human rights situation in States where foreign intervention had taken place. Finally, parliaments should make sure that their governments did not violate human rights. That would remove the pretexts used for foreign intervention.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that external interference was being carried out under different pretexts, including those related to human rights. Bahrain itself had been subjected to outside interference, including through attempted coups and statements made against the country. Parliaments must pass laws to protect against such interference, monitor the government and preserve human rights. Nationality should be revoked from anyone engaging in treason, including from ambassadors who contact terrorist groups. Parliamentarians must speak out against legislation such as the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (adopted by the US Congress), which was an example of outside interference.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that the role of parliaments must be defined. For instance, should parliaments seek to prevent atrocities or simply support human rights and international law? In her view, parliamentarians had a responsibility not only to protect but also to prevent. If interference was prohibited altogether, there would be no value to the UN human rights conventions. She asked whether the situation in Libya in 2011 and the situation in Crimea in 2014 would fall under the responsibility to protect. She also asked whether stopping the atrocities in Syria would be considered interference.

Ms. P. CAYETANO (Philippines) said that the Philippines had suffered security issues, war and unrest in the past. But the current President was making a positive change towards peace. For instance, he had called for many social reforms, charged corrupt government officials and forged stronger ties with other Asian countries.

Mr. B. QASEM (Palestine) said that his country had long been suffering from the most grievous form of outside interference: the Israeli occupation. Every day, Israeli forces were expanding the land they held and building more settlements while Palestinians were deported and displaced. The IPU should work together with the United Nations to address issues of legitimacy relating to the Palestinian question and to establish an independent Palestine.

Ms. D. KEDOGO (Kenya) said that parliaments had a significant role to play in promoting non-interference by overseeing government activity, passing legislation and developing policy. Candidates standing for election should not be allowed to receive endorsements or funds from abroad. Foreign relations policy should be in no way prejudicial to a country's sovereignty. Treaty implementation must be monitored and parliaments should engage in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, for instance, by participating in international forums. Good governance, cooperation and integrity were the keys to preventing external interference.

Mr. M. KADAM (Chad) said that ambiguous concepts such as the responsibility to protect were being used to serve the interests of great powers at the expense of smaller countries. External interventions were often pursued in the name of human rights, but were frequently destructive, as had been the case in Libya. That was an indication of double standards. It was extremely difficult to define when an intervention was legitimate, since not all countries shared the same objectives, including on human rights. The UN Security Council must be reformed so that intervention would only be possible if there was unanimous agreement.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that his country supported the principle of the responsibility to protect but the criteria for it were still unclear. It was particularly important to discuss how to respond to new elements in the international system, including foreign terrorist fighters and other non-State actors. When fulfilling the responsibility to protect, it was essential to build capacity, so as to ensure political stability, social equality, sustainable economic development and respect for human rights. That capacity should be based on constructive engagement and should address the concerns of the receiving State. The responsibility to protect should never be used as a 'back door' for intervention.

Mr. A. AHMED ALHARDALOW (Sudan) said that the principle of non-interference was widely ignored, and that the expert had not addressed who was responsible for that. The same powers repeatedly interfered in and exploited weaker States. The principle of non-interference must be reviewed to better reflect current realities. Parliament must pass legislation in that regard and the United Nations must also play a role. Currently, UN Security Council resolutions did not always serve the interests of all, and the right to veto was a danger to weaker States. Special groups should be set up within the IPU to help national parliaments combat interference.

Mr. A. NOMBRE (Burkina Faso) said that the concept of non-intervention must be clearly defined. He asked the expert to provide more information on humanitarian intervention as an exception to the principle of non-interference. The expert should also elaborate on the links between regime change and support for internal political opposition groups. He asked the expert to explain whether post-election violence was also an exception to the principle.

Mr. A. KHASRU (Bangladesh) said that the superpowers spoke loudly in favour of human rights but in fact, were the main manufacturers of arms. A strong IPU and a strong United Nations was needed to take action against that.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) said that a balance must be struck between national sovereignty and respect for international law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights established a shared responsibility to preserve human rights. It was unacceptable that the international community had failed to act swiftly on a number of occasions. For instance, Europe had failed to stop its citizens from joining terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq. The benefit of the IPU was dialogue, which was vital to achieving international peace.

Mr. A. FULATA (Nigeria) said that intervention should be permitted in the case of grave human rights violations or if based entirely on providing humanitarian assistance and protecting communities. A distinction must be made between humanitarian and imperialist intervention. Most interventions were purely imperialist, as was the case in Syria. However, a country like Sudan was in desperate need of immediate humanitarian intervention, without which it risked obliteration.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that external interference in the form of physical interference, cyberattacks and sanctions had increased. Zimbabwe was a case in point. External interference in Zimbabwe had led to economic damage and accusations of crimes that it did not commit. It was important to remember that the people had voted for the President and the country should be left alone to deal with its own affairs. The IPU should clarify its role in combatting interference and fulfil that role in relation to Zimbabwe.

Ms. J.A. ALEX (South Sudan) said that stronger States tended to infringe upon the sovereignty of weaker States, particularly in conflict situations, without resolving the issues at hand. For instance, resolutions were often adopted without consulting the States concerned. The situation was not balanced and the principle of non-interference should be revised.

Mr. L. SLUTSKY (Russian Federation) said that the statement from Ukraine was provocative and false. The Russian Federation had not interfered in the internal affairs of Ukraine and did not have military forces stationed there. The situation could not be compared to Yugoslavia, Libya or Iraq. Those countries had been completely destroyed by interventions, which had taken place under false pretences and against the will of the UN Security Council. The Russian Federation was not an aggressor but a partner for neighbouring countries. In its support for the Syrian Government, his country was combating global terrorism and other States should follow suit. The position of the Rapporteur must be maintained.

Mr. F. ZARBIYEV (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), *Panellist*, said that his presentation had aimed to give details about the law rather than identify specific States, which might be accused of interventions. Canada was right to make the connection between non- interference and sovereign equality. In fact, the connection had already been made in the Islands of Palmas case (*United States v The Netherlands*), which was proof that the principle of non- interference did exist. Human rights were an international commitment rather than one on which States were permitted to decide freely. As a result, any intervention in the name of human rights orchestrated without the use of force and with the authorization of the UN Security Council was not prohibited. At the same time, human rights could not be used as a pretext for regime change.

Responding to Indonesia, he said that the responsibility to protect was triggered by grave human rights violations, if they were not being addressed by the relevant national government. Under the obligation of due diligence, a government's failure to act was an indication of its unwillingness or inability to deal with a problem. It was possible that the situation in Libya may have fallen under the principle of the responsibility to protect. But it had been handled outside the collective security mechanism of the United Nations.

In answer to Burkina Faso, he said that humanitarian intervention was an exception to the principle of non- interference if the objective was to help rather than to replace the government. International law did not support replacing a regime by force if it was done by individual States and outside the framework of collective security. It was also prohibited to fund political parties whose objective was to forcibly overturn a government. The law on funding was unclear if the aim of a party was to carry out normal activities. Funding political parties from abroad was considered a breach of the principle of non- interference if prohibited by the country in which the party operated. Providing commentaries on elections from abroad was not prohibited. As a general rule, coercive interventions were always prohibited.

The PRESIDENT said that the delegations' comments would be taken into account when drafting the resolution, which would be approved at the 136th IPU Assembly in April 2017.

The sitting rose at 5.40 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.15 a.m. with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Panel discussion on Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland), *Moderator of the panel discussion*, said that the complex nature of security meant that parliaments had to oversee a wide range of issues, including weapons procurement, arms control, public security, military matters and human rights. Many members of parliament were unaware of the broad scope of the private security sector. Private military and security companies (PMSCs) constituted a rapidly growing business sector, which was fluid, diverse, widespread and not always transparent; accessing information about it could pose a challenge and this could therefore make regulating that sector difficult.

The private security market was estimated to be worth some US\$ 244 billion per year, with a workforce of 19–25 million worldwide, which was the equivalent of more than the world's total police workforce. In the Latin American and Caribbean region alone, there were 2.4 million private security guards. One of the world's leading private security companies, G4S, had operations in 26 African countries. Its personnel were often armed. G4S had a high presence in efforts to combat piracy; the international shipping industry had spent more than US\$ 1 billion on security in the Indian Ocean in 2013.

Parliamentary oversight was crucial, since PMSCs had the potential to affect the security of communities and citizens, and could have considerable implications for human rights. With that in mind, the IPU and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) had worked together to publish a handbook for parliamentarians under the title *Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Principles, Mechanisms and Practices*. Although at the 134th IPU Assembly the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had chosen not to include private security in its next resolution, the panel discussion would further the debate on how parliaments could advance the democratic accountability of the private security sector and embark on a lively discussion on challenges, experiences and needs in that regard.

He introduced the panellists: Ms. A.M. Burdzy, Project Officer, Division for Public-Private Partnerships, DCAF; and Ms. H. Obregon Gieseken, Legal adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Ms. A.M. BURDZY (DCAF), *Panellist*, said that PMSCs were private businesses which provided military and/or security services, and that they were not easy to categorize, since they covered a wide range of activities. Since the 1990s, the number of such companies around the world had increased dramatically, owing to the downsizing of national militaries. Many a demobilized member of the service personnel had thus found employment. Many missions previously performed by police or national security were now performed by PMSCs. High unemployment levels in some countries had resulted in ample supply of cheap labour and a high level of interest in the work opportunities provided by PMSCs. The growing presence of transnational companies around the world that required security for their operations also increased the demand for PMSCs. Shell Oil, for example, had a larger annual security budget than most States. Crisis situations and instability had led to concerns over the safety of citizens and businesses, as well as that of humanitarian and aid workers. The rise in incidences of violence against aid workers around the world spawned greater reliance on PMSCs in the humanitarian sector.

PMSCs were very diverse. In some countries they focused on guarding residential areas and private property, while in others they focused on guarding mining sites. Some PMSCs were contracted for training and development assistance. Some only operated locally, while others operated internationally.

In light of the evolving security landscape, valid concerns had arisen with regard to respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, particularly in instances where PMSCs were operating in areas of armed conflict and post-conflict situations. Consideration must be given to which functions could be outsourced to private companies and which should remain strictly within the remit of national security forces. Consideration should also be given to how to ensure that PMSCs were properly vetted, how to monitor their activities, and how to respond to human rights abuses, or violations of national or international law. Parliaments had a role to play in regard to all those issues, since they were in a unique position to provide democratic oversight and achieve transparency and accountability in the private security sector.

With parliamentarians in mind, DCAF had developed a legislative guidance tool to assist States in regulating PMSCs. The tool provided advice on how to update or develop new legislative frameworks pertaining to PMSCs. It contained seven chapters, each structured around one of the key challenges for parliamentarians. Each challenge was analysed in detail and followed by specific guidance on the types of content required in the law. The recommendations were accompanied by examples of good practice from various regions of the world. The tool was under constant development, and feedback would be welcome.

Ms. H.C. OBREGON GIESEKEN (ICRC), *Panellist*, said that over the past 10 years there had been a considerable increase in the involvement of PMSCs in armed conflicts and activities. Such involvement brought them closer to combat operations. This had given rise to concerns about the protection of the civilian population. Mindful of those concerns, the Government of Switzerland and the ICRC had launched a joint initiative on respect for international law, which had led to the adoption of the Montreux Document on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for states related to operations of private military and security companies during armed conflict. The Document, which aimed to define how international law applied to the activities of PMSCs in armed conflicts, had been adopted in 2008 by 17 States, and had since been endorsed by 37 more, as well as a variety of international organizations. It reaffirmed and clarified States' obligations and identified good practices to guide and assist them in promoting respect for international human rights and humanitarian law.

While the document focused on the obligations of States, its good practices could be useful for other entities, such as international organizations and PMSCs themselves. Also, while it was aimed at situations of armed conflict, it could also be instructive for other situations. Given its humanitarian purpose, it did not address policy issues such as whether or when PMSCs should be engaged in armed conflict; it merely clarified that international humanitarian law applied to them when they were engaged in armed conflict. It therefore formed part of a broader, ongoing discussion on PMSC regulation.

The Montreux document had been instrumental in clarifying that international obligations applied to the activities of PMSCs. It had also raised awareness about States' obligations to enact appropriate and adequate national legislation to regulate PMSC activities. Some States had enacted such legislation, but much more remained to be done. National laws and regulatory frameworks must be clear and robust. States should take action to stipulate which services could be contracted out to PMSCs and which ones could not. In that regard, particular attention should be paid to whether a particular service could cause PMSC personnel to participate directly in hostilities. Greater accountability and oversight were required with regard to violations of international and national law committed by PMSCs or their personnel.

The multinational nature of the industry constituted a major challenge. Cooperation between States was essential, particularly on judicial matters. Another concern was the reliance of some States on PMSCs to train members of their security and military forces. Since adequate training was key to preventing violations of international humanitarian law, training services provided by PMSCs required appropriate State regulation and oversight. Despite progress over recent years, there remained a need to ensure that States fully implemented their international law obligations.

The Montreux Document Forum had been established for purposes of continuing to develop the Montreux Document and serve as a venue for consultation on challenges and best practices with regard to its implementation. States that had not yet done so were encouraged to endorse the Document and to actively engage with the Forum's work. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in promoting support for the Document and encouraging implementation of its rules and good practices. Parliamentarians were also responsible for translating international law into domestic regulations, promoting accountability through oversight and ensuring that perpetrators of violations were brought to justice. Parliaments could ensure that PMSCs were properly trained and informed about their obligations.

The ICRC reaffirmed its commitment to work with States to regulate PMSCs and promote the Montreux Document and its implementation. To that end, seminars had been organized to raise awareness about the Document and to develop guidance tools. Given the important role of parliamentarians in ensuring full respect for and implementation of international humanitarian law, the ICRC had worked together with the IPU to produce an updated handbook for parliamentarians on international humanitarian law. The handbook contained a section on PMSCs as a key issue in contemporary armed conflict, and recognized that parliamentarians had the power to contribute to global change by implementing change at the national level.

Mr. B. BONGO (South Africa) said that PMSCs were profit-driven and that they were often not subject to accountability and oversight. A proper international and domestic legislative framework was therefore required to ensure that PMSCs acted in accordance with international law. States should cooperate on establishing national laws to blacklist PMSCs that were found responsible for abuses and should also introduce licensing and registration based on training in human rights and international humanitarian law. When such legislation was in place, cooperation was essential to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of violations, and to guarantee extraterritorial jurisdiction to ensure prosecution of perpetrators of violations in their own countries and in the contracting State. South Africa had legislated to that effect and encouraged other States to do likewise.

Mr. M.A. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that the operations of PMSCs raised questions about the legitimacy of acting tacitly or explicitly under private or government ownership. The transnational nature of PMSCs and their involvement in hostilities could potentially undermine the rule of law and the democratic functioning of State institutions. Consideration must be given to how parliaments could bring accountability into play. In Indonesia, legislation was in place to promote transparency and accountability within private and public defence companies. Parliaments should establish more effective legislation on how to regulate those companies, and should cooperate with each other with a view to sharing their experiences and best practices.

Mr. M. ZONNOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that emerging PMSCs in western countries were posing a challenge to the traditional role of governments in maintaining peace and security, and that this had led to a situation where warmongering had become profitable. As a result, PMSCs were a danger to international peace and security. Some of the world's major powers believed that rather than using direct and costly military intervention, they were better off engaging in proxy war as a way to maintain political, economic, military and cultural influence in target countries. The strategy of creating internal conflict had resulted in such phenomena as the emergence of the Islamic State, al-Nusra Front and others. States engaging in such activity were endangering the national security of others and interfering in their sovereign domestic affairs through the use of PMSCs, which were not subject to monitoring or regulation. Companies were violating the rules and regulations of war and were committing war crimes, killing innocent civilians in the process. They viewed the trafficking of narcotics and persons as a useful tool. Parliaments must apply their oversight and legislative roles to such situations, and also develop the rules required to regulate the unfettered actions of PMSCs.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that the private security sector was growing considerably owing to the ever-increasing need to preserve peace and security. Parliaments should promulgate laws to regulate contracting to PMSCs, staff training and activities. They should also ensure that PMSCs acted in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law at all times. Bahrain had a system in place to provide specific training for of PMSC personnel, through which staff were certified to work in the security sector. There should not be a repeat of past mistakes. Every effort must be made to ensure that PMSC personnel are properly vetted and that perpetrators of crimes would not be hired. Steps must be taken to ensure that PMSCs working in conflict zones did not exacerbate the situation and that they operated in compliance with international humanitarian law and with respect for human rights at all times. Legislation to guarantee privacy must be introduced to prevent violations of personal data by PMSCs and to ensure accountability. Companies must respect the laws in force wherever they operated. Moreover, the use of firearms must not be allowed, unless permitted by State authorities. Firearms were designed to kill. It was therefore crucial that parliaments undertook regulation of the issuing of operating licenses for PMSCs.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that the number of PMSCs around the world was increasing despite the efforts of the United Nations to protect international peace and security. Strict and clear rules were needed to govern their operations. The support of parliamentarians in that regard could be garnered through the IPU, in order to encourage the United Nations to draft an international convention on the activities of PMSCs. Parliaments must be mindful of the Montreux Document in overseeing the work of PMSCs, regulating their activities and staff training. The proliferation of weapons between the personnel of PMSCs must cease. PMSCs must respect national and international law and must cooperate with the State military, and not become involved in criminal or terrorist activities.

Mr. CHONG JONG-SUP (Republic of Korea) said that the privatization of security was irreversible. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that PMSCs functioned within the law. Unlike national armed forces, PMSCs were profit-driven. IPU Member Parliaments should call for the adoption of a resolution to promote the democratic accountability of PMSCs. Regulating and monitoring PMSCs at the national level was a prerequisite for strengthening democratic accountability in the security industry. The relevant international conventions should be reflected in the laws of individual countries. An international expert organization should be established with the participation of representatives of government, parliament, academia, NGOs and PMSCs to maintain a global database of PMSC activities around the world report annually as to the latest developments and assessments of policy proposals for the private security industry. Global awareness of PMSC operations should be raised, in order to ensure continuous dialogue on strengthening global governance of private security and military activities.

Mr. A.L.S. SSEBAGGALA (Uganda) said that unregulated PMSCs could potentially result in increased security challenges. He wished to know what support DCAF could provide to IPU Member Parliaments that wished to introduce legislation on PMSCs in parliament. In many countries, military personnel whose contracts had ended were likely to be unemployed and were therefore easily recruited by PMSCs. An international convention on their regulation should be fast-tracked, since a lack of international law made legislating at the national level difficult, particularly since PMSCs often operated across borders. The IPU should issue a strong statement on the issue and assist its Member Parliaments in regulating and legislating at national level. Opportunities to share experiences and best practices would be useful.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that the private security sector was a fast-growing industry, which in some instances was causing serious security threats. States should have primary responsibility for security and crime prevention measures. Accordingly, they should regulate the private sector, in particular by providing training. Candidates for security work should be screened and assessed in light of their past conduct. They should be issued with uniforms and identity cards, and their functions should be clearly separated from those of State security services.

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India) said that although the State should be the sole legitimate authority to provide security to the people, threats were increasing and individuals and private entities were seeking dedicated security services. PMSCs were playing a greater role as security requirements outgrew State capacity. The industry, which had implications for people's lives, liberty and property, was growing rapidly. If this industry is left unregulated, this could have potentially dangerous consequences. India had a private security sector, whose worth was expected to grow to an estimated US\$ 12 billion by 2020, accounting for some 7 million jobs. The industry must be made accountable to the State. To that end, legislation had been adopted in India, introducing licensing standards and training requirements for private security guards. Pursuant to that legislation, all private security agencies must be licensed to operate. Firearms licenses were issued to specific individuals, and not to agencies. Regulations had also been established on working hours and training. It was hoped that efforts to ensure accountability would result in an effective and efficient private security sector.

Mr. T. DOHERTY (Canada) said that Canada's use of PMSCs had increased in recent years, both domestically and internationally. His delegation rejected the premise that such companies grew merely out of greed; rather, they grew due to an increased need for security in an increasingly volatile world. They were used to protect civilians and military personnel working in foreign countries, and to train others to handle their own security. The Montreux Document recalled the obligations of States to ensure respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law. It also recalled that States could be held liable human rights or international humanitarian law violations committed by PMSCs. The Document contained examples of practices to help States take the necessary measures to fulfil those obligations. The International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers was also an important tool for regulating and monitoring PMSC activities. Parliamentarians around the world must engage in oversight of PMSCs and work together to ensure abidance by international standards and laws.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that although PMSCs were not used in State activities in Thailand, the Government was acutely aware of the security and humanitarian implications of using such companies. The National Legislative Assembly had passed legislation on private security companies, which regulated their activities in Thailand and could serve as a basis for further regulation of PMSCs. Parliamentarians, together with governments and partners, should

strengthen cooperation by taking measures to ensure accountability and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. Gaps in PMSC regulation had resulted in human rights violations. Those who violated international law, whether State entities or private companies, must be held to account. Every effort should be made to bridge the regulation gap, address impunity, enhance the rule of law and promote respect for international law.

Ms. H.C. OBREGON GIESEKEN (ICRC), *Panellist*, said that with regard to accountability from the perspective of the transnational nature of PMSCs, the Montreux Document took account of the challenges and considered the relationships and obligations of home States, territorial States and contracting States, as well as the States of nationality of PMSC employees. Regulation and implementation of the Montreux Document as a whole was therefore very important to ensure that there were no gaps in terms of accountability. Cooperation was also crucial, and so was adequate legislation and regulation. Also, cooperation on judicial matters was essential to dealing with legal challenges, such as the need to have sufficient evidence of violations in one State in order to seek redress in another. The ICRC had an advisory service to assist States in the fulfilment of their international obligations. It produced tools related to State obligations and provided bilateral support by request.

Ms. A.M. BURDZY (DCAF), *Panellist*, responding to the representative of the Republic of Korea, who had suggested the establishment of an international expert group, said that the Montreux Document Forum was a community of 54 States and three international organizations which shared good practices on the regulation of PMSCs and discussed thematic issues and avenues for cooperation and mutual support. DCAF would also be interested in establishing a network of experts on the issue and would welcome further discussion on how to achieve that. While there was no database of PMSC activities as such, the DCAF website included a map of public-private partnerships and an open-source database of the existing regulations in States. The database was continually updated, and access to new information on legislation would be welcome.

DCAF had a long history of working with parliamentarians around the world on security sector reform. It also provided direct advice to the private security regulatory authorities in national governments. Any parliaments interested in that service could contact DCAF. Lastly, she welcomed the fact that the International Code of Conduct had been mentioned, while the Code of Conduct was similar to the Montreux Document, it was intended for use by PMSCs, whereas the Montreux Document was designed for governments.

The MODERATOR said that PMSCs should remain on the Standing Committee's agenda. He hoped that more meetings could be held in future with representatives of the ICRC and DCAF.

Panel discussion on *Comprehensive disarmament*

The PRESIDENT said that disarmament was a politically sensitive issue. The disarmament agenda had lost political ground and diplomatic traction given a context where enhancing national security was understood to mean modernizing and building up military capabilities while testing each other's reaction capacities. The correlation between disarmament and security was thus being ignored. Comprehensive disarmament meant bringing together the various elements of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation into a coherent framework. She introduced the panellists: Mr. D. Plesch, Director, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; Mr. I.M. Sene, member of the United Nations 1540 Committee; and Ms. D. Pascal Allende, Second Vice-President, Chamber of Deputies, Chile.

Mr. D. PLESCH (University of London), *Panellist*, said that the Atlantic Charter, which was adopted by the alliance that had fought Nazi Germany in the Second World War, stated that "all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force". If the leaders of the world had championed such an approach at the end of the most defining conflict of modern time, after which the world's major global institutions had been established, why should that approach be contradicted some 70 years later? The suggestion that having peace required preparing for war was nonsense. The world would surely not be better off with the free testing of nuclear weapons, or without nuclear-free zone treaties, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), or the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Second World War had destroyed much of Europe. Yet 70 years on, the harsh lessons learnt were being abandoned. The situation in Aleppo was testimony of that. Without urgent action, that situation would undoubtedly escalate.

Members of parliament had a role to play in networking and raising awareness about the positive outcomes of disarmament and the fact that it had been a priority for the founders of the major global institutions. History had shown that weapons did not bring security. It was time to adopt the lessons learnt, develop the institutions established, and implement disarmament agreements. Change was essential. “Business as usual” would lead to a third world war.

Mr. I.M. SENE (United Nations 1540 Committee), *Panellist*, said that greater international engagement was essential, particularly on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Very little progress had been made in that regard over the past 20 years. Legislators were the key actors in developing and enacting the legal framework required to prevent the potential catastrophic consequences of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their proliferation to non-State actors, in particular terrorist groups. In its 2016 programme of work, the 1540 Committee had recognized the need to raise awareness among parliamentarians and other high-level decision-makers.

The world’s parliamentarians were aware of the death and devastation being brought about by terrorism the world over, which would be dramatically increased if terrorist groups had access to nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. Even if States did not possess weapons of mass destruction, they could well have access to the materials for building them. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 stipulated that States should enforce appropriate laws to prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Although the resolution was legally binding, it was for States to implement it through their own legal frameworks. As legislators, parliamentarians had a key role to play in that regard.

Effective implementation required constant monitoring. More than 90 per cent of United Nations Member States had reported on measures taken to implement Resolution 1540, thereby helping the 1540 Committee to understand the progress made in that regard. The development of voluntary national implementation action plans had been helpful. The plans identified areas where implementation required strengthening, and proposed measures by which that could be achieved. The Committee helps States to develop such plans, where required. The Committee’s comprehensive implementation reviews identified and recommended specific, appropriate and practical action to improve implementation. The report on the first round of implementation reviews was currently being compiled for submission to the United Nations Security Council. In preparing the report, the Committee had held consultations with Member States, international and regional organizations, parliamentarians and NGO representatives. Parliamentary participation in such consultations was essential, since the implementation of Resolution 1540 depended on the enactment of relevant national legislation.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile), *Panellist*, said that the world was facing a large-scale humanitarian crisis with unprecedented numbers of refugees and displaced persons, and a severe impact on civilian populations. States’ attachment to nuclear weapons was increasing, and the efforts of multilateral forums to prevent the proliferation of those weapons were failing. The lack of trust between the world’s great powers was leading to a new arms race. Global understanding was crucial to preventing the proliferation of weapons and promoting dialogue. A group of Latin American and Caribbean governments was cooperating in that regard, to ensure that such weapons were not detonated by mistake. Those governments firmly believed that nuclear weapons amounted to a breach of international humanitarian law, in particular the prohibition of attacks against civilians and the principle of proportionality. The Latin American and Caribbean region had been a pioneer in the establishment of non-nuclear zones and was committed to complete disarmament and the building of trust and confidence among nations as a means of ensuring international peace and security. Joint steps had been taken to declare Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, with the primary objective of complete disarmament.

An open negotiation process had been established within the United Nations General Assembly on the need for an international legally-binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, similar to the existing conventions on chemical and biological weapons. Chile supported that process. The existence of nuclear weapons posed a permanent threat to global peace and security. Peace was the only path to development, and it was unacceptable that weapons existed that could potentially destroy the world. The disparity between countries which had nuclear weapons and those which did not was also unacceptable. Nuclear energy should be used only for peaceful purposes.

In recent years, the political legitimacy of the NPT had been undermined, and efforts to establish a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East had been unsuccessful. The Middle East continued to be a key strategic region in relation to world peace and security. The support of parliaments and civil society was essential to promote nuclear disarmament from a humanitarian perspective, as a goal for the world. There were currently around 1900 nuclear weapons on extreme alert. Those weapons could be deployed in a matter of minutes, or could be detonated by accident. They must be withdrawn before it was too late.

Mr. R. TAU (South Africa) said that the key question was the extent to which parliamentarians were committed to implementing the decisions and resolutions adopted at the international level. While many spoke of commitments and needs, they gave no indication of the actions they were undertaking or what they had accomplished. South Africa was a signatory to Security Council Resolution 1540, and had taken measures to uphold the provisions of the Resolution, including voluntarily renouncing the development of nuclear weapons. Consideration was being given to how to achieve peace without budgeting for the stockpiling of weapons. The modern trend was dangerous: States announced plans to reduce their arsenal. However, while those plans were numerically accurate, they did not reflect the actual situation. In many instances, States had in fact modernized their arsenal, making one new weapon as powerful as five old ones. The IPU should call on all Member Parliaments to establish a comprehensive legislative framework to guide States towards disarmament, and for them to cooperate in order to achieve non-proliferation. South Africa had also made efforts to improve its parliamentary oversight and to give parliamentarians the means to ensure that international commitments were upheld.

Mr. WANG XIOCHU (China) said that disarmament was a key component of international security. China opposed the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and had consistently called consistently for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Testimony of China's commitment to peaceful development had been the measures it took to reduce its military capabilities. All countries should do likewise so as to promote weapons control and disarmament through an equal, coordinated process. The principles enunciated in the Charter of the United Nations must be upheld at all times, and so must the sovereignty of States and the principle of non-interference by one State in the domestic affairs of another. Disarmament should be promoted through dialogue and negotiation in a constructive spirit, ensuring that no country's security was compromised. At the same time, there should be no absolute military security for any country. Despite the explicit objections of China and other countries, the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had issued nuclear threats, which could destabilize the north-east Asian region. China called on both parties to engage in dialogue and cooperation, to ensure global peace and stability.

Mr. M.A. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that disarmament was critical to maintaining international peace and stability. In order to prevent the erosion of ongoing global disarmament efforts, parliamentarians should take responsibility for oversight and ensure that governments were upholding their international obligations. As long as nuclear weapons existed, the risk of accidental, mistaken and unauthorized detonation remained. The total elimination of nuclear weapons was the only guarantee against their accidental or intentional use, or the threat thereof. In that context, the call for an international conference in 2017 to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons was particularly welcome. Members of parliament could ensure effective disarmament through their legislative power by expediting the ratification of international disarmament instruments signed by their governments, and overseeing government implementation.

Mr. I. POPOV (Ukraine) said that complete disarmament was crucial for global peace, and that international guarantees were essential. In 1994, Ukraine had given up its nuclear arsenal, becoming a signatory to the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which had also been signed by the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and later, by France and China. The Memorandum assured Ukraine's territorial integrity and its internationally recognized borders. In signing the Memorandum, the Ukrainian authorities had abandoned their weapons, but gained in security guarantees. More recently, however, the Russian Federation had reneged on its commitment and occupied part of Ukrainian territory, sending Russian insurgents and foreign terrorist fighters into Ukraine in the process. If countries did not honour their obligations, international guarantees became meaningless. The Budapest Memorandum should

serve as an example in that regard. It was hypocritical to ask countries to abandon their nuclear programmes whereas permanent members of the United Nations Security Council could not guarantee their security. Consideration was being given to the possibility of rebuilding Ukraine's weapons stocks. This would amount to utter failure of the global disarmament process.

Mr. M. ZONNOUR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that there was need for an internationally recognized definition of the term "comprehensive disarmament" with precise scope and measures to ensure that all requirements were fully met. Those requirements should include: the demonstration of genuine, strong and sustained political will by all States without exception; initiation of an open, inclusive, transparent and consensus-based international process within the existing disarmament machinery of the United Nations, taking into consideration the right of each State to security and self-defence; full transparency; a comprehensive and pragmatic approach that did not impair the rights of, or grant any privileges to, any State or group of States; and a priority-based, time-bound disarmament action plan. A comprehensive disarmament process should aim for the total elimination of nuclear weapons as its first, non-negotiable priority. It was of the utmost importance that Israel acceded to the NPT, since that would be the only way to establish a nuclear weapons-free zone and ensure peace in the Middle East. The complete elimination of all nuclear weapons was in the interests of all of humanity. Urgent action must be taken before it was too late.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that the IPU's work on nuclear non-proliferation should also address all forms of nuclear testing without exception, and not just the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The United States had conducted multiple nuclear tests without any criticism, and was thus perpetuating research and development into nuclear technologies. With regard to the situation in the Korean peninsula, a solution could only be reached through dialogue and diplomacy. The international community should reject the United States' aggressive attitude. Confrontation must not be supported if the lasting peace sought by the majority of the international community was to be achieved. Thousands of nuclear weapons were primed for immediate detonation under the guise of self-defence. That situation must be reversed and the arms races must cease. The international community must address the issue of nuclear proliferation before it was too late.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that in recent decades the world had witnessed more than 250 conflicts, resulting in millions of victims, mostly civilians. Nuclear weapons could be a root cause of conflict. The proliferation of those weapons posed a danger and threat to the whole of humanity. Nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of States which did not respect human rights or the sovereignty of other States. IPU Member Parliaments should reduce the budget allocated to the development of weapons, in particular nuclear weapons, and allocate those resources to development activities in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This could be achieved through providing assistance to the victims of armed conflict so as to ensure that they had the medical services and humanitarian relief they required. The United Arab Emirates parliament was committed to nuclear non-proliferation and did its utmost to uphold its international commitments in that regard. It supported the objectives set out in the NPT and firmly believed that a nuclear-weapons-free zone should be created in the Middle East.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the world was a dangerous place, with new wars and crisis situations developing in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, the increase in terrorist attacks. Despite talk of peace, there were an ever increasing number of conflicts. This raised the question as to whether the international community was really doing its utmost to avoid wars. Conflict could be avoided through genuine democracy, respect for the rule of law, real press freedom and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Greater efforts were required to ensure dialogue and negotiation so as to maintain a safe world. Parliamentarians had a duty to adopt that approach.

Mr. M. ALJAWDER (Bahrain) said that nuclear disarmament was a matter of ethics and must be considered as such. The international community should consider why governments sought to arm themselves with nuclear weapons, and why there was an arms race. If the United Nations Security Council could not fulfil its mandate to protect, and instead became a forum for confrontation, it was natural that States would seek to acquire weapons. When trust between States was eroded, and weapons would be acquired. The United Nations Security Council had not actively sought to bring an end to a war in any country. States therefore acquired weapons for

purposes of potential defence. When States imposed their will on others, those others, in turn, would seek to acquire weapons. With more weapons in circulation, it was increasingly likely that terrorist groups, such as ISIS, would acquire weapons of mass destruction. It seemed that the stage was set for a third world war. States had lost the will to build peace. That will must be restored.

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India) said that disarmament was an important aspect of India's foreign policy. The Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention were an excellent example of international law prohibiting certain weapons. As a party to those conventions, India was taking measures to eliminate its stockpiles of those weapons. The existence of weapons meant that it was easy for terrorists and non-State actors to acquire arms, and could pose a grave threat to international peace and security, and, by implication, to development. A nuclear weapons-free world would mean that all States enjoyed greater security. Nuclear disarmament could be achieved through a gradual process. The Indian authorities had called for meaningful dialogue and cooperation between all nuclear States so as to build trust and confidence, and reduce the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. The United Nations Conference on Disarmament was a unique multilateral forum; India stood ready to discuss the adoption of an international treaty banning the production of fissile material for the production of nuclear weapons. Nuclear technology could also be used for peaceful purposes and had great potential for contributing to economic development. India was committed to the tenet "atoms for peace". Comprehensive disarmament was a noble objective to the attainment of which the IPU could make a valuable contribution.

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France) said that collective security was crucial. Cybercrime, organized crime and terrorism posed a real threat. Non-proliferation was an important step towards the elimination of weapons. The NPT had been in existence for many years, but could only be effective if it was signed, ratified and implemented. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme, agreed in Vienna in 2015, was exemplary, and the Islamic Republic of Iran should be commended for the efforts it made in that. Rights, justice and global governance must be at the centre of disarmament. Human rights were under threat the world over. Disarmament required reform of the United Nations Security Council, renewal of the World Trade Organization, better Internet regulation, and guarantees on security. Disarmament could only be achieved through crisis prevention and stabilization. Global governance must have peace as its main aim, and must be anchored in cooperation and respect for rights.

Ms. J.A. ALEX (South Sudan) said that comprehensive disarmament was a key issue. She was perplexed by statements that disarmament was being put into practice, when the world was witnessing the continuous development of weapons of mass destruction. Development could not be achieved until disarmament became a reality. Countries that were producing weapons were permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. They were competing with each other and were repeatedly testing weapons and causing considerable environmental damage. South Sudan was gravely affected by the situation, and was being used by foreign nations for weapons testing. The proliferation of not only weapons of mass destruction but also of small arms and light weapons was causing untold destruction. If weapons continued to be sent to South Sudan, it would not survive as a nation. The IPU and its Member Parliaments should bring pressure to bear on the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the NPT was enforced. Disarmament must be seriously addressed before it was too late.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament - PNND) said that in the context of attaining the SDGs, the move towards comprehensive disarmament was increasingly important. Around the world, some US\$ 1.7 trillion per year was spent on military capabilities. A small fraction of those funds could go a long way towards achieving sustainable development. A considerable amount of that annual military spending was used on nuclear weapons. Despite having obligations to reduce spending on weapons under article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, the failure to implement international agreements meant that arms acquisition was continuing. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in overseeing the implementation of international agreements. In addition to the existing international dispute resolution mechanisms, such as the International Court of Justice and the mediation services of the United Nations Secretary-General, there were other cooperative security mechanisms available, such as nuclear weapons-free zones and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in

Europe. Parliaments should support those mechanisms. The PNND was working to achieve security without the threat or use of force, and had established a platform known as UNFOLD ZERO for promoting nuclear disarmament through the United Nations. Parliamentarians were encouraged to use such platforms to engage not only with each other but also with their constituencies.

Mr. S. ITO (Japan) said that Japan had been the only country to suffer first-hand the devastating effects of an atomic bomb, and therefore had a particular interest in seeking a nuclear weapons free world. The only way to build a weapons-free world was through trust, confidence and credibility between countries. Weapons of mass destruction also included computer viruses. Advances in technology were giving rise to daily attacks that could paralyse entire systems and infrastructure, such as electricity and water supplies and transport networks. Such threats must cease. Parliaments had a role to play by interacting with their governments. With the technological advances, communication was becoming more efficient and effective, and more constant. IPU Member Parliaments should not just interact during IPU Assemblies, but should take advantage of technological advances to communicate year round, and thereby maintain dialogue and build trust and confidence, with a view to building a world without weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. D. PLESCH (University of London), *Panellist*, welcomed the statements made, and said that not one participant had expressed disinterest in comprehensive disarmament. There had been a dramatic change in the tenor of the discussion in that, only a few years ago, there would have been no mention of a potential third world war. Analysts had watched the situation escalate and had been concerned by the lack of voice. The discussion had shown, however, that the world's parliamentarians were aware of the gravity of the situation and had a powerful voice of warning, as well as an awareness of the practical tools available to prevent the situation from escalating further. With regard to the need for clear definitions, work had been done in the context of the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs in publication No. 28 of its Disarmament Study Series. He welcomed the initiative of Austria and other countries to open negotiations in the United Nations General Assembly regarding prohibition of nuclear weapons. Particular attention should be paid to article 26 of the United Nations Charter, according to which the members of the United Nations Security Council are legally bound to regulate the world's armaments. Despite the efforts made by some States, the subject of disarmament was not a permanent item on the Security Council's agenda. Dialogue with permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council to promote a change in that situation should be undertaken as a matter of priority.

Mr. I.M. SENE (United Nations 1540 Committee), *Panellist*, said that just like nuclear non-proliferation, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as mentioned by the representative of South Sudan, was a matter of grave concern, particularly for African countries. He agreed that ethical and humanitarian approaches to disarmament were crucial. States must work together to achieve nuclear disarmament. Negotiations on a legally binding international instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons would be a welcome next step. Disarmament was a common goal, which could only be achieved if all States worked together. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play by taking the legal frameworks set by diplomats, and enacting them into law at the national level. The 1540 review process was ongoing, and must be maintained and promoted.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile), *Panellist*, said that the debate had shown the level of concern among IPU Member Parliaments with regard to security issues, not only in regard to nuclear weapons, but also with transnational organized crime and cybercrime. Much greater consideration should be given to the oversight role of parliamentarians, which was crucial to ensuring that those governments met their obligations under the international treaties they had signed. Parliamentarians also had control over military budgets and should therefore give greater consideration to how much was being spent on military personnel, equipment and weapons development. Greater consideration should be given to how funds were used and the intentions behind military spending. Some States would have an interest in preventing the adoption of a legally-binding instrument on the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Parliamentarians must ensure not only that the instrument was negotiated and adopted, but also that it entered into force and was implemented. The parliaments of the world should unite against nuclear weapons, through mutual support and trust, with a focus on environmental, health and development concerns. A third world war must be avoided at all costs.

The sitting rose at 12.25 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

SITTING OF TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. with Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/135/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)

The summary record was adopted.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT indicated that the Eurasia Group and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) had nominated the following candidates: Mr. C. Tursunbekov (Kyrgyzstan) and Mr. R.F. Acuña Núñez (Peru).

The nominations were approved in line with the rules and procedures of the Committee.

Parliamentary contribution to 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference

The PRESIDENT said that the landmark agreement on climate change adopted in Paris in 2015 aimed to address mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as funding issues. She introduced the speakers.

Mr. S. HUQ (International Institute for Environment and Development), *Panellist*, said that the Paris Agreement had set ambitious goals for limiting global temperature increases. National governments needed to ratify and implement the Agreement, which was gathering significant political momentum. Parliamentarians must promote the ratification process and oversee the implementation of national plans on climate change. It was necessary to ensure that the billions of dollars that developed countries had committed to investing per year by 2020 were collected and spent appropriately, in order to meet the needs of developing countries. His organization would be happy to provide technical support and advice.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco), *Panellist*, said that parliaments had an important role to play in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He had served as a Rapporteur at the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 22 in Marrakesh. The preliminary draft outcome document had aimed to harness the positive energy underpinning the Paris Agreement. It was important to focus on adaptation, mitigation and funding, taking into account the shared but differentiated responsibilities of States. It was also important to take gender equality and the human dimension of the Agreement into account.

The conference in Marrakesh was an important milestone, and parliamentarians had an important role to play. The Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change had already been adopted by the IPU Members. However, it was important for countries to first ratify the Paris Agreement. Steps must also be taken to ensure that all measures to tackle climate change were also consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Moroccan Parliament planned to establish an institutional framework for parliamentarians, so as to ensure real progress at the meeting in Marrakesh. Contact had been made with the IPU in that regard. He stressed that it was important to ensure that the United Nations recognized the IPU as a key player in negotiations on climate change.

After Mr. Touizi's presentation, the President opened the floor for comments and questions, in particular in relation to the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP22.

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India) said that the Indian Government had ratified the Paris Agreement. His delegation had shared their reservations concerning parts of the draft outcome document with the Secretariat. The willingness of developing countries to ratify the Paris Agreement reflected their desire to tackle the challenges of climate change. However, further measures must be taken before the Agreement entered into force, in order to set the right path. Those measures included the timely ratification of the Doha amendment and the Kyoto Protocol. Failure to honour prior commitments could have serious repercussions.

The outcome document needed to use language that was compatible with the Paris Agreement. It was important to remember that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change made no reference to the swift ratification of any protocol or agreement. Nevertheless, governments were encouraged not to delay the ratification process.

He encouraged the Committee to delete entries in the outcome document on which there was little consensus, primarily those relating to the priority agenda for the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) and carbon pricing. It was also important to keep in mind that the details of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions were still under negotiation and would only come into effect after 2020. He reminded delegates that it would not be desirable for the preliminary outcome document or the timelines set to be prescriptive, and that it was important to give due consideration to the State-driven nature of efforts to tackle climate change.

Mr. M.A. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that the Paris Agreement was fair, balanced and effective. The Government had signed and ratified the document. Developed countries needed to take the lead in combating climate change, including through climate change financing. Developing countries for their part needed to introduce adaptation measures. He encouraged governments to ratify the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

In Indonesia, measures to mitigate the impact of climate change had included a commitment to new and renewable energy sources. The Government had signed the letter of acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. It had also extended the moratorium on new forestry concessions. The country's Nationally Determined Contribution included a voluntary commitment to reduce greenhouse gases.

Mr. J. BIGNON (France) said that two of the amendments that his delegation had submitted focused on gender equality and young people. When tackling climate change, it was important to take into account the principles of fairness and justice. The other two amendments addressed institutional issues. Although it was clear that parliaments must play a leading role in tackling climate change, the French delegation was concerned about the costs involved in establishing a specific institutional framework in the IPU. Parliaments were not rich, and money could perhaps be better spent on harnessing new technology to improve the effectiveness of the measures taken.

Mr. LEE SANG-DON (Republic of Korea) said that the Government had signed the Paris Agreement and the Korean National Assembly planned to ratify the document in the very near future. Under the Paris Agreement, the Government had committed to reducing greenhouse gases by 37 per cent by 2030. The Paris Agreement provided an opportunity to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Mr. F. MEZA (Chile) said that the indigenous peoples of Chile, including the Rapa-Nui and Mapuche communities, had been badly affected by climate change. The Chilean Government had ratified the Paris Agreement. Although Chile contributed little to global greenhouse gas emissions, the Government nevertheless wanted to ensure that at least 20 per cent of energy came from renewable sources. It was important to consider the impact of climate change on indigenous communities, especially those living in the Pacific area.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that global temperatures may exceed the thresholds set in the Paris Agreement, as a consequence of selfish, capitalist consumption. The contribution of industrialized countries was negligible, whereas they bore most of the responsibility for climate change. Climate change would have the most affect the most vulnerable people, especially those living in the developing world, and would impede the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. D. CLENDON (New Zealand) said that climate change was probably the most urgent challenge currently facing the international community. The concern was that the outcome document contained few references to climate change. Mitigation measures were necessary to keep global temperatures below the critical threshold.

Ms. A.N. KACHIKHO (Malawi) said that devastating floods had displaced or killed thousands of people in Malawi and caused millions of dollars in damage. Also, severe drought continued to affect the country. Climate-related shocks underscored the significance of the Paris Agreement, which the Government of Malawi had signed and planned to soon ratify.

Mr. A. DELGADO (Uruguay) said that the Government was investing in renewable energy, including hydroelectric power, biomass and wind energy. The national parliament was working together with the private sector to promote alternative energy sources. It also planned to adopt legislation on renewable energy and on energy efficiency. Efforts were being made to move away from fossil fuels. Moreover, measures towards promoting renewable and alternative energy enjoyed cross-party support.

Mr. A.A. HUSSAIN ADAM AHMED (Sudan) said that the international community had played a key role in raising awareness to climate change. The IPU should be commended for its decision to commission a survey and to establish a partnership on climate change between parliaments and the United Nations. Climate change particularly impacted developing countries. As Ban Ki Moon had indicated, it had also contributed to the conflict in Darfur. He proposed adding a new paragraph to the outcome document to indicate that a solidarity fund should be established to provide assistance to developing countries affected by climate change.

Ms. H. MARTINS (Portugal) said that the Paris Agreement enjoyed national, cross-party support in her country. The national programme on climate change included strict targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over the previous decade, significant funds had been invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Government was fully committed to combating climate change.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia) said that her country was feeling the impact of climate change. The energy sector had been seriously affected, and people had begun to seek out alternative sources of energy, such as solar power. This had put pressure on financial resources and threatened her country's food security. She welcomed efforts towards the adaptation measures and developing new technologies, for example in the field of food production. She noted that the Government of Zambia had ratified the Paris Agreement.

Ms. A. WOLDESEMEYAT (Ethiopia) said that climate change affected almost all areas of human activity. Her country was sensitive to climate change, owing to its geography and vulnerable sectors of the economy. The priority for Ethiopia was the adaptation efforts and measures to towards clean development, as its contribution to climate change was negligible. The country was currently generating more electricity than it needed from clean or renewable sources, and was thus able to contribute to mitigation efforts and to export clean energy to neighbouring countries.

The PRESIDENT invited the panellists to respond.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco), *Panellist*, stressed that the Paris Agreement was legally binding and that it would serve as a starting point for action. Mitigation was clearly an important issue that required a holistic approach. Adaptation measures were needed. It was also vital to ensure adequate funding and to tap into external sources of funding. Initial action at national level was crucial. National governments needed to implement policies to offset the effects of climate change and to promote the use of renewable and clean energy. Parliaments must make climate change a priority: they must adopt legislation to that effect and strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Gender equality and young people must be at the heart of all measures implemented. Strategies were needed to support developing countries and small island States. The transfer of technology and investment levels were important considerations. Developed and developing countries needed to work together towards limiting the rise in global temperatures.

Mr. S. HUQ (International Institute for Environment and Development), *panellist*, welcomed the delegates' level of knowledge and engagement. Climate change must be tackled at national level, and requires cross-party support and cooperation. He invited those planning to attend the Parliamentary Meeting in Marrakesh to also participate in the side events and to promote implementation at national level.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists for their contributions.

Debate on the theme *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as drivers of development.*

The PRESIDENT introduced the two rapporteurs: Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Mr. N.K. Premachandran (India).

Mr. J. Fried, the Canadian Ambassador to the World Trade Organization, took the Chair as the Moderator.

The MODERATOR introduced the panel, namely Ms. G. Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank, Ms. S. Iqbal, Manager of the Women, Business and the Law Project of the World Bank Group, Ms. D. Tembo, Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, and the two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Mr. N.K. Premachandran (India). The increasing prevalence of sexism in politics highlighted the importance of equality and inclusion. He wondered whether the gender dimension of inclusion was fully understood, and invited panellists to elaborate on the economic significance of gender.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank), *Panellist*, said that financial institutions had begun to acknowledge the power of parity, noting that it made economic sense. Achieving the goal of gender equality by 2025 would contribute an additional 12 trillion dollars to global growth.

Women's financial inclusion was necessary for sustainable growth. It was therefore vital to ensure that formal financial services were available and accessible to all. Financial inclusion extended beyond access to credit and encompassed access to savings, risk mitigation and a sound financial infrastructure that facilitated women's economic participation.

Ms. S. IQBAL (World Bank), *Panellist*, said that the gender gap remained unchanged despite the rising levels of levels of financial inclusion indicated by the World Bank Global Findex. Financial inclusion improved development outcomes, including efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Women's economic empowerment was beneficial to their security and control over their own finances. It also contributed to higher household spending, and potentially increased agricultural output. Gender gaps produced a significant loss of income. Nearly 50 per cent of women in the world had no bank account. Measures were needed to bring those women into the formal financial system.

Ms. D. TEMBO (International Trade Centre), *Panellist*, said that it was unacceptable to exclude half of the global female population from the financial system. Women's financial inclusion must form part of the delivery agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals. The International Trade Centre was jointly managed by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, and worked with developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies. Women remained in low value areas, even though many of them were involved in running small and medium-sized companies. Nevertheless, those women could maximize their potential and resources if given the opportunity. Surveys indicated that women's lack of access to financial services was a major stumbling block.

The MODERATOR said that women's access to the financial system could make a significant difference in important sectors such as agriculture. Financial inclusion was a serious economic issue, and was becoming a priority for both developing and developed countries, as well as international organizations and agencies. Were there too many actors operating in that field? Was there sufficient coordination between donors and recipients? He wondered what lessons could be learned and what parliamentarians could do to promote financial inclusion and enhance coordination.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank), *Panellist*, said that financing for the Sustainable Development Goals must be based on the principle of national ownership, with the participation of parliaments and parliamentarians. It was important to consider whether finance ministers were to be held accountable for progress made by national development banks and whether existing approaches took financial inclusion and the regulatory environment into account?

It was vital to examine the financial system as a whole. Effective programmes brought partners on board and took co-financing strategies into account. It was also important to provide technical assistance to financial institutions and other entities. Organizations, such as the International Trade Centre, the World Bank and others, could help to support initiatives at regulatory level, for example by creating enabling businesses and legislative environment for women. For instance, the African Development Bank operated an empowerment lab focusing on challenges and opportunities in financing for women.

Parliamentarians needed to focus on policies and the regulatory framework, and to involve all partners and stakeholders. It was also important to develop policies such as affirmative procurement strategies and to review legislation on inheritance rights. Cooperation and a multi-disciplinary approach were crucial to bringing about change.

Ms. S. IQBAL (World Bank), *Panellist*, agreed that a comprehensive approach was needed. Until recently, there had been but few actors in the field, and data had been scarce. Non-traditional actors were working on financial inclusion, and there was a greater awareness that development outcomes were linked to women's economic empowerment. The development community needed to work in a more coordinated fashion. Moreover, policy-makers needed to implement change at national level.

Data was only useful in context. It was important to transmit the relevant information to policy-makers, in order to inform policy-making and ensure well-coordinated efforts. She highlighted recent reforms which have impacted financing and development. This includes measures taken in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remove the clause requiring a wife to obtain her husband's permission to open a bank account. Eliminating legal obstacles to land ownership or inheritance for women owning land or inheriting property, for example, improved development outcomes for women and enhanced their financial inclusion, giving them greater agency. Such reforms also led to improved sanitation and access to education. She added that female parliamentarians in particular were the driving force behind reforms to foster financial inclusion, as they related to issues that affected them personally. In countries with more women in parliament, women's economic outcomes improved significantly.

Ms. D. TEMBO (International Trade Centre), *Panellist*, said that inclusive financing helped beneficiaries achieve greater autonomy. Steps must be taken to establish the action required and the agencies or institutions best-placed to take such action. This is aimed at harnessing existing synergies and avoiding overlaps between different agencies' spheres of work. It was vital to establish smart partnerships and coordinated action.

She stressed the need for quality, disaggregated data, in order to understand the impact of financing on gender and to make the necessary policy decisions. It was also important to implement fair policies that would benefit both genders, as the impact of financial policies was not gender-neutral. Strategies were needed to promote women's participation in government tenders and to help them secure government contracts. Moreover, measures were required to facilitate market access for women. Finally, women's access to land was another issue that required specific initiatives.

The MODERATOR also stressed the need for evidence-based policy-making. Financial inclusion underpinned growth and quality of life for all. It was closely linked to other policies, such as those relating to procurement or land ownership. Institutions and agencies must coordinate effectively, in order to avoid overlaps. It was important to consider the efforts required at national level, and the remaining challenges. There was a need for policies and legislation on issues such as inheritance rights and access to bank accounts. Steps must also be taken to address entrenched attitudes and inherited biases. Would regulation be more useful than legislation? He asked the panellists to suggest priorities for parliaments and parliamentarians, and indicate how they could contribute to ensuring the financial system worked for all.

Ms. D. TEMBO (International Trade Centre), *Panellist*, said that existing legislation must be amended and that people's attitudes must change. Women parliamentarians needed to participate in that process. Certain issues were better understood by women, because they are the ones directly affected.

In the African region, deliberate steps had been taken to establish targets for women's participation. Institutional measures were required at national level. Parliamentarians needed to participate in planning, consultation and monitoring. They could provide guidance and ensure that any bills submitted to parliament were gender-sensitive and in keeping with cross-cutting issues affecting women.

The International Trade Centre implemented a range of activities at national level. There was scope for parliamentarians to participate in those initiatives. Parliamentarians would be in a position to better guide the policy-making process through knowledge of what the different development partners were doing. Parliaments also needed to provide oversight, guarantee accountability and monitor progress.

Ms. S. IQBAL (World Bank), *Panellist*, said that it was important to amend discriminatory legislation and to change people's attitudes. There were still legal restrictions on women's economic activity in the overwhelming majority of countries. According to the World Bank Findex, women often had no bank account because another family member had one.

Parliamentarians had an important role to play in implementing change at national level. It was necessary to take a holistic approach to the financial sector, examining both the direct and indirect aspects of laws and policies, such as the disproportionate impact of gender-neutral policies on women's financial inclusion. For example, requirements for opening bank accounts potentially discriminated against women, as they were less likely to possess identification cards. Thus, it would be easier for women to open an account if banks introduced a tiered approach to client identification requirements.

Parliaments should seek to remove legal barriers to financial inclusion, and address the issue of property rights. Digitizing salary payments could also provide a stepping stone to the formal financial system. Credit registries should be encouraged to use utility bills and payments to retailers and microcredit institutions to build a credit history, as women often lacked credit histories and collateral. It was important to promote regulated data sharing between banks and alternative finance providers and to create a supportive regulatory framework. It was also important for parliamentarians to consider the gender impact of policy decisions, and not to assume that policies were gender-neutral merely because they did not explicitly refer to gender.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank), *Panellist*, said that in South Africa targeted public policy interventions had been aimed at establishing a more inclusive the social welfare system by ensuring that all beneficiaries had bank accounts. There were currently more bank account holders in her country than elsewhere in Africa. She encouraged parliamentarians to examine existing public policies and the regulatory environment, and to ensure that people without bank accounts or access to services can join the formal banking system.

Many African countries had legal barriers to financial inclusion for women. For example, in certain countries, a married woman could not be head of household, apply for a passport or a national identification document or for that matter, sign a contract. Parliamentarians could therefore make a difference by amending discriminatory legislation.

Although cultural attitudes and religion could have a negative impact on women's inclusion, they could also bring people in to the larger economy. Legislators needed to facilitate access to finance by reforming regulatory frameworks and enacting non-discriminatory provisions. It was important to ensure enforcement of statutory measures in instances where they were impeded by customary law. Examples of best practice included the partnership between the Uganda Land Alliance and the International Center for Research on Women, which was aimed at improving women's property rights through counselling and awareness-raising measures. The IPU could consider establishing an advisory council on legal and property rights. Its approach could then be in line with measures being implemented by the African Union and other entities.

The MODERATOR highlighted the relationship between inclusion and technology, for example through the use of smartphone technology.

Ms. G. CUEVAS (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, said that women formed the majority of the world's poor. Moreover, although women formed the majority of the agricultural workers, they had very limited access to land, training credit and investment. Child malnutrition rates were high in areas where women could own land. This demonstrated that a lack of access to financial services had serious repercussions. Women also had to balance work and family duties. They had longer working days, and were generally responsible for caring for children, the elderly and the sick. Globally speaking, only 50 per cent of working-age women were in formal employment.

Progress had been made in recent years, especially regarding girls' access to primary and secondary education. More women had joined the workforce, and the gender gap was gradually narrowing. Women were participating in business and politics. Moreover, they had the potential to make a positive contribution to national economies. For example, women landowners were able to obtain better yields compared with men.

Unfortunately, women were far less likely than men to open a bank account. Less than one in ten women in the world took out loans from financial institutions, although women ran a large proportion of the world's small businesses. Women were allocated only 6 per cent of bank credits for small and medium-sized enterprises, although women's businesses generated 22 per cent of new jobs. It was vital to improve women's access to financial services, especially as they provided a better return on capital.

A wide range of strategies was being implemented at national level. Initiatives included promoting women's entrepreneurship, lobbying by women's business associations, supporting women's access to technology, interest-free loans for rural women, microcredit initiatives and improving the income support system using biometric technology. Some countries had introduced digitalized payment systems. In Mexico, women heads of household could apply for subsidies and loans for setting up microbusinesses.

Parliaments must ensure that promoting inclusion went hand in hand with affirmative action. Women must be seen as a vital part of the economy, and must be able to achieve genuine autonomy. Parliamentarians needed to adopt effective legislation and provide oversight. In terms of budgetary resources, it was important to introduce tax breaks for women, as well as programmes and subsidies to bring women into the formal economy. The domestic budget needed to be cross-cutting, and inclusive of women's participation.

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that international cooperation was crucial to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality was an important aspect of development strategy. Moreover, the other goals also had a gender dimension even though Sustainable Development Goal 5 referred explicitly to gender equality.

Implementation was a key issue. He stressed the need to focus on the use of resources, capacity-building measures, technology transfer, data collection and financial institutions. Financial inclusion was an empowerment tool. Women's potential must be utilized in line with the principles of equity, justice and equality. Growth and development would be impossible without the participation of over half of the global population.

In India, all citizens were entitled to open a bank account. Millions of bank accounts had been opened following the launch of the Government's financial inclusion campaign, with women making up half of new customers. He also highlighted the close correlation between women's involvement in political process and financial inclusion.

The MODERATOR opened the floor to comments and debate.

Ms. I. MATHYSSEN (Canada) said that the Government was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Tax reforms had been proposed and pledges made to improve the infrastructure. However, there was still a lack of affordable housing, as well as safe, affordable childcare. In order to help women enter the workforce, it was essential to provide for families and to protect them from abuse and violence. It was also important to respect the country's obligation towards indigenous communities. There were large numbers of indigenous children in the Canadian care system. Indigenous women and children were still socially isolated and lacked access to housing, healthcare and childcare. Governments needed to demonstrate the political will to implement the necessary reforms. Also, opposition parties needed to hold governments to account.

Mr. J. AL HAI (United Arab Emirates) stressed the need consider the issue of funding for training, including within the IPU framework, and wondered whether it an IPU handbook on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the use of parliamentarians could be a useful tool.

As part of efforts to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals, it was vital for States to honour their commitments to assisting developing countries. The United Arab Emirates supported measures to enhance women's participation, including those taken within the United Nations framework. It also worked to strengthen women's participation in a number of issues relating to development. At national level, women were becoming increasingly economically active, including as project leaders and managers.

Mr. H. GONDA (Ethiopia) highlighted the efforts towards enhancing women's participation. Empowering women included improving their access to land, science and technology, and financial services as well as to. Gender equality was a vital part of the Government's growth and

transformation plan. Parliaments needed to encourage women farmers to form cooperatives and to participate in income-generating activities other than agriculture. There was a need to promote the use of savings and credit services, improve women's education and health care, ease the work burden for rural women, create a conducive environment for women's associations and increase women's participation in decision-making processes. National and regional parliaments needed to provide oversight, in view of implementing those measures. It was also important to eradicate negative societal attitudes and harmful cultural practices.

Ms. WU XIAOLING (China) said that the Government had proposed to further develop the concept of financial inclusion, with a view to promoting employment and increasing income levels. Women were a key component of that strategy. Financial inclusion improved the competitiveness of women's businesses. To that end, the Government had implemented a small-loans programme specifically for women. Moreover, women's alliances identified and communicated to banks women customers who could qualify for government-subsidized discount bank loans.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that national parliaments had an important role to play in enacting legislation, providing oversight and facilitating dialogue. Women represented a disproportionately large share of the world's poor. They also faced a whole host of obstacles to achieving political and economic participation. All government policies needed to be gender-inclusive. She wondered whether governments should offer incentives to the private sector to ensure women's empowerment, or rather whether they should offer women incentives for self-empowerment.

Ms. T. LINDBERG (Sweden) said that the Sustainable Development Goals included a commitment to women's empowerment. Although international cooperation was vital, reforms were also necessary at national level. The Swedish parliament planned to introduce gender-responsive budgeting. A gender perspective on budgetary spending would help identify the impact on women and girls in particular, and on gender equality in general. Budget planning needed to promote equality. A feminist budget should be based on a gender analysis and impact assessment, in order for budgetary priorities and resources to reflect the government's aspirations with regard to equality.

In combating gender disparities, the Government had adopted a gender perspective towards fiscal development. It aimed to ensure gender equality in employment, and to close the gender income gap. Moreover, resources allocated to local governments would also contribute to improving women's conditions. She asked the panellists at what level they thought change would happen and what they thought of gender-responsive budgeting as a model for achieving gender equality.

Ms. S. TALAAT MOUSTAFA (Egypt) said that development was impossible without measures towards women's empowerment. The Government had taken measures to promulgate non-discriminatory legislation and had adopted a strategy to provide women with training for and to promote their participation. Overall, Egyptian women were increasingly better represented in politics and the economy. The Government was taking steps to create an enabling environment for women, through specific budgetary allocations and by taking women's participation rates into account. Financing was also provided to women-owned small businesses.

Ms. S.H. HARIYADI (Indonesia) said that poverty eradication must be the overriding objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government had taken steps to mainstream the SDGs into its national development plan. Its strategy also covered social and environmental issues. Small and medium-sized companies were the backbone of the Indonesian economy. Credit programmes targeted the poor, especially women.

The sustainable development agenda required international support and partnerships, with multi-stakeholder involvement at all levels. Financial contributions should go hand-in-hand with both capacity-building measures and technology transfer. The whole process should be country-led. Financial inclusion was a key strategy for alleviating poverty, and measures towards promoting it should be mainstreamed.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank), *Panellist*, said that efforts to support women's development enhanced the development of the nation as a whole. She recommended that parliaments promote decent work for women and ensure women's access to

land and property ownership. Government should also encourage financial institutions to adopt gender-sensitive policies, prioritize financial literacy within the education system and improve the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data, in order to strengthen policies geared towards financial inclusion for women.

Ms. J. MHALNGA (Zimbabwe) said that women often had a poor credit history but lacked the collateral required to obtain bank loans. Having access to financial services allowed women to create new jobs and develop microenterprises which enabled them to earn an income and benefit their communities. She said that women should come together to start a women's bank specifically geared towards women's financial needs.

Mr. M. HAMCHO (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in his country, sustainable development was undermined by armed conflict, terrorism and violence. Women's participation in development was hampered by the unrest. Economic sanctions had a negative impact on society as a whole, and women and children in particular. The Syrian people struggled to access basic services due to the sanctions. He urged the international community to support the Syrian people, and hoped that his delegation could return home with a positive message about women's condition.

Mr. N. SINGH (India) said that national development strategies had always taken women into account. A range of programmes had been implemented to empower women, including the use of gender budgeting as a tool for economic empowerment, the *UpSkill* programme, a start-up programme and projects to promote girls' education. Millions of women were able to open bank accounts thanks to a programme for combatting financial exclusion. He stressed that women's financial inclusion could serve as a tool for achieving inclusive sustainable development.

Mr. LEE MAN-HEE (Republic of Korea) said that the gender gap and the marginalization of women were a hindrance to sustainable development. The Government had focused on policies to lower the cost of financial services for vulnerable sectors of society, including women, and to enhance access. As a result, the vast majority of women had access to financial services. Financial inclusion was vital to equality and social justice, helping to alleviate inequalities and fostering a sound economic system. Parliaments needed to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy in order to enhance the status of women and their access to financial services. Parliaments needed to promote financial inclusion and do away with national and cultural practices, particularly those which hindered access to financial services. It was also important to overhaul the current financial system and consult with all stakeholders, with a view to integrating different viewpoints into policy-making decisions.

Mr. H. YAMAMOTO (Japan) said that the Government gender equality and women's empowerment was a vital part of its development strategy. There were plans to allocate budgetary resources to enhancing women's economic independence and education.

Over one billion women across the world were without a bank account. Addressing that problem needed international cooperation. The Government had provided funding to countries, such as Bangladesh, to boost the level of financial inclusion through the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Government had also provided funding to small institutions which promoted empowerment and microcredit schemes for women entrepreneurs.

He stressed the importance of women's autonomy. Better access to financial services fostered economic independence and enabled women to break out of poverty. International cooperation was vital to enhancing women's inclusion.

Mr. S. UDDIN (Bangladesh) said that significant progress had been made at national level to enhance women's participation, particularly in the field of politics. Nevertheless, many women remained excluded from the formal financial system. Moreover, he stressed that it was crucial for women to have access to the social security system. The international community needed to work together to enhance women's financial inclusion.

Mr. K. GATOBU (Kenya) said that significant progress had been made since 2010. Measures to enhance women's participation in decision-making had included steps to reserve seats in parliament. It also included other efforts to promote gender equality, as well as amendments to the government procurement bill whereby a certain percentage of government

tenders was set aside for women, young people and other disadvantaged groups. Kenya had a robust financial system which included a mobile-based cash transfer system, through which small companies could forego the use of conventional banking services. Further measures had included the establishment of a women's enterprise fund which provided women entrepreneurs with zero-interest loans.

Mr. P. BAFRANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that women's access to formal and informal financial systems was crucial eradicating poverty and promoting development. At national level, measures had been taken to improve women's financial literacy through investment in the education system and technical training. This was aimed at facilitating market access. Efforts had been made to foster an enabling environment and to establish public-private partnerships. Other initiatives had included the creation of rural women's cooperatives and the implementation of national and international projects with a view to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, enhancing skills and promoting entrepreneurship.

Ms. N. MARINO (Australia) said that the Australian Parliament had established mechanisms to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of bills, through its Joint Human Rights Committee. There were also practical aid programmes focusing on women's economic empowerment, a gender equality fund and a business partnership platform. Regional initiatives included Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development. Efforts were being made to develop a reporting structure and global indicators to support reporting on the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. I. AL KOOHEJI (Bahrain) said that a reform programme had been implemented in Bahrain with a view to enhancing women's participation. A women's supreme council had been established, which monitored women economic, political or social programmes, and lobbied the Government to provide women with more opportunities. Bahraini women were actively involved in business, including in leadership positions. They were also involved in politics. In parliament, women represented just over 7 per cent of the lower house and a little over 20 per cent of the upper house. With the right level of support, significant progress could be made.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia) said that, in her country, measures to improve women's access to the financial system had included the establishment of a women's bank and the implementation of an agricultural development programme. Women were not a homogenous group, and should not be viewed as such. Literate women were thriving. The challenge lay in supporting rural women who lacked the required skill sets to take advantage of banking or other services, and those who were without access to collateral. She suggested that efforts were required at global and national levels to address the needs of different groups of women, for example by establishing which movable assets women could use to access loans.

Ms. L.I. CERITOGU KURT (Turkey) noted that the information on financial inclusion still lacked sex-disaggregated data. The issue of women's financial inclusion was achieving greater prominence on the international development agenda. Various initiatives were launched to make formal financial services available, accessible and affordable to all. Financial exclusion perpetuated poverty and gender inequality, while improved access to finance contributed to social, political and economic empowerment. She highlighted three aspects of financial inclusion: access, namely the physical proximity of services and their affordability; usage, including the frequency and rate of use; and the quality of available services.

The MODERATOR encouraged delegates to share their experiences, information and best practices with the Secretariat.

Ms. S. IQBAL (World Bank), *Panellist*, agreed that women were not a homogenous group. For example, urban and rural women had very different needs. It was important to consider which programmes could benefit different groups of women and address their particular concerns. She stressed the importance of access to childcare, a prerequisite for financial inclusion. Private sector incentives were also important, including those relating to childcare. It was also important to focus on gender-responsive budgeting, in order to achieve better outcomes for women.

Ms. D. TEMBO (International Trade Centre), *Panellist*, agreed that decent work and gender-sensitive budgeting were crucial. It was also important to take into account different capacity levels in different countries. Progress must be made one step at a time, moving in the right direction without adopting a one-size-fits-all approach. It was useful for countries to share experiences and good practices.

Public-private partnerships, such as the *SheTrades* programme, were extremely important. Empowering women meant empowering families, societies and nations. There was a need to focus on the scale and of inclusive financing and its impact, and to bring on board unskilled women and those outside of the formal sector.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank), *Panellist*, welcomed delegates' proposals and recommendations. The Sustainable Development Goals were to be integrated into national development plans. Cross-cutting reforms were necessary to ensure the financial inclusion of women, in order to guarantee inclusive and sustained economic growth. It was vital to build partnerships between the public, private and social sectors, that is, families and communities. Innovative solutions were required to overcome barriers to women's financial inclusion. She stressed that women were not a homogenous group, and urged parliamentarians to be mindful of the needs of different groups of women in order to ensure economic growth at all levels. It was also necessary to foster women's trust in financial institutions. Mobile technology could serve as a useful tool in that regard, for example to facilitate cross-border trade. Obstacles to women's access to financing, such as requiring collateral for bank loans, must also be addressed.

Ms. G. CUEVAS (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the economic gender gap affecting access to goods, services and opportunities, must be seriously addressed. If approached from a gender perspective, technological advances could become a tool rather than a hindrance. Parliaments must identify measures they could take to promote women's financial inclusion, for example through public-private partnerships, incentives, sanctions or legislation, including tax breaks. She welcomed the comments and suggestions made, which would feed into the rapporteurs' work.

Mr. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (India), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked the delegates for their contributions. He noted that new points had been raised during the debate, including the role of the private sector and gender-responsive budgeting, property rights and land reform, with a particular emphasis on the situation of rural women. The suggestions made would help the rapporteurs draft their resolution.

The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.35 p.m., with Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*

The PRESIDENT introduced the panellists, Mr. T. Stichelmans from the European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), Mr. A. Gwynne, a parliamentarian from the United Kingdom, and Mr. S. Crusnière, a member of the House of Representatives, Belgium

Mr. T. STICHELMANS (Eurodad), *Panellist*, said that debt crises were still prevalent and that major gaps existed within the international financial architecture. Vulture funds exploited such weaknesses. Developing countries were particularly vulnerable, as they had limited tools to combat the activities relating to such funds and to resolve their debt crises.

Vulture funds were speculative investment funds and were often based in tax havens. They bought up at a very low price the debt of distressed countries which were likely to default on repayment and then pursued full reimbursement of the original debt through lawsuits. They sought to force States to repay their original debt with interest, penalties and legal fees. If the courts ruled in their favour, vulture funds acted to recover the debt by seizing the State's assets. Vulture funds targeted countries which were already struggling to finance public services and infrastructure. They would wait until a debt restructuring process was underway and then proceed to sue for high returns. The litigation process usually took place in countries such as the United States or the United Kingdom, where the courts were more likely to rule in their favour. Vulture fund activity had a far-reaching impact. It undermined the capacity of States to finance development, and

encouraged other creditors to refuse to participate in the debt restructuring process. It also made such processes lengthy and complicated. The lack of a comprehensive, international debt restructuring framework enabled vulture funds to make disproportionate profits. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations were working to develop a mechanism to deal with debt crises.

Possible measures to tackle the problem included enhanced collective action clauses that enabled majority creditors to take binding decisions for all creditors. However, that only covered bonds, but did not cover loans or other forms of debt. It was therefore a limited solution, as vulture funds generally targeted bilateral debt, and it would take years to replace existing bonds with ones that featured enhanced collective action clauses. Another potential solution was proposed by the G20 to reform the Paris Club, so that a bigger share of sovereign debt would be covered by Paris Club negotiations. However, the Paris Club was not a neutral entity, and its negotiations were lengthy and complex. A third option was to close the gap in the international architecture which was exploited by vulture funds and to create an international debt restructuring mechanism. Such a mechanism would jeopardize the business model used by vulture funds. Recent IMF proposals to that end had been vetoed by the United States. Also, and similar suggestions made within the framework of the United Nations had been rejected by the United States and some European countries. Some States, including the United Kingdom and Belgium, had decided to take unilateral action. The legislation introduced in Belgium had been particularly ambitious.

Vulture funds represented only a small fraction of the problems posed by debt crises. He stressed the need to establish an international debt workout mechanism. Such a mechanism would have to meet certain criteria. Steps would need to be taken to ensure the independence of its decisions, to protect States' basic obligation to meet the needs of their citizens, to guarantee the transparency of the negotiations and the decision-making process, and to make ensure that decisions could be enforced vis-à-vis all parties. The mechanism would ensure that debt crises were managed fairly and efficiently, thereby minimising their social and economic impact.

Mr. A. GWYNNE (United Kingdom), *Panellist*, said that in November 2009, with encouragement from the Jubilee Debt Campaign, he had submitted a Private Member's Bill to Parliament to limit the activities of vulture funds. Although the Bill had initially been rejected, it had subsequently been chosen by the Prime Minister among the pieces of legislation to be pushed through the House of Lords as part of the outgoing Government's "wash-up" procedure. The Bill had eventually come into force as the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act. It aimed to ensure that highly indebted countries could not be sued through the courts in the United Kingdom for historic debts. However, its scope of application was limited to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and the jurisdiction of the courts in the United Kingdom. It did not, for example, apply to British Overseas Territories or Crown dependencies.

The PRESIDENT applauded the action taken by Mr. Gwynne.

Mr. S. CRUSNIERE (Belgium), *Panellist*, said that the activities of vulture funds had an impact on development, and stressed the need for an international approach. Currently, vulture funds were able to engage in forum shopping. Although they mainly targeted developing countries, some European countries such as Greece had not been left unscathed. Moreover, legal proceedings had been launched by vulture funds in the Belgian courts.

The actions of vulture funds were immoral. They took advantage of heavily indebted States to reap disproportionate profits. They would speculate on States improving their financial situation and then proceed to seize their assets. Moreover, vulture funds frequently took advantage of money set aside for development. In the case of Argentina, vulture funds had been able to scupper debt restructuring plans, in spite of the fact that the majority of creditors had agreed to the proposals.

States did not always have the appropriate legal tools to deal with defaults on debts. It was vital to take legal measures to combat the activities of vulture funds, and to develop a concerted international strategy. Legislation could also be adopted at national level and steps taken to introduce collective action clauses for all new bonds, in order to facilitate debt negotiations and ensure that a majority decision would be binding on all creditors. The pioneering law adopted in Belgium sought to prevent international development funds from being confiscated by vulture funds. Nevertheless, its scope was limited to Belgian development aid, and applied even to legitimate companies. Subsequently, in 2015, a wider-reaching law had been adopted. It limited the rights of creditors. They could only be reimbursed for the original price of the debt purchased. Application of this law required one of the following criteria: the State had to be insolvent or likely to default at the time that the debt was purchased; the creditor had to be legally established in a tax

haven; the creditor had a history of bringing multiple lawsuits against governments; the creditor had refused to participate in the debt restructuring process; the creditor had taken advantage of the weakness of the debtor State; and finally, a claim amounting to the full value of the debt would have a negative impact on the development and solvency of the State in question. Although the new legislation had been criticized by the Belgian Central Bank, it had obtained the unanimous support of the Belgian parliament. Unlike the previous law on vulture funds, the scope of the new law was not limited to the national development aid budget or tied to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). Nevertheless, its application was limited to the jurisdiction of the Belgian courts.

The fact that the new law had already been challenged by a vulture fund indicated that the Belgian parliament had adopted the right approach. Parallel measures implemented in other States would help to restrict the activities of vulture funds. He encouraged other States to adopt similar legislation, but stressed that the only sustainable solution was to create an international sovereign debt resolution mechanism.

The PRESIDENT opened the floor to comments and discussion.

Mr. M.K. EL AMARY (Egypt) said that vulture funds were a cause for concern, given their impact on the fight against poverty. At international level, recommendations had been made and resolutions adopted to address the problem, including within the framework of the G17 and the United Nations General Assembly. Radical solutions were required to tackle sovereign debt. Parliaments could enact legislation to combat vulture funds and decrease the burden on developing countries. Although it was not possible to completely eradicate such funds, legislation was required at both national and international level to limit their operations.

Ms. WU XIAOLING (China) said that the activities of vulture funds hindered development and undermined efforts to eradicate poverty. Developed countries should use legal measures to restrict the activities of such funds. Parliaments in developing countries should urge national governments to take more effective measures and draft better budget plans. Further action was required to alleviate poverty, and richer countries needed to write off the debts of the poorest countries. The international community should also implement measures to mitigate the impact of debt restructuring. The Chinese Government supported the international efforts to support developing countries.

Mr. A.Y. DESAI (India), noting that the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution on sovereign debt restructuring in 2014, enquired about the progress made in that regard and asked whether future measures would be regulated along similar lines. India's regulatory mechanism, designed to protect the capital market from financial default, had helped to shield the country from the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis. Nevertheless, a number of Indian companies were saddled with heavy debt, and this provided opportunities for vulture funds. The Indian regulatory mechanism, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and the national central bank provided oversight of the market. There were regulations in place to monitor the activities of foreign funds. The Government was treading cautiously, in order to harness full potential of speculative funds to meet the development needs of the nation. The IMF initiative to introduce collective action clauses provided a limited solution, but could be effective if supported by a global mechanism, involving coordination between developing and developed countries. The G20 proposal to expand the Paris Club was also a welcome measure. Nevertheless, the best solution lay in the creation of an international debt resolution mechanism. He proposed that cases relating to sovereign debts should be handled by courts in the country from which the debt originated.

Ms. J. MHLANGA (Zimbabwe) said that parliaments needed to strengthen their oversight role, verify the legality of speculative funds activities and draft legislation to prevent vulture funds bringing cases to court in that particular country. Parliamentary mechanisms were required to promote sound financial management, monitor international developments and respond to evolving patterns of vulture fund activities. Parliaments should ensure good governance, in order to prevent economic crises and bankruptcy. The IPU could consider introducing preventative and monitoring mechanisms, and ensure parliamentary engagement with early response efforts, including through international and regional organizations.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee would contact the IPU leadership regarding that issue.

Mr. M.A. SUDITOMO (Indonesia) said that the activities of vulture funds were abusive, and hindered States' capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations, particularly the right to development. The debt burden of States, and the difficulties that debt restructuring entailed, posed a global problem and had a destabilizing impact on developing countries. It impaired their fiscal capacity and sustainable development. Parliaments needed to improve the regulatory framework for sovereign debt restructuring and ensure that it is consistent with international human rights standards. Parliaments must hold governments to account and ensure that national budgets were tightly controlled.

The debt crisis in the late 1990s led the Government to adopt rigorous fiscal discipline, as well as active monitoring and debt management measures. As a result, Indonesia currently had a healthy debt profile. Its robust financial strategy had led to a very significant reduction in its national debt.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia) said that vulture funds abused the vulnerable position of developing countries, and perpetuated poverty. The issue must be on the IPU Assembly main agenda, and should not be considered as a side event. The majority of parliamentarians were not aware of the problem posed by vulture funds.

Why did the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom allow vulture funds to bring cases in their national courts? Court proceedings should take place in the countries where the debt originated. She urged the United States and the United Kingdom to prevent vulture funds from bringing court cases on their territory.

Vulture funds prevented countries from escaping poverty, and deserved to be labelled thieves and human rights abusers.

The PRESIDENT said that she would pass the message on to the IPU leadership. However, she encouraged delegates to contact the IPU leadership themselves in order to achieve a broader forum for that debate.

Mr. S. KAVCIOGLU (Turkey) provided an overview of the economic impact of the attempted coup in Turkey. Ratings institutions had downgraded the country's credit rating for political reasons. Although vulture funds targeted destabilized economies, they had failed to destabilize his country.

The PRESIDENT noted that the panel discussion was not an appropriate forum for political statements.

Mr. A. DJELLOUT (Algeria) said that the foreign debt crisis was a serious problem. The international debt relief system had a number of shortcomings, owing to its bilateral nature. No international mechanism currently existed to manage debt crises. An appropriate mechanism needed to be put in place.

The financial monitoring system was also flawed, as IMF strategies often went hand-in-hand with austerity measures and macroeconomic adjustments which did not take account of the socioeconomic conditions of a country, and had a negative impact on the population. Often, the measures introduced proved counterproductive and did not create the right conditions for resolving debt crises.

A number of countries had adopted legislation to combat the activities of vulture funds, in order to prevent cases being heard in national courts, and unfair legal rulings being handed down. There was a clear consensus on establishing an international framework for restructuring sovereign debt, which would benefit both debtors and creditors in the long term. It would only have a negative impact on those involved in speculative litigation.

Mr. A. DELGADO (Uruguay) said that although the activities of vulture funds were not illegal, they posed an ethical problem. There was a need to fine tune the legal terminology and the concepts used to refer to the debt restructuring process. It was vital to consider the jurisdiction in which the restructuring process took place, and to ensure that the process was fair, transparent, legitimate and sustainable, and that it applied the concept of enhanced collective action clauses. For example, the Government of Uruguay had introduced a collective action clause into its debt framework. It was necessary to adopt appropriate legal provisions that were consistent from country to country, in order to restrict or prevent the activities of vulture funds.

International forums, such as the International Capital Market Association, were working to establish safeguard mechanisms. It was important for the IPU to set up a benchmarking system and to define the legal language that each IPU country needed to protect itself from the activities of vulture funds and that could serve as an example of best practice for other countries.

Mr. S. CRUSNIERE, (Belgium), *Panellist*, noted that while not all vulture funds were illegal, their actions were certainly immoral and did not constitute normal speculative activity. They took legal action in order to profit from the weak position of heavily indebted States. There was a need for an effective, coordinated global response to a problem that affected the whole international community. Until international consensus was achieved, it was necessary to fight on all fronts in order to restrict the activities of vulture funds. At national level, parliaments could take measures to limit the operations of such funds. Parliamentary action could have a positive knock-on effect, ultimately reducing the scope of activity of those funds. He expressed the hope that, one day, there would be broad consensus on the issue.

Mr. A. GWYNNE (United Kingdom), *Panellist*, said that there was a high degree of unanimity on the issue of vulture funds. Although vulture funds were not illegal speculative funds, they were immoral. Vulture funds bought up historic third-world debt that other States had written off and often claimed money earmarked for development, thereby keeping struggling States in poverty.

He agreed that there was a human rights aspect to the problem and noted that his Private Member's Bill had been certified as human rights compatible. The fact that the scope of the Bill had only extended to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) was problematic. For example, Zambia was no longer classified as a HIPC, and could be sued by vulture funds in the courts of the United Kingdom. Measures were needed to prevent such cases being heard by courts in the United Kingdom, unless they concerned debts incurred by the United Kingdom. The current legislation should be extended to debts incurred by all countries.

Further cooperation on the issue was needed within the European Union. EU Member States needed to take stronger, concerted action to prevent countries being sued for historic debts.

It was also necessary to keep up the pressure on the IPU. Moreover, the issue of vulture funds should be placed higher on the agenda. He encouraged delegates to lobby for new legislation and call for action at both regional and international level.

The PRESIDENT stressed that, unlike other international organizations, the IPU was able to take up initiatives proposed by its members. The Committee would try to place the issue of vulture funds on the agenda for the forthcoming Assembly. She encouraged delegates to contact the IPU leadership themselves.

Mr. T. STICHELMANS (Eurodad), *Panellist*, said that there were a number of possible approaches to handling sovereign debt. First of all, States needed to avoid incurring public debt. Secondly, any debt incurred should be of good quality. Thirdly, measures must be taken to deal with debt crises. The first approach required the mobilization of resources, in order to prevent debt crises. The second required responsible lending and borrowing principles, such as those adopted by UNCTAD. There was also a need to regulate markets to ensure that only quality debt was incurred.

The vast majority of sovereign bonds were issued in the United Kingdom or the United States, that is, in major financial centres with a tradition of protecting investors and creditors. It was difficult for developing countries to ensure that bonds were issued elsewhere. Nevertheless, he encouraged States that could afford to do so to avoid the United Kingdom and United States.

In order to resolve debt crises, an international mechanism was required to manage the debt restructuring process. The G27 had adopted resolutions on the issue, and the United Nations had called for a follow-up process. Efforts were needed to implement those resolutions and appeals. Parliamentarians must lobby governments to ensure that further progress was made.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists and declared the sitting closed.

The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda (C-IV/135/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)

The summary record of the previous session was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT announced two new recommended appointments to the Bureau: Ms. B. Sampatisiri (Thailand) from the Asia-Pacific Group and Mr. D. Asylbek uulu (Kyrgyzstan) from the Eurasia Group.

The Committee approved the appointments.

The PRESIDENT said that Ms. I. Montenegro (Nicaragua) had been absent from four Bureau meetings and would therefore be replaced, as per the relevant procedures.

It was so decided.

Panel discussion on *Funding the United Nations*

The PRESIDENT said that resources were crucial to the viability and success of public institutions. Thus, parliamentarians had an obligation to ensure that the United Nations was adequately funded. The discussion would focus in particular on funding for UN development work. The United Nations was broken down into several agencies, funds and programmes. Much of its funding was given in voluntary, earmarked contributions as opposed to assessed ones. Such a complex system made it difficult to identify UN funding in national budgets. It was important to ask whether the United Nations could ever rely on a predictable funding base. It must also be asked whether and how an overdependence on voluntary contributions from relatively few donors affected UN operations.

Mr. R. LALLI (High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations), *Panellist*, said that the UN system was large, complex and diverse with many different specialized agencies, programmes and regional commissions. As a result, effective channelling and coordination of funding was essential. The highest-level mechanism for funding coordination was the Chief Executive's Board for Coordination (CEB), which was chaired by the UN Secretary-General. However, the Board was considered a first among equals and did not have hierarchical authority over the entire system. Indeed, most UN organizations had their own governing bodies responsible for funding. Therefore, UN funding was managed not by one central authority but by many separate, independent authorities.

There were three types of UN revenue in 2015, which amounted to US\$ 48 billion in total: earmarked, assessed and unearmarked contributions. Earmarked contributions (otherwise known as specified or voluntary) were part of the 'non-core' resources. Recipient organizations and providers agreed these contributions bilaterally, with constraints on how the funds could be used. Assessed contributions were the mandatory membership fees paid by Member States. They were part of the 'core' resources. There were no constraints on how unearmarked contributions could be spent. They tended to fluctuate depending on economic circumstances and were also considered 'core' resources.

It was important to know how the funds were spent and under what individual authority. Most UN resources were spent on humanitarianism and emergency responses, followed by development assistance. A small portion was allocated to normative, treaty-related activity and knowledge creation, which was considered the core business of the United Nations. A lack of funding had hit that area the hardest. The UN Secretariat controlled one tenth of resources. The Security Council controlled the biggest share of funds for peacekeeping operations. All other organizations received individual, independently managed budgets that were comparable to the UN Secretariat but not controlled by it.

The United Nations was increasingly relying on non-core, extrabudgetary, earmarked resources, since core contributions were decreasing. That carried a number of implications. For instance, multiple donors and bilateral agreements came with multiple reporting requirements, which made processes more fragmented and less transparent. There was more potential for bias in bilateral agreements, including influence over the agenda of the organization. Multiple donors also led to significant transaction costs.

It was also worth noting that UN funding from non-governmental donors was also increasing.

Ms. B. ADAMS (Global Policy Forum), *Panellist*, said that there were a number of concerns about current UN funding patterns. Firstly, the shift from core to non-core, earmarked resources had exacerbated fragmentation and increased competition amongst different institutions. It also had priority and programme implications where the normative work of the United Nations was slowly being crowded out. Therefore, the United Nations was in danger of becoming a 'pay to play' system. Secondly, the total UN budget, which accounted for a large portion of the global investment in peace infrastructure, was inadequate compared to other public budgets. For instance, the budget for New York City and global military expenses were much higher. Thirdly, the budget for Official Development Assistance, on which many UN activities were dependent, included more private sector money.

Earmarking had arisen to ensure that important areas were prioritized, and had never been intended as a negative factor. It was also a consequence of the Millennium Development Goals which had established a more limited and focused approach to development. On a management level, the United Nations had attempted to tackle the problem through its 'fit for purpose' approach, which had established common operating standards. A team of consultants had also been hired at the United Nations Economic and Social Council to provide advice. However, the Member States were responsible for the problem in terms of governance and she appealed to them to act.

Ms. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia), *Panellist*, recognised the need for a more sustainable and predictable funding base from Member States, particularly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Indonesia had demonstrated a solid commitment to funding the United Nations, regularly providing due and voluntary contributions. The mandate recently awarded to the Indonesian House of Representatives to perform track two diplomacy would further strengthen the country's ties with international organizations.

It was vitally important for the United Nations and all its organs to uphold transparency and public accountability in its missions. Its activities should also complement national and regional efforts. That could be done by involving not only the national governments but also national parliaments in its programmes. Since parliamentarians communicated regularly with constituents, they were well-informed about the needs and interests of the people and could generate more effective results.

UN projects in Indonesia were carried out across ministries, public institutions, civil society and NGOs. The Indonesian parliament therefore found it difficult to assess the exact value of UN projects and reinforced the case for more national-level transparency. Parliamentarians had a right to monitor the use of their state's contributions to the United Nations. In particular, it was important to monitor: the number of projects, the project partners, and the value, recipient and results of the project. States could then assist the United Nations in defining its priorities and ensuring more effective implementation of programmes. She also noted that the Indonesian Parliament was currently making efforts to ensure better communication with its UN country office.

Ms. G. ORTIZ (Mexico), *Panellist*, said that the United Nations required resources to make progress on issues such as peace and development. States should therefore continue to contribute to its work while also making internal efforts to tackle the same matters. The UN budget must be reviewed in detail, bearing the following points in mind. Some Member States might have financial limitations which could make it difficult to pay contributions. The United Nations must ensure better

congruence between programme priorities and budget lines. Transparency was vitally important: Member States should receive more information, particularly about the results and outcomes of investments. Budgets must be clear and balanced, ensure effective use of resources and cover operational costs and expenditures. There must be some degree of flexibility: spending should be allowed to increase if necessary, although increases should be limited to high priority activities alone. More emphasis must be placed on accountability so as to guarantee greater clarity in reporting and ensure that budgets were being followed. The United Nations should also make greater efforts towards austerity, cost-efficiency, savings and fiscal discipline. Priority should be given to global challenges such as conflicts and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mexico was in the top 35 contributors to the United Nations and would continue encouraging the Organization to find alternative funding mechanisms.

The representative of TURKEY said that his country's contributions to the UN budget had increased over previous years, making it the sixteenth biggest contributor. Providing funds to organizations that were active in peacekeeping, human rights and sustainable development was crucial. However, the United Nations needed to reform since it was failing to resolve contemporary international crises. The UN Security Council had been persistently blocked when timely responses had been desperately required. It was also unfair for five permanent members, which were not representative of all continents, to make decisions on behalf of the rest of the world. A more democratic, effective, transparent and accountable system must be put in place.

The representative of BANGLADESH asked whether there was less funding because of a lack of capable people or whether it was down to transparency and accountability. He requested information on climate change funding. Priority should be given to basic needs, such as food, shelter, education and health. Peacekeeping expenditure should also increase.

The representative of BELGIUM said that the budget problem was huge and that small changes would not be sufficient. The whole organization and its financial system needed a reshuffle. Improving transparency alone was not enough. It was also important to look at budget efficiency. The fragmented way in which aid and funding was provided must also improve.

Mr. R. LALLI (High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations), *Panellist*, agreed that efficiency and cost saving measures must be combined with transparency. His office was responsible for that. Tremendous work to improve efficiency was underway in areas such as human resources, procurement, ICT, safety and security and financial management. For example, a review of the compensation package for international expatriates had been streamlined to deliver high savings. Similarly, the 193 banking contracts at the United Nations had been reduced to one globally negotiated contract, which delivered better services at cheaper prices. The maxims 'doing more with less' and 'fitness for purpose' should inform the overall direction of UN management reform. However, savings could not be made on some unavoidable costs, including those related to safety and security.

Ms. B. ADAMS (Global Policy Forum), *Panellist*, said that there were a wide variety of demands on the UN system which were being financed in many different ways. For instance, the Green Climate Fund funded climate change actions. The fragmented financing system created a number of challenges, including increased transaction costs and reporting. It was therefore important to consider how the system worked so as to avoid further fragmentation and allow for reasonable cost recovery. A number of solutions to the problem had been suggested. For example, a levy could be introduced on earmarked funds to ensure that they contributed to the core business of the United Nations.

The representative of INDIA asked why more and more donors were shifting from core to non-core contributions. He asked whether there was cash programming and related targets in UN humanitarian and development work. He requested information on the technological procedures to reduce operational costs. He also asked whether programme support costs were too high and what was being done to reduce them.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that funding must be assessed against the outcome and results of investments made. The permanent members of the Security Council should provide the most support to the United Nations. Otherwise, there would be a contradiction, which could give a negative impression of UN programmes.

The representative of the UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UNOCHA) said that humanitarian funding requirements had tripled over the previous 10 years. In comparison to that increase, funding had been insufficient, irregular, unpredictable and short-term. To address these problems, the UN Secretary-General had established a High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing. UN agencies had also sought to improve by implementing cash distribution programmes and engaging with local responders. That was usually more efficient, faster and more culturally attuned. Humanitarian operations had also become increasingly interlinked with development actions, since development reduced the vulnerabilities, fragilities and disaster risks that caused humanitarian crises.

It was important to acknowledge the humanitarian contribution of countries which, for example, hosted large numbers of refugees. The large gap in burden sharing must also be filled.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that his country was in favour of increasing Member State contributions in accordance with their economic circumstances. The earmarked, voluntary approach was another form of interference from major powers.

It was imperative that voluntary contributions did not influence the appointment of political and managerial posts. They should be awarded on ability alone. Greater transparency was therefore needed on the way that voluntary contributions were spent.

Mr. R. LALLI (High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations), *Panellist*, said that technology was at the heart of UN managerial reform. For instance, the recently introduced cash delivery systems were based entirely on technology. The enterprise resource planning platform, UMOJA, offered integrated, technology-based support services to all of its offices across the world. The UN global market place was also an online procurement portal. The question of whether programme support costs were too high was a subjective matter, but studies showed that other organizations often had higher costs. Transparency was also at the core of UN managerial reform. The international public sector accounting standard had been introduced across the UN system. The majority of UN organizations were also compliant with the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

The representative of AFGHANISTAN said that the word 'independence' had moved away from its classical definition. It was more appropriate to use the word 'consent' and, in particular, 'positive consent'. However, Afghanistan had had a bad experience with consent. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had not been neutral. It had reported inaccurately about victims of the attack on the Hazara Enlightenment Movement in July 2016. Similarly, the recent deal to deport Afghan asylum seekers from Europe was based on the wrongful claim that some Afghan provinces were safe. The international community must take those issues into consideration.

The representative of the UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) said that UNDP was the largest implementer of parliamentary strengthening work. Although there was strong support from non-core sources to fund in-country work, there was not enough funding for headquarters support. That included work such as quality control, partnership work and knowledge exchange. He encouraged parliaments to embrace non-core funding for support work done at UN headquarters.

The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES said that all countries must cooperate to address the lack of UN funding. Parliaments should insist that governments increase development assistance. An enabling environment must also be created to encourage parliaments to increase their support for and participation at the United Nations. Platforms to encourage discussion among different stakeholders should be strengthened. Governance and priority setting must also be improved.

The representative of PAKISTAN said that contributions to the United Nations had fallen due to the declining financial situation of many countries. She asked how to ensure adequate funds for capacity building in developing countries, so that they could meet their obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The representative of BURKINA FASO said that it was important to consider how all inhabitants of the globe could contribute to financing the United Nations. Some proposals included taxing mobile telephony and requiring all citizens to pay an annual levy of US\$ 6. However, measures should be country-specific. Costs could also be reduced if the United Nations committed itself further to democracy as a means of preventing conflict.

The representative of NICARAGUA said that the major powers should assume more responsibility for funding the United Nations. That was because they had caused many of the world's problems, including poverty, climate change and conflicts. They also tended to set the conditions at the United Nations. The system should be reformed so that spending was more focused on the interests of the majority rather than on major powers. Spending should also concentrate on major objectives such as peace, disarmament and refugee support.

The representative of KENYA asked how parliaments were being given a role in ensuring that funds were spent prudently. She asked how parliaments were being involved in the formulation and implementation of UN programmes, which would encourage country ownership. Member States and their parliaments must strengthen the controlled environment in which funds were dispersed.

The representative of EQUATORIAL GUINEA said that the UN response to humanitarian crises was weak and aid often arrived too late. He asked for the criteria used to support countries and whether the problems were related to administration or logistics.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that the first duty of parliamentarians was to keep governments under scrutiny and ensure that UN funding was well-spent and adequate. In the UK, parliamentarians could ask questions on UN affairs, introduce debates and work through the IPU or through informal all-party parliamentary groups. However, there was no UN select committee. She asked how parliamentarians could use the information from the present session to ensure that the funding that national governments provided was well-focused. She agreed with the representative from UNOCHA that burden sharing was of particular importance.

Mr. R. LALLI (High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations), *Panellist*, said that the delegations' specific questions, including requests for transparency, data and communication, eventually translated into infrastructure, such as enterprise resource planning platforms and websites. As infrastructure was implemented at headquarters, it relied on core contributions, which was a decreasing funding base. He therefore reiterated the comments of the representative of UNDP, and asked parliamentarians to raise awareness of the importance of non-core contributions at headquarters.

The PRESIDENT said that delegates should ask their governments to summarize all allocations to the United Nations. It would then be possible to see the breakdown between assessed, voluntary and earmarked contributions, which would improve oversight.

Panel discussion on *The UN response to allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers*

The PRESIDENT said that the United Nations had been unprepared to deal with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers in the Central African Republic (CAR) and other countries. Its official policy of zero-tolerance had been damaged by issues including weak reporting lines, slow responses and the difficulty of holding perpetrators to account. The United Nations had since put in place several initiatives to prevent abuse, achieve justice and protect victims. The aim of the session was to focus on a way forward.

Mr. B. KLAPPE (Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse), *Panellist*, said that, although the majority of UN peacekeepers did an excellent job, sexual exploitation and abuse was a recurring issue. The CAR Independent Review Panel had made a series of new observations on the matter. Firstly, it found that a more unified plan which focused on both preventative and response mechanisms should be implemented across all UN peacekeeping entities. High levels of the organisation were now giving this sort of plan more attention. Secondly, the investigative mechanisms in place were deficient, so that criminal prosecutions in national courts were ineffective. Responses were also too slow, which made finding evidence difficult. Thirdly, environmental factors must be considered, including the fact that prostitution was a source of income for some vulnerable groups.

The United Nations was taking a number of concrete measures to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse. For instance, a special coordinator had been appointed to formulate recommendations and plans. A trust fund for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse had been set up, offering support services such as medical care and legal aid. Public accountability and information sharing had been improved, for instance, by ensuring that reporting took place monthly instead of yearly. A common glossary on sexual assault and a *uniform information intake form* had also been developed to create a more unified response to allegations.

Member States should also take action. For example, one Member State had established a national protocol of action that field commanders and governments should follow. It had introduced predeployment training in which peacekeepers must pass a course on human rights, sexual abuse, gender and child protection. It had also established focal points in national capitals where claims could be made against peacekeepers. Other actions could include assessing whether national legislation on sex crimes had extraterritorial jurisdiction and whether the administrative framework for deployed police and military was adequate. It was also important to set a six-month time line to complete investigations, and to consider on-site courts martial and the use of investigating officers from the deployed country.

Ms. S. WHITMAN (Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative), *Panellist*, said that the need to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse in armed conflicts was critically important. The focus should be on prevention, on coordination among development, security and diplomatic staff, and on national, regional and global weak points. It was not enough to focus just on the after-effects of war. Child protection was likely to correlate directly with the world's failure to address conflict. It should therefore be transferred into the broader peace and security agenda. National, regional, and international security sectors could then develop better policies and strategies that would improve security sector interactions with children. Preparation for interacting with children in such contexts was just as important as any other aspect of a mission. There was little guidance on tactics, techniques and procedures to handle armed groups that used sexual violence as a weapon of war against children. For example, it was not widely understood that many child soldiers were girls. Nor was it widely known that both girls and boys were subjected to sexual violence in conflict situations.

Sexual exploitation of children in armed conflict was preventable. Actions to address the issue should include practical, scenario-based training for military and police at national level coupled with the clear message that perpetrators would face serious consequences. Government leaders needed to commit to rejecting the 'boys will be boys' attitude and to reforming their existing policies on sexual exploitation and abuse. Predeployment training was useful, but it often came too late. Peacekeepers who were likely to commit sexual assault tended to have deep seated cultural biases. Lectures that theorised on the meaning of gender were therefore not enough.

She commended the United Nations for taking the matter seriously. However, greater focus was needed on civilian staff. Although countries were responsible for increasing accountability, they should not review the investigations of their own peacekeepers. To avoid claims of bias, an independent body should be in charge. A common glossary was also important, but all definitions must be translated into practical instructions for foot soldiers and civilian actors on the ground.

Ms. A.R. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates), *Panellist*, said that it was necessary to distinguish between two types of abuse. First, there was sexual abuse by deployed armed forces as a means of exercising power. Second, there was abuse by which the military failed to fulfil their general protection role, and so forced women and children to migrate. In the latter scenario, women were often forced to sell their bodies to travel. The United Nations had taken a weak stance on the problem, particularly on abuse committed by peacekeeping forces. There was no policy laying out the sanctions that perpetrators could face, which gave them a sense of impunity. Bureaucratic procedures were ineffective, as were the security measures in place. It was especially important to protect young girls and children. Groups offering childcare services were present in refugee camps, which was promising. More should be done to encourage similar independent groups to work together with the United Nations in camps.

Mr. E. MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), *Panellist*, said that sexual abuse was a serious problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly armed gangs' territories. However, a distinction must be drawn between UN peacekeepers and others. Recent efforts to eradicate sexual abuse had borne fruit: the number of cases had fallen from 15,000 to 7,500 in two years. Examples of those efforts included the introduction of a zero-

tolerance policy and the appointment of a high-level female representative in charge of sex crimes. An action plan for the armed forces was also being set up to help track sexual violence and raise awareness among commanders. Other efforts included the establishment of a parliamentary committee on sexual abuse in conflict, and plans to give victims better access to the courts. It was also important to emphasize that DRC had been the first country to bring legal proceedings against UN peacekeepers who had engaged in sexual violence. One outstanding problem was that the soldiers deployed were often young men at the height of their sexual drive, which did not excuse their behaviour but could explain it.

The PRESIDENT asked for more information on how to secure evidence to be used in court. He also asked how the United Nations could create a culture in which whistle-blowing was commended.

Mr. B. KLAPPE (Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse), *Panellist*, said that a national investigation must start at the scene of the crime immediately after allegations were made. That would reduce the difficulties of collecting evidence. An independent investigating body could be useful, but it must also react quickly to preserve evidence. National legislation must allow for evidence collected by such bodies to be used in court. Mechanisms to protect whistle-blowers were in place but it was unclear how effective they were.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA asked how parliamentarians could oblige governments to obtain DNA samples for the UN DNA protocol, which was currently applied on a voluntary basis. Governments must ensure that on-site courts martial took place, because witnesses and physical evidence would be located in the host states. Governments should contribute to the UN trust fund for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. They should also establish processes by which victims could make claims and seek financial assistance. A mobile military court consisting of a judge, lawyer, prosecutor and clerk had been deployed to try South African peacekeepers in DRC and Burundi. Her country had also been conducting predeployment training for peacekeeping troops, with an emphasis on conflict-related sexual violence.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that all Member States should make predeployment training mandatory and hold peacekeepers accountable through legislative and policy measures. Exceptionally, countries with a track record of abuse should be excluded from missions.

The representative of CANADA asked what specific measures were being taken to prevent abuse and ensure perpetrators were held accountable. For instance, was there a training programme, a zero-tolerance policy or a plan to repatriate perpetrators of abuse? She asked whether any dedicated funds had been put in place to support victims of abuse at the hands of peacekeepers. Women and children were being treated as disposable commodities.

The representative of INDIA said that local populations should be educated about sexual abuse and encouraged to report inappropriate behaviour by UN peacekeepers. More should be done to tackle the problem in the peacekeeping forces themselves, for instance, by blocking countries and preventing perpetrators from serving again. He asked whether there was a mechanism to place a limit on the number of days by which investigations must be completed.

Mr. B. KLAPPE (Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse), *Panellist*, said that the extent to which parliamentarians could influence DNA sampling varied from country to country. The United Nations would like to see all countries create a DNA database of all peacekeepers but that was difficult to achieve. He commended the on-site courts martial deployed by some countries since justice was best obtained immediately and on the spot. It was possible to exclude nations from participating in future missions if there was clear evidence that sexual abuse had taken place. At the heart of the issue, however, was weak leadership and accountability, which was also a national responsibility. Clear rules must be set from the outset in predeployment training. Some interaction between peacekeepers and civilians should be possible whereby the role of the United Nations could be explained. That went hand in hand with a community-based complaints mechanism, which would then trigger an immediate response.

Ms. S. WHITMAN (Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative), *Panellist*, said that young people, their caregivers and community leaders could be educated on what to expect of peacekeepers. In Sierra Leone for instance, a national programme organized with the security sector had been combined with a children's education programme. Religious leaders and military chaplains could also help to educate communities. Although predeployment training was very important, it would not change attitudes if conducted in small sessions immediately prior to a mission. Personnel should receive regular training from recruitment to retirement that was consistently delivered across their country. Repatriating entire contingents could have serious economic implications for a country and its forces. Therefore, the economic consequences should be used as an argument to prevent peacekeepers from carrying out abuse.

The representative of BANGLADESH said that his country had introduced a strong monitoring system to prevent sexual abuse and had strengthened predeployment training. In the event of abuse, all UN pay was stopped and the perpetrator was expatriated. Commanders were also held accountable for any members of their contingent.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that sexual abuse caused local populations to distrust the United Nations and was a war crime. The United Nations should establish a reporting mechanism as well as a commission of inquiry that was ready to investigate as soon as accusations arose. A working group of experts should also be set up. The country of origin must train and hold troops accountable.

The representative of INDONESIA said that his country supported the zero-tolerance policy of the United Nations. Countries that contributed troops and police should bear the primary responsibility for ensuring strict discipline. The training programme of all UN peacekeepers should include instruction on a code of conduct.

The representative of KENYA said that sexual exploitation and abuse occurred as a result of poverty, such as when perpetrators tempted their victims with the promise of food. Member States must hold perpetrators accountable and try them in the countries where the crime occurred. They should assess whether existing national legislation was adequate and set a time frame for investigations. They should also contribute to the UN trust fund on a voluntary basis. DNA samples must be obtained from all deployed troops.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that sexual abuse must be prevented, report and investigated. Perpetrators must be brought to justice and victims assisted. The United Nations should continue to implement its zero-tolerance policy. Countries that contributed troops and police must take primary responsibility for investigating any alleged crimes. Parliaments should also take action.

The representative of SOUTH SUDAN said that predeployment training was particularly welcome. All contributing countries should pass universal legislation in line with UN norms to regulate the behaviour of peacekeeping forces. Capital punishment was legal in some countries where troops were deployed. However, many troops came from countries where capital punishment was not legal. Given that crimes should be tried where they occurred, he asked whether it was fair that foreign soldiers could be sentenced to death. The privileges and immunities of UN peacekeepers should be immediately removed if an abuse had been committed.

The representative of BELGIUM recognized the excellent work of the majority of peacekeepers, whose reputation had been tarnished by a small minority. He welcomed the zero-tolerance policy and the establishment of the special coordinator. However, a sense of impunity remained. He asked what pressure the United Nations could put on countries of origin which were not fulfilling their obligation to prosecute those who committed sexual abuse. The independent inquiry system was a good proposal, but he asked for more information on the link between local justice and national inquiries.

The representative of SWAZILAND, responding to Mr. Mokolo Wa Mpombo, said that there was a danger of feminizing sexual abuse in conflict areas through the deployment of female judges. Assuming that young soldiers were sexually energized could also be a form of discrimination. He asked whether any study had shown that older soldiers were less likely to commit sexual crimes than younger ones.

The representative of UGANDA asked the United Nations to explain the steps it was taking to address the sex abuse allegations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She asked where the trials of peacekeepers would take place and how villagers would attend if the trial was not in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She requested clarification on whether the United Nations would consider trying locals in Africa. She also asked whether victims would receive treatment and rehabilitation and who would compensate them.

The representative of CANADA agreed that zero-tolerance was essential and that sexual abuse was a war crime. However, some troubling attitudes had been expressed. It was unacceptable to suggest that the perpetrators were sexualized young men and that victims should be educated on exchanging sexual favours. To do so was to blame the victim. She asked whether any dedicated funds had been put in place to assist victims of abuse at the hands of UN peacekeepers.

The representative of EGYPT said that UN agreements with troop-contributing countries must be clear about responsibility. All peacekeeping forces must be trained on matters such as human rights. A team must be ready to be deployed as soon as sexual assault allegations arose. A coordinating body dealing specifically with sexual exploitation should be established within the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Finances should be assigned in order to establish teams of specialists on sexual abuse, and more consideration should be given to prevention.

The representative of the PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA said that it was unacceptable that the United Nations had not yet been able to implement zero-tolerance policies against sexual exploitation. Troops must be properly trained before being deployed. Agreements between host countries and countries of origin must allow perpetrators to be tried where the crime was alleged to have been committed. Parliamentarians must institutionalize UN regulations to ensure that locals were aware of reporting mechanisms.

Ms. S. WHITMAN (Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative), *Panellist*, said that a formal process should be put in place to praise whistle blowers as well as to hold offenders accountable.

Mr. B. KLAPPE (Office of the Special Coordinator on improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse), *panellist*, said that Member States needed to do more. They were encouraged to put in place a mechanism that would allow trials to be held in the host country. However, the United Nations would be left with insufficient numbers of troops if it made local trials a requirement. Exclusive criminal jurisdiction meant that the country of origin must hold troops accountable, either at home or when deployed. Local courts were often unable to hold perpetrators accountable due to a lack of law enforcement and investigative resources. The Conduct and Discipline Unit in the Department of Field Support was currently working with local communities and missions to provide victims with compensation.

Mr. E. MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (Democratic Republic of the Congo), *Panellist*, responding to the representative of Belgium, said that the 7,500 cases mentioned were those involving armed gangs. In response to the representative of Swaziland, he said that female judges were deployed since they tended to be less lenient than men in cases of sexual violence. He did not wish to draw a distinction between older and younger troops but simply to state that those involved in abuses in his country had been young. If armed conflict and political violence in Africa could be ended, UN troops would not need to be stationed there in the first place.

Ms. A.R. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates), *Panellist*, said that more women should be deployed in peacekeeping operations. Victims would feel more comfortable opening up and reporting their attacks to women. It could also reduce the number of cases of sexual exploitation.

The PRESIDENT said that it was important to uphold peacekeeping standards and to react when crimes were committed. Those who were guilty must be sentenced and preventive measures must be put in place.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

SITTING OF MONDAY 24 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 am with Mr. S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates) in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Election of Forum Board Members

The CHAIRPERSON said that there were four vacant seats on the Board. Those seats were to be filled by one female from the Eurasia Group, one female and one male from the Twelve Plus Group and one female from the Arab Group.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum*, said that the Arab Group had nominated Ms. R.A. Elwany (Egypt) and the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada) and Ms. S. Haskel (Israel). No nomination for the Eurasia Group had been received; therefore the position would remain vacant.

The CHAIRPERSON announced that the Board of the Forum had met that morning and elected him as President.

The Forum approved the nominations.

The PRESIDENT said that the Board of the Forum would be renewed during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka. The newly elected board members would then elect a new President.

Country updates on youth participation

The PRESIDENT said that regular discussion on youth participation would foster progress and strengthen young people's contribution. It would also allow Member States to exchange good practices and make recommendations.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the IPU had conducted a survey on the subject of: *Youth Participation in National Parliaments 2016*. That survey revealed that the proportion of young parliamentarians under 30, 40 and 45 was much lower than that of young people in society as whole. Quotas were useful in enhancing youth representation in parliament in general. They were found to be useful in attracting young parliamentarians under 40, but not necessarily any under 30. In all age groups, young men outnumbered young women parliamentarians. However, among the youngest members of parliament, 40 per cent were women. That could suggest that the male-female gap was closing in regard to representation. Young parliamentarians chaired only one quarter of parliamentary committees; one third of parliaments did not have a single young parliamentarian aged below 30. The lower houses of Sweden, Denmark and Oman had the highest number of parliamentarians aged below 30, 40 and 45. As for upper houses, Bhutan's led in all three age categories. The Americas, Europe and Africa had the highest number of parliamentarians under 30. In nine countries, more than half of the parliamentarians elected in 2015 were under 45. Regrettably, a given country's total number of young people is inversely proportional to the number of young people in its parliament.

Appropriate policies were required to enhance youth participation. Measures such as quotas, reserved seats and proportional representation were effective. The age of candidacy must be aligned with the voting age. Political parties played a key role in identifying young candidates. Further, specific strategies were needed to attract candidates from the 20s and 30s age bracket, and also more women.

The representative of JAPAN said that his country had lowered the voting age from 20 to 18 in 2014. The turnout was higher for that age bracket in the most recent upper legislative election than in the 20s age bracket. More than half of those young voters had said that voting was a civic

obligation. Such positive results were achieved thanks to the democracy education programme which was launched by the Election Administration Commission. It was important to educate young people on democracy and to encourage them to participate in politics. Many young people felt they did not have a big enough voice to make a difference. However, their vote was critical in that elections could be lost by the slightest of margins. Young people must be made to realize that society cannot change without citizen involvement.

The representative of IRAQ said that more was needed to address the challenges facing young people. Young people faced one common challenge, namely the generation gap. It was therefore important to promote dialogue between different age groups. Moreover, the constitutions of States must reflect aspirations of young people. Governments and parliaments should also encourage youth participation. Many young Iraqis were making untold sacrifices to liberate Iraq. He expressed profound gratitude for their sacrifices.

The representative of EGYPT said that Egypt had as many as 178 young parliamentarians aged below 45. The year 2016 had been declared the “year of youth” for purposes of empowering young people in different fields. That included parliamentarians. Following the revolution, a new constitution was adopted which guaranteed the rights of young people and women.

The representative of NAMIBIA said that it was important to restore young people’s belief in democracy. Namibia had created more platforms for senior parliamentarians to engage with young people in urban and rural areas. It had marked an international day of democracy to encourage participation. Its Government had proposed that the minimum age requirement to hold public office be harmonized with the voting age. Moreover, young parliamentarians were mentoring fellow young people. She asked whether the survey had covered the issue of transition from participation in youth parliaments to national parliaments.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that young people had played an important role in defending Syria against terrorism. Their participation had increased substantially in the recent elections, particularly those in their 20s or 30s. All parliaments must stop terrorist organizations from recruiting young people all across the world.

The representative of OMAN said that his country’s Parliament was among those with highest number of young parliamentarians in the world. That was achieved through holding free and fair elections without applying quotas. It was testimony of the trust that society had in young people. Young people were taking on the responsibility of making a change in the world and were doing so in a peaceful manner. Social networks must be used responsibly.

The representative of SURINAME said that the world was on the right track, adding that youth participation needed to be encouraged further. Suriname ranked among the top 10 countries with the highest number of young parliamentarians. Its entire delegation to the IPU Assembly was comprised of young people. Moreover, about one third of its cabinet ministers were young people; that included the minister for sport and youth affairs, who was 26. States should not only use quotas but also raise awareness and engage young people.

The representative of INDIA said that the future belonged to the youth, adding that they must therefore be brought to the fore of nation building. India had devised programmes to involve youth in voluntary social activities which familiarized them with different realities. A Department of Youth Affairs had also been created to engage youth in community, skills and leadership development. Political parties had made young people members of standing committees, thereby providing them with a forum for making meaningful contributions. Every major political party had student and a youth wing. There was also a youth parliament in schools and colleges, as well as a parliamentary forum on youth. Few went on to pursue a political career, but the country hoped to change that through the aforementioned initiatives.

The representative of MALAWI said that his country had been encouraging young people to participate in politics. A request had been submitted to parliament to set up a youth committee which would assist young people and encourage their participation. Young people faced many challenges, such as unemployment. They needed to demonstrate that they had the political will to make a change for the better. There had been some positive change, in that an estimated one third of parliamentarians in the National Assembly were young people. Member Parliaments should garner ideas at the IPU and implement them at home.

The representative of CHAD said that progress was slow in her country. The minimum age of a candidate was 25; parliament had few young people. Young people did not wish to become parliamentarians even though they joined political parties and also campaigned and voted. One reason for that was that Chad was emerging from war. This meant that many young people were still in school at age 25. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport had been created for purposes of motivating young people. Moreover, the Young Persons' Network for Development and Leadership in Chad was working towards achieving greater participation of young people in parliament. The country needed more support from the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of IPU to devise better strategies.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that countries should encourage young people to participate regularly in politics from an early age. Without that, they would not obtain posts, and quotas would be ineffective. The voting age in Bahrain stood at 20 while the age of candidacy stood at 30. Before becoming a candidate, a young person could participate, for instance, by campaigning. It was also important to raise young people's awareness, build their capacities and enhance their political skills so as to enable them to become effective parliamentarians.

The representative of FINLAND said that one fifth of Finland's parliamentarians were under 30. That was achieved without an age quota. Political youth organizations were central to accomplishing that, because they received much media attention. Also, a young woman under 30 was head of a party.

There were discussions about lowering the voting age from 18 to 16. However, young people in Finland tended not to vote. To counter that, legislation would be passed in 2017 which required all political parties to have a youth wing. That would give young people the chance not only to participate but also to make decisions. Finland already had a youth parliament.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM paid tribute the young British Member of Parliament, Ms. Jo Cox, who was killed in June 2016. Her death led to the creation of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme. The programme would mentor and train young women wishing to serve in the Labour Party in parliament or in local government.

The representative of KENYA said that young people accounted for over 20 percent of the Senate and 17 per cent of the National Assembly membership. His country had introduced a number of measures for the purpose of giving young people greater opportunity to run for office. Recently, the age of candidacy had been lowered from 21 to 18. All counties were required to elect at least one woman. Moreover, it was permissible for young people to run as independent candidates. Parliament had also passed legislation allowing young people to progress within the political, social and economic system. The National Employment Authority Act was one example of such legislation.

The representative of PALESTINE said that it was not possible to compare a country which had high levels of education and freedom of expression with a country like Palestine, where there were but few opportunities. The IPU should take such realities into account in its survey and acknowledge them.

The representative of MALI said that young people were well represented in his country's Parliament. Parliamentarians must introduce legislation to ensure that young people were afforded access to elected office. Quotas would be helpful given that on their own, young people often lacked the financial clout or influence to be elected. Setting a minimum age, such as was the case in Namibia and Chad, made it impossible for those in the lowest age bracket to run for office.

The representative of SUDAN said that young people played a major role in political parties and election campaigns. An estimated one third of parliamentarians were young people, and most ministers and mayors were under 35. However, young people were facing a number of challenges, such as unemployment, human trafficking, drug trafficking and lack of training.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that his country had set up a parliamentary committee on youth, as well as the Ministry of Youth, Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment, which was headed by a minister of young age. Its IPU delegation included young parliamentarians. Zimbabwe did not have a quota system. All parliaments should introduce a quota system and implement the recommendations of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

The representative of UKRAINE said that one fifth of the country's parliamentarians were under 35, and that its IPU delegation included young parliamentarians, who were elected in 2014. More than 10 per cent of Ukrainian territory was occupied by Russian military forces. That had caused the death of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. The international community should urge the Russian Federation to release all Ukrainians who were being kept in unlawful detention. The IPU should not hold any events on Russian territory, and that includes the 137th IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg.

The representative of NIGERIA said that his country had taken steps to enhance youth participation. It had established the Young Parliamentarians Forum of Nigeria which enabled young people to present their concerns in parliament. It had proposed a constitutional amendment to lower the high age of candidacy in both the upper and lower houses of the Parliament. It had sponsored a bill encouraging the appointment of young people in cabinets. It had also reduced the quota of young people to be mobilized for the National Youth Service Corps. A regional seminar would be held in partnership with the IPU the following year to boost the voice of young people in Africa. It was particularly important to address the issue of high age limits, which were widespread in the region.

The representative of the ARAB PARLIAMENT said that the first pan-Arab parliamentary document would be published on matters which affected youth, such as culture, leisure, ICT and disabilities and civil society participation. It was being prepared in cooperation with 900 young people and more than 85 civil society organizations. The aim was to encourage young Arabs to participate in politics.

The PRESIDENT said that there had been some positive developments. Updating would continue to be a regular feature of the Forum's meetings. Parliaments should continue to promote youth participation.

Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2016-2017)

The PRESIDENT said that the past few months had been productive. The Forum had played a leading role in the general debate of the 134th IPU Assembly on the subject of *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*. The debate triggered a number of new initiatives to enhance youth participation. There had been discussions on the Forum's role in developing youth targets for parliaments. The Forum had also considered measures to increase the participation of young parliamentarians at the IPU.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the Forum had made a number of concrete proposals at its sitting at the 134th IPU Assembly. The Forum had also contributed to the general debate. The debate had produced an outcome document aiming to enhance youth participation and representation in democracy. Progress had been made since the previous sitting. The Board had formulated some proposals on enhancing youth participation at IPU assemblies. Work had started on the proposal to identify a target for youth representation in national parliaments. Two regional seminars would be held for young parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific region and in Africa in 2017. The aim was to discuss issues of common interest in those regions. The Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians would also be held in 2017.

The PRESIDENT asked Member States to put forward their ideas on enhancing youth participation at the IPU and ensuring that delegations included young parliamentarians.

The representative of KENYA said that the IPU should upgrade the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to make it a standing committee with the power to draft resolutions. Young parliamentarians should be given seats on the Executive Committee so as to give them more say in decision-making within the Organization.

The representative of PALESTINE said that the President of the Forum should sit on the Executive Committee. The Forum should also be made a standing committee. Official delegations must include young people.

The representative of CHAD said that there should be a quota for women and young people so as to ensure their inclusion in IPU delegations.

The representative of SAUDI ARABIA said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians should have a permanent standing committee. It was also important for young parliamentarians to participate in the work of the Executive Committee.

The representative of SUDAN seconded the proposal for a standing committee. Young people should participate in all IPU committees.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that young people should be represented in all IPU committees.

The representative of MALAWI said the IPU should encourage parliaments to set up a youth committee, as some parliaments were reluctant to do so for financial reasons.

The representative of NIGERIA said that youth representation was needed in all IPU decision-making bodies, especially the Executive Committee. Parliaments should make it mandatory rather than optional to include young people.

The representative of TIMOR-LESTE said that her country would always include young parliamentarians in its IPU delegation.

The representative of SURINAME said that the IPU should require parliaments to include both women and young parliamentarians in their delegation. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians should also have representation on the Executive Committee.

The representative of the PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA said that her country would like to see more input from young people. Young parliamentarians should also be represented on the Executive Committee as was the case for women parliamentarians.

The representative of CANADA said that one woman and one man from the Forum of Young Parliamentarians should sit on the Executive Committee. It should be made mandatory for at least one young person to participate in the vote.

The representative of TUNISIA said that the first stage was to encourage young people to participate in parliaments since their input was currently limited. At least one young person should be included on the list of candidates and must be afforded a real chance of being elected. That was the case in Tunisia. The IPU should use quotas to ensure that young people were included in delegations. Also, each IPU committee should include at least one young parliamentarian. Sadly, young people are often wary of politics. They must therefore be motivated, including through financial incentives, to participate at local and/or national level(s).

The representative of IRAQ said that the measures advocated at the IPU must be consistent with those advocated in home country. Iraq should revisit its age of candidacy, because it differed at federal and local levels. Activities should also be organized so as to give young people an opportunity to make their voices heard. Examples of this are youth lobbies, human rights commissions and commissions on democracy.

The representative of JAPAN said that while there were no rules on the inclusion of young people in IPU delegations, Japan had included them. A decision should be adopted to ensure that young people were represented on the Executive Committee.

The representative of ZAMBIA said that it should be compulsory to disseminate information about IPU activities to all parliamentarians.

The representative of NIGER said that while the participation of young parliamentarians had progressed, a number of challenges still remained. The IPU provided an opportunity for greater involvement of young parliamentarians in decision making. In Niger, young people had difficulty gaining access to decision-making roles. Unemployment, insecurity and the influence of terrorist groups were among the factors preventing such access. Young parliamentarians should be represented on the Executive Committee.

The representative of PERU said that, being a young parliamentarian, he would not otherwise have had the opportunity to participate in IPU events had he not been Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic. All IPU delegations must be required to include at least one young parliamentarian.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the mandate of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was to enhance the quantitative and qualitative participation of youth at the IPU and parliaments. Its objectives included urging countries to systematically include young parliamentarians in their IPU delegations. Some parliaments were reluctant to do so, for reasons relating to other existing requirements for delegations such as a women's quota. Proposals should therefore not only be flexible but should also be easily implementable. That makes it easier to meet objectives.

The IPU tracked the participation of young parliamentarians in assemblies via an online registration system. However, that method was unreliable since it relied on data pertaining to young parliamentarians who were participating in the Forum alone rather than in the whole assembly. The proportion of young parliamentarians under 45 had always stood at 10 per cent. That was low compared to the proportion of young parliamentarians under 45 in national parliaments, which stood at 26 per cent.

The Board had proposed a number of measures to improve youth participation. Those proposals were consistent with the ones that the Member Parliaments had made. First, it should be mandatory, rather than optional, for delegations to include at least one parliamentarian aged under 45. Second, the IPU could allow delegations to include one additional member if that member was under 35. Third, the IPU could allow delegations additional speaking time in the general debate if that time was used by a parliamentarian who was under 35. That would be in the form of either one additional minute or a second time slot. Those measures would have a number of implications. For instance, the IPU would have to strictly monitor the age of parliamentarians, ensure that statistics were updated and amend the registration system accordingly.

Discussions had begun on making the President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians an ex officio member of the Executive Committee. There were rules which encouraged standing committees to include young parliamentarians. However no such rules applied to other IPU committees and working groups. Those groups could therefore be encouraged to review their internal rules.

The representative of CANADA asked how the rules would be enforced.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that sanctions could be imposed, as was the case for the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. However, the proposals of the Board encouraged incentives rather than sanctions. It was ultimately for Member Parliaments to decide the best way forward.

The representative of PALESTINE was in favour of allowing young parliamentarians extra speaking time. He asked for clarification regarding the age limit.

The PRESIDENT said that three options had been discussed and were to be put before the Executive Committee with regard to the age limit for parliamentarians who would be allowed extra time. One was to set the age limit at 35.

The representative of NIGERIA asked whether the Executive Committee was to choose one of the three options or whether all three would work simultaneously. The age of candidacy ranged from about 18 to 40 in different countries. To avoid any discrimination, 45 should therefore be set as the standard age limit for being allowed extra time.

The representative of KENYA voiced strong support for the proposal that all standing committees should include at least one young person. He asked whether the Executive Committee could require all standing committees to increase their membership by including young parliamentarians

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that expanding the standing committees raised too many issues, because membership of those committees should balance out with the geopolitical groups.

The representative of IRAQ moved that the age limit be set at 40. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians should set up working groups to deal with different subjects, such as peace and human rights. Those working groups could then make recommendations to the standing committees.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that the age of young parliamentarians was not clearly defined. The standing committees already included members who could be considered young. As proposed by Iraq, the IPU should set up working groups within the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to deal with the same subjects as the standing committees. The groups could then make recommendations on behalf of young people.

The PRESIDENT said that the Board would add the delegations' comments to the proposals.

At the 134th IPU Assembly, the Forum decided that the IPU would develop a target for youth participation in national parliaments. It also decided to launch a series of consultations with stakeholders. He invited the Secretary to summarise the Board's suggestions.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the aim of an internationally agreed target for youth participation in parliaments was to ensure good governance and democratic rejuvenation. A target would also contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Several youth quotas already existed in parliaments (e.g. party quotas and reserved seats), but ages and proportions differed from country to country. An internationally agreed target would help countries align themselves to one common objective. Setting an international target was also not new, in that a global target for women in decision-making was already in place. However, the women's target was not directly applicable to youth in light of the age fluctuations.

The Board of the Forum would be holding consultations with a view to identifying a target. That process would be driven by young people and informed by good national practices. Moreover, it would involve a broad array of stakeholders. The process would also be inclusive, sustainable, adaptable to local contexts, gender-equitable, and geared to young people, including through social media. It should also produce measurable results. The timetable proposed would start with consultations in March 2017 and would involve practitioners, researchers, academics and young parliamentarians. In August 2017, an online town-hall meeting would be organized on International Youth Day, during which young people in general would be consulted. Countries should also undertake their own consultations. The target would be adopted in the autumn of 2017 at the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.

The representative of NAMIBIA said that her country was in favour of the target. She asked the IPU to proceed.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that the IPU should devise ways to address the challenges. Member Parliaments would find it difficult to cope if presented with too many ideas.

The representative of IRAQ said that he was in favour of the target, which ideally should be attained within one year. However, it was important to bear in mind that some countries faced dire conditions, and that could prevent them from meeting the target. The Forum should provide assistance to those countries. The Forum should set out clear frameworks to enable countries to set processes in motion.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said he agreed with the proposal. The consultations would generate informed decisions.

The representative of NIGERIA was in favour of the proposal, the timetable and the plan to hold consultations. However, it would be more effective to set a target for youth participation not only in parliaments but also in governance and decision-making in general. That would require involving more bodies, such as the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT said that the Board would include all comments in its report to the Governing Council.

Contribution to the work of the 135th Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that an important item for the 135th IPU Assembly was the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights entitled: *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. The recommendations of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had been submitted to the Standing Committee. Many of those recommendations were included in the draft resolution. They highlighted the specific challenges facing young women in elections. According to those recommendations, parliaments were urged to support women's participation through empowerment programmes. Members of the Forum were encouraged to examine all draft resolutions of standing committees and to propose youth-related amendments thereto.

Member Parliaments were invited to give opinions on the General Debate of the present Assembly concerning: *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*. Youth often faced unique challenges as victims of human rights violations. It was important to discuss how young parliamentarians could sound the alarm.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that negative stereotypes about women as leaders and decision makers must not be perpetuated. A long-term strategy at the local, national and international levels must be implemented, with children as a first priority. His country had submitted some additions to the draft resolution. The resolution should be adopted.

The representative of NAMIBIA said that women need to feel safe in order to participate in parliaments. They should not be stigmatized or made to feel insecure. That way, they could support fellow women in other spheres. Both men and women should contribute equally to achieving that.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that a widespread quota would be a step backwards for some countries, as it was not required by all. There should not be a widespread women's or youth quota.

The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that it was necessary to support and strengthen women's and young people's efforts. However, the situation could differ from country to country. Therefore it was not enough to think in theoretical terms. Parliamentarians must be strongly urged to make effective decisions at national level, and to share best practices.

The representative of EGYPT said that women played an important role at the social, economic and political levels. They therefore deserve more attention.

The representative of IRAQ said that women's rights, particularly their human rights, should be examined separately. Setting a women's quota was one way forward. However, it was also important to ensure that women played a more active role. Parliamentarians should engage with human rights organisations. That was not possible in Iraq, as it had been thrown into turmoil and had to grapple with terrorism. Moreover, Iraqi women were beset by a whole host of challenges.

Special session to mark the 40th anniversary of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The PRESIDENT said that the present Assembly marked the 40th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. A film had been produced concerning the work of the Committee.

The film was screened.

Ms. A. CLYWD (United Kingdom), *Member of the Committee*, encouraged those young parliamentarians with a passion for human rights to join the Committee if they were prepared for interaction and challenge.

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was set up in 1976 at a time when military coups were rife in Latin America and when parliamentarians were facing serious abuses. Such abuses were tackled only through an international complaints mechanism. The Committee had helped more than 2000 parliamentarians from more than 100 countries. The most recurrent abuses were arbitrary detention, absence of a fair trial and unlawful suspension of parliamentary mandate. The victims were mostly parliamentarians from the opposition.

Ensuring respect for the rights of parliamentarians was a big challenge. Basic human rights which were vital for parliamentary work were increasingly under threat for reasons such as terrorism and the preservation of law and order. The rights under threat included freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and access to information. The situation was exacerbated by acts of hostility and aggression by members of the public against politicians. Indeed, the number of cases brought before the Committee was growing. It was therefore urgent to protect parliamentarians.

The Committee's message was that it was in the interests of those in power to treat their opponents with dignity. Given the unpredictable nature of politics, those in government could one day find themselves on the opposition. It is noteworthy that the Committee never gave up until it found a solution. Its role was not to condemn the authorities, but rather to facilitate dialogue and reach satisfactory settlements in accordance with international human rights standards. The authorities were mostly cooperative.

The Committee had often successfully resolved cases involving human rights violations. It did so, for instance, by securing the release of parliamentarians from prison and helping them to obtain justice and appropriate redress. It also helped obtain protective measures and ensured that trials were fair and impartial. Furthermore, it encouraged constitutional legislative reform with a view to strengthening rights protection.

Abuses against parliamentarians often stemmed from systemic human rights failures at national level, the absence of an independent judiciary and abuse of power. In order to prevent such abuses from being perpetuated, it was essential to tackle their root causes, for instance, by repealing or amending legislation. In many instances where parliamentarians' rights were violated, many people who did not enjoy the same level of protection were victims of abuses. It is therefore fair to say that the work of the committee helped improve the overall situation in the countries concerned.

Given the nature of their work, parliamentarians as a whole could come under threat at one point or another. A case in point is the murder of Member of Parliament Jo Cox in the United Kingdom. That is one reason why parliamentarians should express solidarity with fellow parliamentarians and take action as individuals or through institutions. They should adopt resolutions and work with parliamentarians in the country concerned so as to help settle cases. Moreover, they should bring up such cases during parliamentary visits to the country concerned. The Committee should be informed of any actions taken.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM agreed that by its nature, democracy was fragile, even in a country like the United Kingdom. There had been examples of that throughout history. He asked whether more could be done to strengthen the authority of the Committee through the IPU.

Ms. A. CLYWD (United Kingdom), *Member of the Committee*, said that the Committee had a small staff even though it had to perform difficult, time-intensive duties. Parliamentarians should request more resources and raise awareness about the Committee.

The representative of PALESTINE commended the Committee for what it has done to defend the rights of Palestinian parliamentarians under the Israeli occupation. He asked what could be done if parliament as a whole violated the rights of an entire people, including parliamentarians.

Ms. A. CLYWD (United Kingdom), *Member of the Committee*, said that she was aware of the situation in Palestine. As Chair of the Committee on Middle East Questions, she had attempted to promote dialogue between the two sides, but had not been successful. Although it was difficult, she would continue to try. She did not have a solution at the present time.

The representative of IRAQ said that Daesh forces were raping and killing Iraqi women, particularly Yazidi women. It was not enough to simply talk about the situation. Parliamentarians must work with the people affected in order to fully reintegrate them back into society.

The representative of CANADA asked how the Committee viewed its work within the context of the general debate of the current IPU Assembly.

Ms. A. CLYWD (United Kingdom), *Member of the Committee*, said that she used to be Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Human Rights in Iraq and, as such, was aware of the situation of Yazidi women. Minorities in general continued to suffer persecution in Iraq. She hoped that civilians would be protected and that their humanitarian needs would be met during the ongoing conflict.

The Committee fit into the general debate by providing a platform for discussing injustices. However, she was uncertain whether the general debate was the best way to promote the work of the IPU.

Contribution to the work of the 135th Assembly
(continued)

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM made announcements regarding other events scheduled to take place during the Assembly.

The representative of the OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR) invited young parliamentarians to the Forum of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law organised by OHCHR.

Ms. G. FRASER-MOLEKETI (African Development Bank) said that a large number of young people were unemployed. Africa was facing a number of challenges, including unemployment. First, the supply-demand gap within the labour market was exacerbated by policies, such as lack of access to credit and inflexible labour markets. Second, it was difficult to link skilled young people to employers, because the skills they possessed did not match the ones required by employers. Moreover, young people were largely unaware of the opportunities available and were ill-equipped to access them. Third, young people lacked the skills required. Two thirds of young people in Africa had not attended secondary school. Those who had were generally ill-prepared to join the workforce, as they lacked practical training.

The African Development bank had responded to the challenge by developing an ecosystem approach consisting in inclusive employment and entrepreneurship, human capital development and improved labour market networking. It thus established six flagship programmes in agriculture, industry and ICT. It was incumbent upon parliamentarians to ensure policy and regulatory environments which enabled young people to enter the job market or to become entrepreneurs.

The PRESIDENT said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was working on the issue of unemployment for young people. He thanked Worldwide Support for Development for its support to IPU youth participation work. He announced that the next meeting of the Forum would take place at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh in April 2017.

The sitting rose at 12.55 p.m.

Parity Debate on *Harassment and violence against MPs: Issues and solutions*

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *moderator*, said that attacks on individual parliamentarians represented an attack on parliament as whole and by extension, on democracy itself.

Mr. R. HUIZENGA (Head, IPU Human Rights Programme), *Panellist*, said that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians investigated allegations submitted by victims, members of their families, non-governmental organizations or political parties. Its work involved thorough and independent fact-checking, dialogue with governments and efforts to mobilize members of parliament around the world, on whose support the Committee's success depended. He called on all members of parliament to support the Committee in order to help parliamentarians under threat.

The Committee handled cases involving specific allegations. It aimed to ensure that all cases were settled in line with international human rights standards. The Committee began its casework by trying to establish whether the State or its agents had been directly or indirectly implicated. Even in the absence of direct State involvement, the authorities may have failed to take adequate measures to shed light on violations. The Committee sought to establish whether the alleged violations had been reported to the authorities, whether an investigation had been launched and whether the security situation had been assessed. The Committee tried to ensure that parliamentarians had adequate protection, and that those who threatened parliamentarians were held to account. The Committee also dealt with specific cases of harassment, such as when members of parliament were followed, placed under surveillance or had items stolen from their offices. The Committee sought to maintain a dialogue with the authorities of each country so as to find appropriate solutions and ensure a satisfactory settlement.

Data collected by the Committee since 2015 indicated that just over 10 per cent of parliamentarians affected by violence and harassment were women. The most common violations reported to the Committee included arbitrary detention and lack of due process. Violence and intimidation were less common, but had affected 149 members of parliament (12 per cent of whom were women), mostly members of the opposition. Further analysis was required to establish why the Committee had received such a small number of complaints from women parliamentarians. One possibility was that the work of the Committee was not well known among women. Furthermore, the gender aspect of complaints had not been analysed in detail. It may be useful to systematically ask complainants whether the violations they were reporting were gender-based. Parliamentarians of both genders should also feel able to submit complaints to an international body. The Committee dealt with all complaints in a sensitive and confidential manner.

The MODERATOR praised the Committee for refusing to give up on cases and highlighted that, according to the data provided, certain regions were more affected by the problem than others.

Ms. K. JABRE (IPU Secretariat) provided an overview of the recent IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians. One in three women had been affected by violence, and no society, culture or socioeconomic class was immune to the problem. As the number of women in parliament had grown, so had levels of gender-specific intimidation and violence. Violence against women in politics had certain specific characteristics and women were targeted because of their gender. The violence against them often took gender-specific forms, including sexist threats and sexual violence. It aimed to discourage women from playing an active role in politics.

The study was based on interviews with 55 women from 39 countries. It charted women's experiences and included a questionnaire for parliaments on measures taken to tackle violence and harassment. The survey had covered psychological, sexual, physical and economic violence. The results had revealed troubling levels of violence, especially psychological violence, which had affected just over 80 per cent of respondents. Almost half, (44.4 per cent), had received threats of death, or been the victim of rape, beatings or kidnapping. Social media had emerged as the primary platform for attacks against women parliamentarians. More than half of respondents (65 per cent)

had been the target of sexist remarks, either from members of their own or other political parties. The prevalence of sexual harassment and physical violence was also troubling. Sexist attitudes were common in parliaments, and few institutions had adopted regulations or codes of conduct to address the problem.

The majority of respondents believed that sexist behaviour or violence aimed to dissuade them from political activity, and was strongly motivated by the positions they had taken on particular issues. Aggravating factors included membership of opposition parties, being young, belonging to a minority group, or promoting women's rights where people were either apprehensive of or hostile towards women's participation. Violence and harassment made women's lives very difficult and in certain cases, forced them to change their behaviour. However, the study had also revealed the astounding resilience of women in politics. Of the women interviewed, 80 per cent had indicated that neither violence nor harassment would undermine their work, or prevent them from standing for election.

The first challenge was to identify, define and recognize the problem of violence and harassment. It was then essential to draft and implement strict laws to promote equality and combat violence against women. Legislative provisions could either apply to all women or feature specific provisions covering women in politics. That legislation should extend to new forms of violence, particularly online threats and other forms of cyberviolence. It was also important to introduce robust internal policies and structures (including through complaints and protection mechanisms), to change the political culture and to enhance solidarity. Parliaments must work with civil society and focus on education as a means of combating discrimination.

Sexism and violence were not inevitable consequences of women participating in politics. Parliaments and parliamentarians needed to make clear that such behaviour had no place in politics and would not be tolerated. The effectiveness of parliamentary work, progress towards gender equality and the vitality of democracy itself were at stake.

The MODERATOR asked the panellists whether they thought that the work of parliamentarians was unsafe.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that in her country, gender equality was enshrined in the Constitution. Government policies and legislative provisions had created a space for women in public life, and fostered equality and harmony. Women, including young women, held senior positions in government. Neither age nor gender was a barrier to political work. Electoral law 026 stipulated that for every candidate on a list, the alternate must be of the opposite gender.

The MODERATOR asked whether women parliamentarians in Bolivia felt safe.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that the national parliament was a safer place than it had been. For example, heated debates no longer led to physical altercations. However, women remained vulnerable to psychological violence, particularly via social media. Although there were claims that the concept of freedom of speech applied to such behaviour, the Government was currently working on developing public policies to combat online harassment.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada), *Panellist*, said that the Canadian parliament was becoming a safer place for women. A code of conduct had been developed and the Prime Minister, who declared himself a feminist, had appointed equal numbers of women and men to his cabinet. However, progress achieved in the upper echelons of government did not necessarily filter down, and required follow-up. It was important to remember that if women did not feel safe in parliament, they were unable to work effectively.

The MODERATOR asked Ms. N. Luo whether she had noticed any changes in the way that parliamentarians were treated.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *Panellist*, said that Zambian parliamentarians felt relatively safe. Nevertheless, there was still a clear difference in the way that men and women were treated. Men certainly had an advantage and felt safer.

In Zambia, the President had introduced very clear policies and adopted a legal framework to empower and celebrate women. Nevertheless, the media continued to attack women, under the guise of freedom of expression. Women were poorly portrayed on social media, and subjected to psychological violence. In one case, a woman had even lost her job after images of her had been circulated on the Internet. She said that, as Minister of Education, she planned to tackle the problem and foster a paradigm shift in the way that women were portrayed.

The MODERATOR agreed that social media posed a new challenge. He asked the panellists to comment on the different types of harassment experienced by women and men in parliament.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that women were also capable of harassing their female colleagues. It was important to establish the root causes of harassment.

Women parliamentarians experienced multiple forms of discrimination as women, mothers and politicians. It was often insinuated that successful women had not achieved their positions through merit. Inequality and machismo were still features of the political system in certain countries. People should be educated to uphold fundamental values and overcome inequality. In order to do that, everyone had to work together. As women in leadership positions were often challenged and harassed via social media, they needed to remain strong and set their sights high.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada), *Panellist*, said that although men and women were sometimes challenged in a similar manner, namely on Twitter or in parliament, they reacted differently to such behaviour. In the IPU survey, over 80 per cent of respondents had indicated that they had experienced psychological violence. For women trying to enter the male-dominated area of politics, certain challenges were perceived differently.

Men should volunteer to champion the fight against harassment. A significant number of women parliamentarians might have resigned from office as a result of harassment or other forms of violence. Other women might have chosen not to enter politics at all. The parliamentary world should move towards parity and away from male-dominated environments.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *Panellist*, said that it was important to understand how children were socialized. Girls were brought up to function as decorative objects and to apologize for their existence, while boys were raised to feel superior and confident. Women were seen as passive objects, incapable of succeeding on merit. For example, it was frequently implied that their success had depended on granting sexual favours. Even other women shared that attitude. As a result, women parliamentarians had to be tough and stand up for themselves. It was also vitally important for more experienced women in parliament to mentor younger women.

The representative of PAKISTAN said that the national parliament promoted a culture of tolerance and used quotas for women. However, gender discrimination remained a problem and women in parliament often faced sexist remarks. It was unclear whether the problem stemmed from a lack of education or negative attitudes towards women. The media needed to do more to combat gender stereotypes, instead of promoting them. Women were also capable of undermining each other. The IPU should speak out on behalf of women, and make clear that more protection and less discrimination were needed. Even women in senior public posts were not immune to attack. People's attitudes and behaviour should be changed.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that the issue concerned society and culture as a whole. It was important to change people's attitudes, both within and beyond parliamentary institutions.

The representative of ITALY expressed concern that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians did not attach sufficient importance to the gender dimension of the complaints it received. Part of the solution involved acknowledging and raising awareness of the problem. Was the Committee willing to follow up on the research into violence against women parliamentarians? Equally, violence must not be viewed as an inevitable consequence of women participating in politics. Violence, including subtle forms of harassment, aimed to prevent women from entering politics. And even if they did enter politics, they faced psychological violence. If women did not feel safe, they could not fulfil their political potential. However, if gender equality was achieved, the parliamentary agenda would change and levels of violence would diminish.

The representative of INDIA said that it was important to focus on the role of parliamentarians in an age of digital revolution, powerful social media and expanding electronic media. There were certainly challenges to overcome. The media published news without checking the facts and parliamentarians' reputations could be damaged through misinformation.

In India, there was a tradition of respect for women, and quotas to ensure parity had been introduced at local government level. Although much progress had been made, women continued to face difficulties.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM expressed concerns about the media and the prevalent lack of respect for politicians. Women were viewed through the prism of family life in a way that men were not. The anonymity of commentators on social media further worsened the situation. Women in politics were regularly threatened with rape, and those from minority groups were particularly at risk. Indeed, given the recent assassination of the British parliamentarian Ms. Jo Cox, it seemed that the fears of women politicians were justified.

The IPU was an important forum for sharing experiences. It was vital for women to no longer be a minority group. It was also essential to prosecute threats of rape and to ensure that the media acknowledged that men also had family lives. People who made threats of rape should have their social media accounts closed down.

The representative of the BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA asked whether a breakdown by country was available for the statistics pertaining to the Latin American region. Specific information on available complaints mechanisms would also be useful.

She drew attention to certain worrying developments in her country. The previous day, the Minister of Defence had indicated that any members of parliament who lodged complaints with international human rights bodies would be jailed on their return home. In that extremely precarious human rights situation, what IPU mechanisms were there to provide an immediate response to human rights violations, and to end arbitrary behaviour that was harmful to both society and democracy? Venezuelan parliamentarians also risked being stripped of their immunity in court, and denied the right to fulfil their parliamentary mandates.

The MODERATOR said that further information would be provided on the Committee's complaints procedure.

The representative of NAMIBIA asked for further information on assistance available to parliamentarians under threat, including details of reporting and complaints procedures. Psychological violence was a global challenge. What could parliamentarians do to overcome the problem?

The MODERATOR agreed that it was important to obtain information on complaints procedures and how cases were handled.

The representative of MAURITANIA said that women faced a wide range of challenges, including psychological and verbal violence, and other forms of intimidation. In Mauritania, parity was required by law, but men were still under the impression that "their" space was being taken over by women. That impression often caused verbal violence. The Government had promoted gender equality, including by introducing a 20 per cent quota for women's participation. When women had called for parity (equal representation in parliament), men had complained that women wanted all their seats. That was a form of verbal violence.

The intimidation of women parliamentarians took many forms. For example, if a woman took the floor, comments would be made that she only wanted to talk about women's issues. In addition, women were often excluded from certain committees or leadership positions. That was a form of psychological violence.

The representative of LEBANON said that there were very few women in parliament. As a result, they felt harassed and lacked political influence. Parity should be promoted and women's voices should be heard in politics.

Women were vulnerable to harassment via social networks, where women's political participation was met with disapproval. She wondered whether it was best to respond to that kind of aggressive behaviour or to ignore it.

The representative of LESOTHO discussed whether incidents involving violence or harassment were reported to the police. Sometimes, State agents or authorities were the perpetrators; at others, parliamentarians had been forced to flee the country. In such cases, it could be very difficult to report a crime to the police. How did the Committee handle such cases?

In certain cases, attempts to tackle harassment and violence against women gave rise to anti-male attitudes. It was important to avoid encouraging such behaviour.

The representative of OMAN said that information was needed on the situation in specific States, rather than a regional overview. In a given region, rates of violence and harassment could vary significantly from country to country. It was important to adopt an empirical approach, in order to find the best solutions. To facilitate national prosecutions, it was necessary to ensure that the data collected was accurate, and that violations had actually taken place. Parliamentarians could address

legislative gaps or shortcomings, but it might also be necessary to change people's attitudes and address cultural issues. In any case, it was equally important to respect cultural traditions and mores. Parliaments needed to work with the media and social media to achieve results. Change had to take place nationally, rather than regionally.

Mr. R. HUIZENGA (Head, IPU Human Rights Programme), *Panellist*, said that the Committee did take on cases with a clear gender dimension, such as where threats of rape had been made. In such situations, gender was taken into account and raised in communications with the authorities. However, the Committee did not systematically apply a gender perspective to complaints that it handled. All parliamentarians could lodge complaints, and the Committee did not enquire whether attacks had been explicitly linked to the victim's gender.

With regard to the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Committee planned to draft a report and to travel on mission to that country.

The complaints system was a clear, written complaints procedure. Members of parliament, lawyers, or families of parliamentarians could lodge complaints. Delegates were encouraged to contact the Committee for further information.

On reporting incidents to the police, the Committee normally asked members of parliament to first contact the authorities. That was to encourage parliamentarians to seek assistance nationally before contacting the Committee. However, the Committee was aware that, in many cases, that was not possible.

Ms. K. JABRE (IPU Secretariat) said that the study had examined worldwide trends. No specific country had been singled out, and there were indeed differences between and within regions. As part of the follow-up process, a further study was planned, which would be more regional and national in scope and would include parliamentary staff.

Violence against women aimed to restrict women's participation in political life. She welcomed the comments made by the representative of Lesotho, highlighting the role of men as champions of women's rights. Both men and women needed to act to resolve the problem.

The MODERATOR said that it was important to consider how men and women could build partnerships to ensure that all parliamentarians could perform their roles freely and without interference.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that in a properly functioning democratic system, all groups should be properly represented, and problems should be resolved through cooperation. Parliamentarians should adopt an inclusive approach to tackling harassment via social media. All States needed to adopt legislation to prevent violence. In her country, work was underway to raise awareness of all regulations discussed in parliament and to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to violence.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada), *Panellist*, said that harassment and violence against women was part of a broader social problem. Efforts to tackle those issues needed to extend beyond parliamentary politics. Some sectors or fields were still very male-dominated, such as finance and defence. In Canada, for example, although there were equal numbers of women and men in the cabinet, only two women held seats on the Standing Committee on National Defence and only seven per cent of women in the armed forces held senior positions.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *Panellist*, said that human behaviour was embedded in culture and traditions. Aspects of culture that perpetuated negative attitudes or stereotypes should be considered. In Zambia, efforts had been made to acknowledge and address that deeper problem. It was difficult to change the mindset of older people. However, programmes in Zambia such as *Boys to Men* focused on working with and educating the younger generation.

An issue that had not been addressed during the debate was the growing problem of young people, usually young men, harassing women parliamentarians in order to push them out of the political arena. It was a form of harassment that targeted women politicians, most frequently via social media. Women parliamentarians must stand their ground.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that a range of legislative measures had been introduced to prevent discrimination and violence in her country, including specific legislation on political violence against women. Law 348 addressed violence

against women and defined femicide as a crime, while Law 243 tackled the issue of political violence against women. Other legislative provisions included measures to combat discrimination, including Law 045. Citizens could lodge complaints with public institutions or authorities, who were required by law to report violations and take appropriate action. Moreover, each year ministers were held to account by the public for the decisions they had taken. Policies and regulations had been adopted to dismantle patriarchal systems and promote positive action. Perpetrators of violence were punished, their names were added to a database, and they were banned from holding political or public office.

The MODERATOR encouraged delegates to look into adopting specific legislation on psychological harassment.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada), *Panellist*, said that the Canadian parliament had introduced a code of conduct that prohibited all forms of sexual misconduct. Every member of the House of Commons had to sign a declaration pledging to respect the code. It had been an important measure and had brought the issue of sexual harassment into the open.

A private members' Bill had been tabled on introducing a "gender equality week". The event would provide an opportunity to examine relevant issues and challenges, including the status of First Nations, violence against women and economic disparities. If other parliamentarians had the opportunity to table private members' Bills, he encouraged them to do so.

The representative of PALESTINE said that Palestinian society had a patriarchal structure. Only 20 per cent of legislators were women. Nevertheless, measures were being taken to increase women's participation by a further 10 per cent.

Men represented the majority in the Palestine National Council. In Palestine, women parliamentarians were fighting for dignity, respect and support from their male colleagues. Palestinian women also suffered under the Israeli occupation. Parliamentarians were taken hostage by the occupying forces. Indeed, she had been freed because of the IPU Committee's intervention.

The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that it was important to protect and defend all women, and civil society as a whole, rather than focusing solely on parliamentarians. It was also vital to prosecute those who intimidated and harassed women.

The representative of BENIN said that there was no violence against women parliamentarians in Benin. Women enjoyed the same rights and advantages as men. There were incidents involving verbal violence during elections, but not in parliament. Nevertheless, less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in Benin were women, and efforts were therefore being made to increase that figure to at least 20 or 30 per cent.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that the national Constitution guaranteed the safety of men and women in parliament. South Africa had an independent judiciary and a system of governance that ensured the complete separation of powers.

Measures to guarantee women's safety in public life reflected society's willingness to tackle the problem. She stressed the importance of introducing legislation to protect women.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that change depended on the political will of the leadership. Harassment and violence aimed to discourage women from participating in politics. The situation should be assessed at national level. Parliaments should take the lead in condemning violence and harassment. Women must be treated as equals, not as objects. Failure to do so trivialized the serious nature of parliamentary work, and attacked parliamentary democracy itself. Safe and gender-sensitive parliaments were needed. The media should also play their role by listening to what a woman actually had to say, rather than commenting on her person.

The representative of TUNISIA said that the safety of parliamentarians in Tunisia was increasingly better protected. That was due to various laws and mechanisms designed to ensure parity, protect freedom of expression and prevent violence against women. Civil society's active role was also a contributing factor. Nevertheless, the media were reluctant to provide women with opportunities to express themselves and show what they were capable of. She wondered what could be done to address that problem. Perhaps more focused efforts were required to educate people and change existing attitudes.

The representative of TIMOR-LESTE said that there was a patriarchal system in Timor-Leste where men dominated politics. Reforms were under way, including measures to prevent all forms of violence and harassment that targeted women. Indeed, a range of laws had been passed to protect women's rights.

The representative of the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO said that African women were actively raising awareness and demonstrating their competence in political life. In her country, electoral legislation was designed to take gender representation into account. However, women often lacked the financial resources required to stand for election, which made them vulnerable to forms of extortion such as requests for sexual favours in exchange for financial gain. She wondered what mechanisms could be developed to support women candidates. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was taking steps to implement the relevant international human rights instruments.

The representative of GUINEA said that, in his country, there was a great deal of respect for women. An electoral gender quota of 30 per cent had been introduced. Nevertheless, more should be done to improve women's access to leadership positions. National legislation could be adopted to that end. Of course, it was necessary to respect the culture and laws of each country. However, it would be useful to introduce supranational legislation to promote women's political participation.

The MODERATOR invited the panellists to make their concluding remarks.

Ms. K. JABRE (IPU Secretariat) said that the changes mentioned were the beginning of a process. The situation should be monitored, assessed and studied. The key role of parliaments as models for society should be stressed. Parliamentary reform was necessary to achieve social change.

Mr. R. HUIZENGA (Head, IPU Human Rights Programme), *Panellist*, agreed that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians needed to take account of gender in its work and to encourage women to contact the Committee.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *Panellist*, hoped that men would act as women's champions and speak out against the harassment and violence that women parliamentarians experienced.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada), *Panellist*, said that structural and financial barriers prevented women from entering politics. A solution should be found while avoiding political interference. One of the IPU's strengths was its diversity, which could provide momentum for change. The problem was becoming increasingly serious, particularly with regard to harassment on social media. Women were being discouraged from participating in politics. It was of paramount importance to maintain a dialogue on the issue throughout the year, rather than restricting the debate to Assembly sessions.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), *Panellist*, said that women were a fundamental pillar of society. To build a world without violence, people should foster a culture of tolerance, and promote and uphold fundamental values. Action was needed to strengthen and empower women. Violence against women was never justified.

The MODERATOR said that if parliamentarians could become targets of violence and harassment, that did not bode well for ordinary citizens. It was time to end violence against members of parliament.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

Open Session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. P. Taran (Global Migration Policy Associates) in the Chair.

Refugees, migrants and their hosts: What next?

The CHAIR said that about 3 per cent of the global population were migrants. That included people living somewhere other than their country of birth or citizenship for at least a year. Migrant proportions had remained relatively stable for the past 50 years. The discussion should distinguish between the terms 'refugee' and 'migrant': 'refugees' could be considered a specific subgroup of the migrant population. He invited the representatives of Italy and Lebanon to present the situation of refugees and migrants in their countries and the associated challenges. Both countries received a significant number of refugees and migrants and so were considered "high impact countries".

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *Panellist*, said that it was not just Italy, but the whole southern coast of Europe that was dealing with the problem. Between 2014 and 2016, about 150,000 migrants had entered Italy by sea. A total of 70,000 had requested international protection and 60,000 were considered illegal. Thirteen per cent were women, 16 per cent were unaccompanied minors and the rest were men. Most migrants came from Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia or Guinea.

The CHAIR asked what the most urgent challenges were in terms of assistance, protection and social service.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *Panellist*, said that Europe's southern coastal States, including Italy, could not endure the burden alone. Italy was particularly stretched because the universal right to health was enshrined in the Constitution. The State assisted all people in need of healthcare regardless of nationality, including undocumented migrants, pregnant women and children. Other EU countries must share the burden.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon), *Panellist*, said that Lebanon had accepted the equivalent of 35 per cent of its population in migrants, most of whom were from Syria or Palestine. The effects had been tremendous. First, the situation had put huge strain on the country's limited resources. There was not enough capacity to meet the demand for electricity, water, hospital capacity and school places. Second, the situation had created safety issues: instances of rape, for example, had risen drastically. Third, the Lebanese had treated the migrants as brothers and given them equal opportunities on jobs and housing. They had therefore increased competition for themselves.

The international community had made many promises but taken little action. Some prosperous Arab countries in particular should be doing more. If Lebanon did not receive help, the country could collapse.

The CHAIR asked how the Italian people had responded to the situation.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *Panellist*, said that there had been both positive and negative responses to migration in Italy. However, the media tended only to focus on the negative ones. Any instances of hospitality were considered normal and did not make the news. Italy had established a system which distributed migrants all over the country. They were distributed according to certain criteria, including the population, GDP and unemployment rate of each region. Europe must do the same.

The CHAIR asked whether there was still a sense of solidarity in Lebanon after the numbers of migrants had grown and competition had intensified.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon), *Panellist*, said that there was still a sense of generosity although some friction was inevitable, particularly on jobs and competition. Lebanon was a small country and the numbers of migrants were so high that it had become overwhelming. He asked the international

community not to criticize Lebanon's efforts but instead to provide support. In addition to migration issues, Lebanon had a war on its borders and was facing unprecedented levels of terrorism. The war had also plunged the economy into turmoil by destroying the tourism industry and impeding trade with the Arab world. Lebanon could collapse without support. Europe must see Lebanon as the front line of its refugee problem.

The CHAIR said that, although the dimensions were unprecedented, the challenge itself was not. A normative framework of standards already existed to ensure cooperation and to guarantee protection for migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons.

Ms. E. HANSEN (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR), *Panellist*, said that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol were the fundamental instruments used to protect refugees. The Convention codified the principle of non-refoulement for people at risk of persecution. It also set out refugees' fundamental rights such as the right not to be punished for illegal entry and the right to work, housing and education. Some of those rights applied immediately, whereas others were granted progressively.

More and more refugees had been displaced for longer than five years. In 2016, there had been an increase in the number of refugees who had died in Europe. That might indicate factors including increased desperation and the use of less seaworthy boats. Refugee status should be granted to those who met the relevant definitions. Importantly however, refugee status was not required if any universal rights were at risk.

The CHAIR said that International Humanitarian Law was a complementary and relevant subject.

Mr. D. HELLE (International Committee of the Red Cross), *Panellist*, said that International Humanitarian Law had two aims: to protect people living in conflict zones who were not military targets; and to set rules on how to wage war. It was possible to wage war as long as the warring sides did not go beyond what was necessary to defeat the enemy. Anything that was not necessary was illegal. It was prohibited to murder civilians, forcibly displace them or destroy infrastructure that was needed to survive. People fled war zones when the law was not respected. Countries that hosted the largest number of refugees were usually those neighbouring a war zone.

The CHAIR said that many displaced people were fleeing operations that had deliberately targeted civilian populations and destroyed infrastructure and economies. A number of laws and standards were in place to protect migrants in addition to International Humanitarian Law.

Ms. M. KLEIN SOLOMON (International Organization for Migration - IOM), *Panellist*, said that the Refugee Convention was applicable where there was no State protection. The legal framework that applied to migrants generally was International Human Rights Law. There were additional labour law protections, including two International Labour Organization Conventions that were relevant to migrant workers. There was also the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as a body of law that dealt with transnational organized crime such as trafficking in persons. The different bodies of law were not unified into one international framework. That was because States wished to retain their sovereign discretion to determine which non-nationals entered their territory and were unwilling to cede that authority to an international system. However, international cooperation was desperately needed between countries of origin, transit and destination to manage migration flows.

The CHAIR said that the New York Declaration makes an international commitment to develop two global compacts, on refugees and migrants respectively. He asked why the declaration was significant and whether it was realistic.

Ms. M. KLEIN SOLOMON (IOM), *Panellist*, said that the New York Declaration was a historic migration agreement in terms of protection and governance. First, it cemented a global commitment to always protect the rights of all migrants, regardless of their legal status. Second, it acknowledged the needs of migrants. Although they were not refugees, they could nevertheless be vulnerable. Third, it recognized that a global effort was required to improve migration governance. Improving governance meant establishing national laws, policies and practices that facilitated migration when it was needed. Migration was a fundamental contributor to inclusive growth and sustainable development but only if the right policies were in place. Under the Declaration, policies would protect

human rights and give people the opportunity to move by choice rather than compulsion. Those policies would also allow people to move through safe, legal, orderly channels and be welcomed upon arrival. The Declaration looked at migration in its totality and at how to make it a more positive phenomenon.

One of the toughest challenges about migration was negative public perception and discourse, for which the media and public leaders bore some responsibility. Levels of xenophobia, racism, discrimination and populism had risen, even though the benefits of migration outweighed the negatives.

The CHAIR asked for clarification on the Global Compact on Refugees.

Ms. E. HANSEN (UNHCR), *Panellist*, said that the New York Declaration reaffirmed the rights of both refugees and migrants and galvanized political support for host communities. Internally displaced people were not included, but they would also remain a point of focus.

The Declaration set out a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, which would form the basis for action. The Framework was considered dynamic, responsive, predictable and equitable. Although it introduced distinct processes for migrants and refugees, coherence between the two groups would be maintained since movements of people often included both. The Framework engaged many different stakeholders, including local and national bodies, non-UN development partners, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector. It committed to sufficient and predictable humanitarian funding and programming. It emphasized the need for services such as schools and healthcare to be provided locally, as well as for investment in the economic empowerment of refugees. The Framework also aimed to increase resettlement places and other third country admission schemes. She hoped the international community would adopt the Global Compact on Refugees by 2018.

The CHAIR invited Member Parliaments to comment. First, they should indicate the major challenges in their country. Second, they should specify what sort of international solidarity and cooperation they expected to receive. Third, they should suggest what parliaments could do in relation to their challenges, the New York Declaration and the New Urban Agenda. The Agenda was important as most migrants ended up in cities.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that the crisis affected host countries as well as refugees. Host countries were paying a heavy economic and political price. It was important to consider the changes that migrant flows made to demographics. The international community must help refugees, but humanitarian solutions were not enough. States must address the root causes of migration, which meant ending war and establishing peace and stability.

Mr. M.R.H. HARRAJ (Pakistan) commended the efforts of Lebanon and Jordan and aligned himself with the representative of Bahrain. It was vital to look at the reasons why people migrated rather than “what next”. The international community must fulfil its own obligations and follow the law.

Although Pakistan had been hosting Afghan migrants for 20 years, it was still criticized. In Kashmir, International Humanitarian Law was being constantly violated. Women were being raped, children shot and hospitals bombed. Many other countries had also been destroyed including Syria and Iraq. These situations would have disastrous effects on generations to come.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) said that France's main difficulty related to the terrorist attacks. They had instilled fearful attitudes and nationalist tendencies in the public, which had been fuelled by the media and the extreme right. There was talk of being invaded when in reality, a very small proportion of the population were asylum seekers.

Europe could not agree on what international solidarity should involve. There were procedures in place which were not fit for purpose. For instance, the Dublin Regulation required the first host country to process asylum requests. That meant that Italy was swamped but France was not since it had fewer entry points. It was important to bolster both European and international cooperation.

The French Parliament had revised its asylum law so that it was more in line with the Geneva Conventions. It had reduced the length of asylum procedures and created reception centres for asylum seekers called *cada*. The Parliament had also increased the budget for development aid since better development would reduce migrant flows into Europe. New types of migrants not covered by the Geneva Conventions should be considered, including those fleeing climate change.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) said that first, the war in Syria must be stopped. Sweden would play a part in that when it took up its seat on the UN Security Council in January 2017. Parliaments and the whole of society must do more. Second, countries must show more solidarity when taking care of refugees. Sweden and Germany had welcomed many refugees but other European countries must also help. Refugees should be distributed according to the size of the host country. Third, it was important to help frontline countries such as Lebanon. She had been on an IPU mission to Lebanon. It was clear that the country was suffering from the huge burden it had taken on.

Ms. H. BSISU (Jordan) said that there was more hatred, polarization, fragmentation and Islamophobia in the world. Daesh was threatening Arab countries as much as others, but the world was not uniting to face a common enemy. Those issues must be addressed for the situation to improve.

Jordan was reaching breaking point on the refugee crisis. The country had recorded the highest levels of poverty and unemployment in a decade. Negative social change was occurring, including a rise in child labour, early marriage and illiteracy. Yet the international community was not giving the country the support it needed. There was a feeling of injustice where human rights did not seem to apply equally to all.

Jordan expected to receive reliable and sustainable support. It also expected an equal distribution of the burdens of migration. Social justice was needed across the world or migration would continue.

Parliamentarians should visit countries affected by migration as the representative of Sweden had done. That would allow them to view the situation on a more human level. The war must also be stopped.

Mr. S. CYITATIRE (Rwanda) said that he had been forced out of his country as a baby and had grown up as a refugee in Burundi. He had enrolled in the army during the Rwandan liberation war and had regained his nationality in 1995. He was currently writing a book to record his difficult story. More and more people were facing a similar fate.

One major difficulty was to overcome Europe's fear of "the other". Cooperation on migration was necessary since migration affected all countries. In 1945, Europeans had been the ones who had been displaced. Parliaments must debate migration issues and find solutions. The biggest problem was the global order, which was based on injustice.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *Panellist*, said that the Italian Chamber of Deputies would pass a law to support unaccompanied refugee and migrant children. The law would recognize their right to hospitality, health, family, education and training. It would also offer special protection to particularly vulnerable minors, such as those who had been abused or trafficked for sexual purposes. Unfortunately, Italy had not paid such attention to women. Female refugees from Nigeria were particularly vulnerable, as 75 per cent were victims of sex trafficking. States must help women to get out of such criminal networks.

Ms. M. KLEIN SOLOMON (IOM), *Panellist*, said that people must overcome their fear of "the other". Parliamentarians could make a difference by calling for a more measured discourse and recognizing our common humanity.

Ms. M. HAJ HASSAN OSMAN (Sudan) said that his country was a transit State, although some refugees had settled in Sudan. That said, Sudan was also subject to economic sanctions, which meant that refugees were living in poverty. Sudan had adopted measures to protect migrants such as a law against human trafficking.

She had also visited Lebanon with the IPU. The situation there was very worrying, especially given the high numbers of refugees relative to the total population. More support must be provided to Lebanon.

Mr. B. QASEM (Palestine) aligned himself with the representative of Sweden. States must support Jordan and Lebanon so that the new flows of refugees could be managed. The human rights of refugees must be respected. Refugees must be given humanitarian and medical aid. They must also be allowed to become part of society and to contribute to human, scientific, agricultural and industrial development. In so doing, refugees would no longer be a burden.

Ms. Y. MEFTALI (Algeria) was pleased that the international community had agreed the New York Declaration. However, the Declaration must be respected, which was not always the case with international agreements. For instance, although the Geneva Conventions were supposed to protect civilians during armed conflict, civilians were being harmed in Syria and Palestine. Implementation measures should be put in place to make sure the signatories respected the Declaration.

Mr. D. HELLE (International Committee of the Red Cross), *Panellist*, said that the number of displaced persons was growing because of conflict and a lack of respect for International Humanitarian Law. Parliamentarians could play an important role by passing domestic legislation that supported Humanitarian Law. Parliaments should also protect internally displaced persons.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon), *Panellist*, thanked the representatives of Sweden and Sudan who had visited Lebanon and who had subsequently made recommendations. He agreed that the war must be stopped, that people should be allowed to return to their homes and that support must be provided. It was also important to look at the causes of migration.

Ms. E. HANSEN (UNHCR), *Panellist*, quoted the UN Secretary-General-designate who had said that the lack of peace was the most dramatic problem facing the world. Peace should therefore be a priority in international diplomacy.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 3 p.m., with Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

Item 5 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committees

(a) Committee on Peace and International Security

Ms. L. ROJAS (Mexico), *President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, said that the Committee had held a hearing on the role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States which is the subject item for the next resolution to be debated at the IPU Assembly in Dhaka. The committee also held two very interesting panel discussions, one on accountability of the private security sector, and the other one on comprehensive disarmament.

The Bureau of the Committee met to discuss future activities. To stimulate the work of the Committee it foresees to organise meetings in between IPU assemblies. The bureau also planned to sensitize Committee members on the new concept of sustaining peace. The United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly had recently adopted resolutions on that subject, linking peace initiatives to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighting the importance of preventing, and not just resolving conflicts. Furthermore, the Bureau discussed ways to investigate the follow-up to resolutions adopted by the IPU in order to assess their impact at national level.

The Assembly took note of the report.

(b) Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Ms. S. TIOULONG (Cambodia) *President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, said that the Committee had tackled three main topics during the 135th IPU Assembly. Firstly, it had discussed the draft outcome document of the parliamentary meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The Rapporteur, Mr. A. Touizi, had presented the draft document to the Committee and planned to incorporate the comments and observations made into the final document, which was to be presented to the Parliamentary Meeting in Marrakech, organized by the IPU and the Moroccan Parliament. The Committee had also been briefed by a representative of the International Institute for Environment and Development on the ratification status of Paris Agreement on Climate Change, stressing the role of parliaments in its implementation.

The Committee had debated the subject item for the next resolution: *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*. The topic had been introduced by experts from the World Bank, the International Trade Centre and the African Development Bank. Following the debate, the Rapporteurs had provided information on how they planned to incorporate the Committee members' input into the draft resolution.

Finally, a panel discussion had been held on the role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds. The panellists provided an overview of how vulture funds operated and highlighted what action parliaments could take. Input from parliamentarians from the United Kingdom and Belgium had been particularly useful. A number of Committee members had called for the issue to be debated during a future plenary session of the IPU Assembly.

Finally, the Committee had held elections to fill existing Bureau vacancies, and adopted a work plan for the forthcoming Assembly, focusing on the preparation of the resolution.

The PRESIDENT explained the process for the adoption of topics for the work of the Assembly.

(c) Committee on United Nations Affairs

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), *President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, informed the Assembly that the Committee had met over two sittings on 25 October. Two new Bureau members had been appointed, namely Ms. Sampatisiri (Thailand) and Mr. Asylbek uulu (Kyrgyzstan). Moreover, the Committee had accepted the Bureau's recommendation to replace Ms. I. Montenegro (Nicaragua) for failure to participate in meetings.

The United Nations funding model had become excessively dependent on earmarked, voluntary contributions from a small number of donor countries and a growing number of non-governmental donors. The various United Nations entities had their own governing bodies, making coordinated action difficult. The level of funding was too low for the vast amount of work that the United Nations was expected to undertake, particularly in the humanitarian field. Although parliaments had the final say on all funds allocated to the United Nations, very few parliamentarians understood its funding structure, as information was often contained in different sections of the budget document. Members of parliament thus needed to examine the budget document closely in order to understand the funding process, and consider asking their governments to group all United Nations allocations in an annex to the budget, clearly marking the different types of contributions.

The second panel debate of the session focused on the United Nations response to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers. Presentations were given by Mr. B. Klappe, a senior military legal expert; Ms. S. Whitman, the Executive Director of the Romeo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative; Ms. R. Albasti from the parliament of the United Arab Emirates, and Mr. E. Mokolo Wa Mpombo, a parliamentarian from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The presentations outlined the steps being taken by the UN to prevent abuse, following incidents of sexual abuse of children in the Central African Republic, and focused on areas for improvement. Parliamentarians had the power to ensure accountability and due process in countries providing and those receiving United Nations peacekeeping troops. Most importantly, it was vital to ensure that abuse was properly defined and classified as a criminal offence.

During the forthcoming session in Dhaka, the Committee planned to review parliamentary action on the Sustainable Development Goals, and to hold a debate on poverty, the main theme of the 2017 United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Item 4 of the agenda

The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective.
(C-III/135/4-DR)

Ms. N. MARINO (Australia), *Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, presented a resolution on *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. The resolution urged parliaments to repeal or amend existing legislation that directly or indirectly discriminated against women, and to enact new laws to promote gender equality. Men and women needed to work together to foster equality and promote the empowerment of women at all levels of the policy- and decision-making process. Parliaments were urged to condemn violence against women parliamentarians, including online harassment and attacks via social media. The document also stressed the need to build partnerships between men and women.

Parliamentarians needed to consider the practical action they could take at national level, such as providing mentoring programmes for young women in politics. The resolution provided an opportunity for members of parliament to make a real difference.

The PRESIDENT invited the Assembly to adopt the resolution.

It was so decided, unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda**Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the 137th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs**
(A/135/6-R.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Assembly to approve the proposed subject item for the Committee on Democracy and Human Rights for the 137th IPU Assembly, as follows: *Sharing our Diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. He indicated that the draft resolution would be prepared by Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation) together with another Rapporteur who would be appointed prior to the Assembly in Dhaka.

The Assembly approved the subject item.

Item 3 of the agenda**General Debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders***
(A/135/3-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the lively debate on the issue had reflected the importance of the topic, and highlighted key areas of political action. Parliaments must work to prevent human rights violations, tackle any violations that may occur and work to build an inclusive and integrated society through closer cooperation with all relevant persons, groups and organizations. It was important to establish a wide range of partnerships, including with civil society, non-governmental organizations and other parties.

The recommendations contained in the report were not exhaustive, but did provide a basis for how to tackle human rights violations and contribute to a culture of peace.

He invited the Assembly to endorse the outcome document.

The outcome document was endorsed by the Assembly.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT invited representatives of the geopolitical groups to address the Assembly.

Mr. I. LIDDELL-GRAINGER (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, welcomed the adoption of the resolution on the humanitarian situation in Syria and the adoption of the IPU strategy for 2017-2021, which would provide a focus for the IPU's work and allow it to achieve tangible results. The debates held during the Assembly had covered a range of important topics and excellent recommendations had been adopted, including those on the participation of women in political processes and the role of parliamentarians in preventing human rights violations.

He applauded the increasingly focused and action-oriented approach being adopted by the IPU, and welcomed the spirit of dialogue and cooperation in which the 135th IPU Assembly had taken place. Particular thanks must go to the President and the Secretary General of the IPU, as well as the Secretariat staff and the interpreters. The Twelve Plus Group also wished to thank the Bangladeshi authorities for hosting the 136th IPU Assembly and providing an opportunity to work towards achieving the IPU's core objectives of peace, development and democracy.

Mr. R. MAGYEZI (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, presented a speech prepared by Ms. R. Alitwala Kadaga, the Chair of the African Group. He thanked the hosts and organizers of the 135th IPU Assembly. The world was currently facing serious challenges with a severe impact on vulnerable members of society. African parliaments condemned terrorism, which had led an unprecedented number of desperate Africans to make the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean Sea. Millions of people had fled the Middle East as a result of conflict, creating a generation of homeless and stateless people. He called on the leadership of the IPU, the United Nations and regional leaders to tackle existing challenges and resolve conflicts.

Welcoming the debate held on sexual abuse by United Nations peacekeeping forces, he stressed the need for serious sanctions. It was important to know whether individuals had been prosecuted and convicted. African parliaments called for those responsible to be held to account and for the victims to receive support and compensation.

Poverty also remained a challenge, and it was important to address inequality and a lack of opportunities, which gave rise to conflicts and migration.

African parliaments remained hopeful that the IPU provided the best opportunity to tackle the mostly man-made problems facing the African continent and the human race as a whole. He called on the members of the IPU to redouble their efforts to combat human rights violations through legislative mechanisms and inter-parliamentary cooperation. The African Group was committed to achieving that objective.

Mr. Y. JABER (Lebanon), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked the IPU leadership and Secretariat. He expressed surprise that Middle East issues had not featured on the Assembly agenda. Given that the scourge of terrorism spared no country in world, the IPU had missed an opportunity to cooperate with the United Nations to combat terrorism. He called on parliamentarians and governments to seek ways of stemming the flow of resources to terrorist networks. He stressed that terrorism was a global threat.

He drew attention to the challenges facing the people of Palestine, particularly refugees and those displaced by conflict. The refugee crisis had reached the gates of Europe. It was vital to find a lasting solution for the problems in the Middle East, to put an end to terrorism and to promote democracy and parliaments in the region. He expressed his appreciation for the IPU mission to Lebanon and its recommendations.

The PRESIDENT said that he appreciated the fact that Middle East remained an important issue. He drew attention to the fact that an IPU Committee had been established to deal exclusively with Middle East affairs. The committee had already adopted a report on Lebanon and the refugee crisis. He fully agreed with the representative of the Arab Group on the significance of the issues he had raised.

Ms. V. PETRENKO (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, thanked the IPU leadership and the Secretariat. The 135th Assembly had addressed a range of difficult issues and challenges. The resolutions adopted aimed to ensure a decent life for everyone. It was vital to stop bloodshed, end violence against women and children and support economic growth, for the benefit of future generations. She stressed the need to advocate for human rights and the importance of cooperation and dialogue to achieve sustainable peace. She also welcomed the fact that the 137th IPU Assembly would be held in St. Petersburg, in the Russian Federation.

Ms. M.Y. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked the IPU leadership and the Swiss Government for hosting the Assembly, and expressed her appreciation of the work of the Secretariat and staff, including the interpreters. Particular thanks must also go to the President of the IPU and the Secretary General. Parliaments in the Latin American and Caribbean region recognized that dialogue and peaceful negotiation were key to ensuring sustainable peace. The Group had been working on promoting the 2017-2021 IPU strategy to foster the common interests of parliaments in the region. The topics discussed during the present Assembly had been of great international relevance and it was up to parliaments to help the IPU to uphold its principles and represent the interests of the citizens.

Ms. N. MARINO (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, thanked the outgoing Chair of her group, Mr. Mohamed (Maldives). She expressed her appreciation for the work of the IPU leadership and Secretariat, as well as the interpreters. The IPU was an important forum, bringing together parliamentarians from all over the world. It was a place of robust debate on topics of global concern.

The PRESIDENT thanked the representatives of the geopolitical groups for their support and kind words of appreciation. He recalled that the 136th IPU Assembly would be held in his home city of Dhaka in early April 2017 and invited the head of the Bangladesh delegation to introduce a message of the national authorities of the host country.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh), said that he looked forward to welcoming delegates to the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka. Providing an overview of Bangladesh's struggle for independence, he described the various attractions and characteristics of his country. He assured delegates that the Government was taking all measures possible to ensure their security during the Assembly. His country had always been committed to peace and justice and, under the leadership of its Prime Minister, sought to promote development and engagement in global affairs.

An audiovisual presentation prepared by the Government of Bangladesh was screened. It featured a message from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, who drew attention to her country's past struggle for independence and deep respect for democracy. Bangladesh was an active member of the IPU and was committed to promoting dialogue and strengthening democracy and peace. She invited all IPU member Parliaments and partner organizations to attend the IPU Assembly in Dhaka and witness first-hand the natural beauty and rich cultural heritage that Bangladesh has to offer.

The PRESIDENT thanked the hosts of the 135th Assembly, the Swiss Federal Assembly and the cantonal authorities. He stressed that it was essential for debates and decisions taken at IPU level to translate into action at national level. The IPU could add value to the global discourse, but it was important for parliamentarians to think independently, rather than echo the opinions of governments. Parliamentarians must consider how they could contribute to building a culture of peace. For them to do that, it was important to foster unimpeded political dialogue and to move away from the visa sanctions culture, particularly in terms of visa restrictions imposed on parliamentarians. He welcomed the assurances that this would not be an issue for the 137th IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg, where all interested MPs were encouraged to attend and to freely express their views.

Various side events had taken place during the 135th Assembly, including a debate on e-parliament and a side event on military expenditure, where the need for adequate resources to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals was linked to the reallocation of military expenditure. He noted that a great deal could be achieved if some of the funding earmarked for military expenditure could be reallocated to other critical areas.

Parliamentarians were encouraged to use the IPU app and television channel, and to provide feedback on the IPU toolkit for parliamentarians. It would be useful to receive the feedback before the Assembly in Dhaka in 2017. He noted that the current IPU Assembly was the last one that he would be attending in Geneva as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

On that note he declared the 135th IPU Assembly closed.

The sitting rose at 4.15 p.m.

Outcome document of the General Debate on Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders

*Endorsed by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 October 2016)*

No country is immune to human rights violations. Across the world, there is widespread marginalization, inequality, political exclusion, religious intolerance, poverty and undue restrictions on fundamental freedoms such as the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. States continue to fall short of fully delivering on their citizens' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, to which they have committed through their constitutions and by signing international treaties.

Failure to address human rights challenges not only runs counter to national and international obligations, but can also create a fertile breeding ground for violent conflict if abuses become more serious and widespread. The appeal of those bent on advocating violence to achieve their objectives is bound to increase wherever there is a pervasive lack of respect for human dignity and an airtight lid on the free flow of information and ideas, which are indispensable for democracy to flourish. These situations are often compounded by poor governance, resulting in injustice, whether real or perceived.

Today, the world is witnessing a multitude of conflicts with devastating effects. Parliaments are the guardians of human rights and the rule of law. As parliamentarians, we are the "eyes and ears" of citizens and are familiar with their concerns. We are well-placed to articulate those concerns in parliament. We are therefore at the forefront of raising the alarm and taking action when serious human rights challenges arise.

In that regard, we make the following recommendations. They should constitute the overarching framework for the specific action that we must take in order to stem and root out the potential enablers of all types of conflict.

Recommendations

1. Prevent human rights violations

As representatives of the people, we should lead by example and make transparency, accountability and respect for the rule of law our guiding principles. We believe that preventing human rights violations directly reduces the risk of conflict. Therefore, we must:

- Ensure that international human rights norms are transposed into domestic legislation; ensure that this legislation is implemented by developing effective policies and programmes, allocating necessary budgets and rigorously overseeing their successful implementation;
- Create effective parliamentary human rights committees that:
 - (i) scrutinize the compatibility of our national legislation with our national and international human rights obligations,
 - (ii) legislate on human rights questions and undertake other initiatives as required,
 - (iii) advise other parliamentary bodies on human rights issues,
 - (iv) have the power to request information, question witnesses and conduct on-site missions;
- Combat gender-based violence and address growing inequality; empower women and girls; address gender stereotypes, including preconceptions about masculinity and violence, by engaging men and boys;
- Apply a gender-sensitive approach to all parliamentary work and implement innovative measures such as gender equality compliance certificates, which would require all sectors of society to address gender equality and comply with women's rights commitments;

- Ensure that law enforcement officers always act with the necessary restraint and respect for basic international human rights standards;
- Promote the creation of early warning mechanisms, which ensure access to accurate and timely information from a wide range of sources, with a view to monitoring changing conflict dynamics on multiple levels; these mechanisms should allow for participation and ownership by a range of stakeholders across the country and contribute to the design of tailor-made responses;
Early warning mechanisms should therefore enable regular exchanges with citizens. In particular, they should focus on outreach to women, as they are in a good position to detect risk factors within the community; hotlines to report human rights violations is one possible example of an early-warning mechanism; such mechanisms should also include gender-specific indicators, such as information on laws and practices that discriminate against women or the rate of domestic and sexual violence;
- Ensure that violent extremism is prevented and countered, through legislation that advocates dialogue, shuns hate speech and incitement to hatred, and ensures respect for others, in ways that comply with obligations under international law, particularly international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

2. Tackle human rights violations when they occur

When human rights violations do occur, we are often among the first to become aware of them. To avoid such violations degenerating into conflict, we should speak out vigorously against them. We should work tirelessly to find a remedy, whatever the violation, and wherever it occurs. Therefore we must:

- Investigate human rights violations; press for the prosecution of the perpetrators of such violations through an independent and impartial justice system; ensure that court decisions are carried out in full, so that justice is both done and seen to be done;
- Ensure that every person who claims that his or her human rights have not been respected, protected or fulfilled can seek an effective remedy before a competent and independent domestic body vested with the power to order compensation and to have its decisions enforced;
- Ensure the creation of bodies that investigate citizens' allegations regarding violations of their constitutional rights; regularly ask oral and written questions to the government departments in charge of these bodies in order to monitor their functioning, including through receiving updates on the numbers of complaints registered and those still outstanding so as to ensure they are satisfactorily resolved;
- Cooperate with the national human rights commissions to address all human rights violations reported to them;
- Protect MPs at risk: create and implement effective procedures to ensure that MPs can freely express themselves without fear of reprisals, including by ensuring respect for the principle of parliamentary immunity;
- Condemn threats and attacks on parliamentarians, regardless of their backgrounds and views; promote effective investigations into such crimes and the adoption of the necessary security measures;
- Act in solidarity with parliamentarians across the world whose human rights are at risk by systematically raising with the relevant authorities the concerns of the IPU Governing Council about cases brought before it by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; never give up on unresolved cases;

3. Build an inclusive and integrated society through closer cooperation with all stakeholders

While promoting human rights so that peace prevails, we should respect the diversity of our societies and ensure that no one is left behind. We can do this by making sure that our decision-making processes are inclusive, and by encouraging all stakeholders to work in close cooperation. Therefore, we must:

- Ensure that our parliaments reflect the diversity of our societies;
- Build a culture of equality, social justice, peace and solidarity throughout our communities, regardless of political views, age, gender, religion or social standing;
- Promote a tolerant society premised on resolving disputes through dialogue;
- Involve all sectors of society, including women, young people, minorities and disadvantaged groups, in the decision-making process through wide-ranging consultation;
- Harness young people's energy and passion by opening spaces for them to contribute locally, nationally and internationally, bearing in mind that young people become strong agents for peace and positive change when they are engaged in their communities and when they are empowered to contribute to policymaking;
- Partner with civil society and non-governmental organizations, especially those who are active in promoting human rights, so that more harmonized and consolidated efforts are made to build and maintain lasting peace.

These recommendations are by no means exhaustive. However, they do provide a basis for our contribution to dealing with human rights violations. We have the means to make significant contributions. All we need is the political will. It should not be so difficult to muster that will, considering the cause that we are defending: the stability of our countries and peace for the people whom we have the privilege to represent.

The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 October 2016)*

The 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Noting that equal participation of men and women in public affairs and decision-making has long been recognized as a human right, as enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and relevant UN Security Council statements,

Recalling that the 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union states that “the achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society”,

Taking into account the provisions contained in the national constitutions of States relating to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and CEDAW,

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit draws up a new blueprint for global development and emphasizes that realizing gender equality and women’s empowerment will make a crucial contribution to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Noting that gender equality is a vital part of development, as set out in Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in target 5.5, which aims to “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, social and public life”, and target 5.c, which makes a call to “adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels”,

Recognizing that the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action call for equal and active participation of women and the incorporation of women’s perspectives at all levels,

Recalling UN Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15, which set a 30 per cent target for women in leadership positions by 1995, and a target of parity by 2000, and which emphasizes the importance of improving men’s and women’s capacity to raise awareness about gender equality in their communities and change negative attitudes that lead to discrimination against women,

Concerned that as at 1 August 2016, the global average of parliamentary seats held by women is still only 22.8 per cent, and *deeply concerned* that there are still eight parliamentary chambers with no women members at all,

Noting that various impediments continue to hinder women’s ability to participate in political processes, including at the legislative, ministerial and sub-ministerial levels, such as a male-dominated political culture, negative cultural attitudes and stereotypes regarding the role of women in society, persistent discrimination against women in law and practice, as well as security concerns, lack of support from political parties and society at large, unequal access to health, quality education, training and employment, lack of finances and resources,

Also noting the need to change mindsets and culture within institutions and society, in particular with respect to traditional gender norms, by addressing gender stereotyping in the media and by promoting the values associated with gender equality among young people of both sexes,

Underscoring that the economic empowerment of women is a precondition for their ability to take part in political processes and to raise funds for campaigning,

Recognizing that young women face specific challenges based on their age, sex, education, health, access to basic services and the spread of poverty among women, and that they are the least represented in parliament among both youth and women,

Underlining that electoral systems have an impact on women's representation, and that the proportional representation system tends to be more conducive to higher representation of women,

Noting that electoral gender quotas, among other measures, have proved to be useful and successful in facilitating women's access to elected office and to leadership positions, in particular when such quotas set ambitious goals, are promoted by political leaders, are understood by the general public and are supported with strong implementation mechanisms, such as sanctions for non-compliance,

Bearing in mind that quota systems alone are not sufficient to change or challenge societal views whereby women are not perceived as equals, that only 15 countries among those who have chosen to use a quota system have established a system that aims to achieve a rate of women's political participation above what has been determined as the critical level of 30 per cent, and that measures to promote gender equality in other areas are also needed,

Underlining that the increasing inclusion of women in political processes around the world has been accompanied by forms of resistance such as stereotyping, harassment, intimidation and violence, including online and in social media, in addition to other forms of resistance that are related to social, cultural, economic and legislative factors,

Acknowledging that the climate of tension and confrontation that characterizes the political arena may dissuade both women and men from participating in politics, and that the specific forms of violence that women face constitute an additional obstacle to their engagement in politics and can inhibit their freedom to exercise their mandate as they would wish,

Recognizing that a gender-sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both women and men in its structures, rules and regulations, operations, methods and work,

Also recognizing the need for parliaments to encourage the adoption of a strategy of gender-based analysis, namely, the process of assessing and taking into account the impact on women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes at all levels and in all spheres,

Further recognizing the need for parliaments to encourage the adoption of a strategy for gender mainstreaming, namely, taking into account women's and men's concerns and experiences as integral dimensions of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated,

Underlining that gender balance at expert hearings in parliamentary standing committees is of great importance for mainstreaming gender policy,

Underscoring that gender equality is in the interest of both men and women and should be promoted jointly by both sexes in legal, political, economic, cultural and social terms at the local, national, regional and international levels,

1. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that national laws and the rules and practices of government authorities comply with international law and human rights obligations and all other international obligations, including those linked to the United Nations system organizations, particularly in relation to women's and young women's empowerment;
2. *Also urges* parliaments to amend or repeal existing legislation that directly or indirectly discriminates against women and impedes their full participation in political processes, as well as to enact legislation that encourages gender equality;
3. *Calls on* men and women parliamentarians to work together and to take joint initiatives in parliament to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels of policy-making processes and decision-making positions;
4. *Also calls on* parliaments to include a gender equality perspective in education policies and to work towards closing the gender gap in educational opportunities;

5. *Urges* parliaments to continue to promote education as part of an inclusive democratic society, with particular focus on ensuring equal access for women and girls, and incorporating a gender equality perspective into all civic education activities;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to support the strengthening of national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as collaboration and synergies between them;
7. *Calls on* parliaments and parliamentarians to enhance cooperation with civil society organizations, particularly independent women's organizations, in the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of measures to increase women's participation in political processes;
8. *Also calls on* parliaments to promote new media strategies that address the role of women and develop gender equality, and if possible, to enact national legislation that requires such strategies to be issued or adopted, as well as to develop media, educational and community-level campaigns that aim to combat gender stereotypes; and *further calls on* men and women parliamentarians to play a prominent role in those efforts, and to act as champions and role models in challenging gender stereotypes and negative attitudes towards women;
9. *Urges* parliaments to facilitate the reconciliation and strengthening of personal, family, professional and political life for both women and men, including by promoting shared parental leave, as well as economic support, infrastructure-building and improving childcare services through enacting and amending legislation and labour regulations that affect family life;
10. *Strongly urges* parliaments to set a deadline by which at least 30 per cent of parliamentarians should be women and to set a further deadline by which that proportion should reach 50 per cent;
11. *Calls on* parliaments to consider the adoption and implementation of quota systems or other similar measures that set ambitious goals and enable women to be pre-selected into winnable seats or winnable positions on lists;
12. *Also calls on* parliaments to create a fairer environment for women and men candidates, including by, but not restricted to, tying part of public funding to the number of women candidates that political parties field, establishing special funds or interest-free loans for women candidates, capping expenses, and limiting the duration of campaigns;
13. *Further calls on* political parties to ensure that their candidate-selection processes favour gender-balanced representation and to consider the implementation of quota systems for that purpose;
14. *Urges* political parties to provide regular political education aimed at strengthening women's capacity and enhancing society's awareness of women's participation in political processes;
15. *Also urges* parliaments and political parties to ensure there is an equal number of women and men in leadership positions in all policy areas and all governance bodies, through transparent and fair processes, such as dual leadership and gender rotation in leadership positions;
16. *Calls on* parliaments and political parties to support young women's political participation through specific work programmes, including by implementing empowerment programmes that target young women, by enabling young women to access leadership positions and to act as role models for other young women, and by engaging young women in programmes and training courses designed to foster and prepare them to become future leaders;
17. *Urges* parliaments to ensure that national strategies adopted in all spheres of governance incorporate a gender perspective in terms of design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and *calls on* parliaments to promote gender-responsive legislation, policies and programmes in order to achieve gender equality;

18. *Also urges* parliaments to strongly support measures for improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and the development of gender indicators;
19. *Calls on* parliaments to promote mechanisms to advance gender equality in the work of parliament, including the establishment of women's caucuses that are open to supportive men parliamentarians, parliamentary committees on gender equality that include men, and gender expertise among parliamentary staff of both sexes;
20. *Invites* parliamentary standing committees to ensure that both women and men are equally represented among the experts in committee hearings, and that there is sufficient capacity among the experts to evaluate the effects of planned legislation on gender equality;
21. *Invites* men and women parliamentarians to work together on the development and effective implementation of legislation and policies on harassment and violence against women, including in politics, and to collaborate in this endeavour with the relevant government agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, including technology companies, on tackling online abuse;
22. *Calls on* political leaders and individual men and women parliamentarians to condemn acts of harassment, intimidation and violence against women candidates and parliamentarians, including online and in social media; and *also calls on* parliaments to adopt legal and practical measures to prevent and punish such acts;
23. *Urges* parliaments and political parties to promote an institutional culture that offers a safe and secure working environment for both men and women, including strong and well-implemented internal policies against sexist language and attitudes;
24. *Also urges* parliaments and political parties to adopt policies on sexual harassment, effective complaints mechanisms and penalties for offenders in order to safeguard women when performing their duties;
25. *Further urges* parliaments to ensure that their institutions put in place the necessary framework (infrastructure, technical assistance) for women with disabilities, who continue to suffer from discrimination on multiple fronts, to be able to carry out their parliamentary mandate;
26. *Calls on* parliaments to review the gender sensitivity of their institutions, with a view to making them places that are amenable to both men and women, that promote gender partnerships and that fully advance equality in society;
27. *Requests* the IPU to support national parliaments wishing to conduct an assessment of their gender sensitivity, in line with the 2012 *IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments* and its self-assessment methodology, and to increase technical assistance and support for parliaments in their efforts to enhance institutional gender sensitivity;
28. *Also requests* the IPU to develop comprehensive tools and guidelines for each action area in the 2012 *IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments* and to ensure the successful implementation of the Plan;
29. *Further requests* the IPU to work closely on gender equality and women's empowerment with relevant UN bodies, such as UN Women, as indicated in the recent UN General Assembly resolution 70/298 (2016) on Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
30. *Calls on* the IPU, in cooperation with its international partners, to develop capacity-building programmes for women parliamentarians, as part of its work towards achieving gender equality in politics;
31. *Also calls on* the parliamentary assemblies and parliaments participating in international election observation missions to ensure a gender-balanced composition of their delegations, and to devote particular attention to the role and participation of women in electoral processes;
32. *Further calls on* parliaments to enhance their engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process conducted by the UN Human Rights Council in the area of gender equality, and to ensure their countries' full cooperation with the Council's Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 October 2016)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 24 and 26 October 2016 with its President, Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), in the chair.

Procedural items and any other business, including the announcement of events relevant to the mandate of the committee were dealt with at the beginning of the session. Elections were held and the five vacant posts were filled. Mr. R. Ossele Ndong (Gabon), Mr. A.L.S. Ssebagala (Uganda) and Ms. G. Katuta (Zambia) were elected for the African Group. Ms. S. Abid (Pakistan) and Mr. A. Suwanmongkol (Thailand) were elected for the Asia-Pacific Group.

During the 24 October sitting, the Committee held an expert hearing on *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*, the topic of a resolution that is expected to be adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (Bangladesh). The Committee heard the key expert followed by the co-Rapporteurs.

The hearing opened with a presentation from the expert, Mr. F. Zarbiyev, Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. His statement clarified the principle of non-interference, which is often invoked in contexts where it is not clear if it is a legal principle or a general idea of how States should behave. In addition, peculiarly, its very existence is sometimes brought into question although many legal instruments refer to it. Mr. Zarbiyev cautioned that the principle should not be limited to activities within the borders of States. Non-interference relates to both internal and external affairs. Intervention is to be understood when a State interferes in the internal affairs of another State on matters that can be chosen freely, such as its political organization and when it uses methods of coercion to do so. Mr. Zarbiyev concluded his presentation with an overview of the historical evolution of the place of the principle of non-interference in a globalized world in the context of recent developments. He mentioned that the concept of humanitarian intervention is not an unlawful intervention if it meets certain characteristics, i.e. being non-discriminatory and aiming to alleviate human suffering. With regard to the concept of the responsibility to protect (R2P), he stated that it does not contradict the principle of non-intervention. The 2005 World Summit document clearly mention that the responsibility to protect the population lies with each individual State. However, intervention is not prohibited if the government brutalizes its people or commits massive human rights violations.

The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) and Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation), took the floor to explain why they had decided to study this subject item and to welcome comments from their peers. They referred to the basic principle of non-intervention and to the fact that everyone is in favour helping people who are victims of crimes. They also stated that there is a red line regarding the legality to intervene to change a regime.

Further to the expert's and Rapporteurs' interventions, a total of 34 speakers took the floor during the discussion. The majority of interventions referred to the need to keep non-intervention in State affairs as the main principle and that intervention should be decided on a case-by-case basis. The challenges in interpreting non-interference and related concepts were also addressed. Speakers raised the issue of the growing cases of external intervention and the fact that it undermines peace and international security, giving the example of the Middle East, which is in chaos. The protection of human rights and non-intervention were not incompatible but using human rights as an excuse to launch an intervention was unacceptable. Some participants referred to humanitarian intervention and R2P as modern expressions of imperialism and that interventions in their names had brought chaos, and led some countries to fall apart due to conflicting interests. Several participants stated that conflict prevention, reconstruction and early recovery should be the preferred route and military intervention should be a last resort. They also called for good governance as a means to avoid intervention. Lastly, many considered that reform of the UN Security Council was necessary.

Mr. Zarbiyev concluded the meeting by addressing the tension between sovereignty and human rights. Human rights were an international issue and human rights concerns did not qualify as a prohibited intervention since States were entitled to take measures against another State that was violating human rights. However, that did not mean that human rights should be used as a pretext for regime change.

On 26 October, the Committee held its second and last sitting and examined two items through back-to-back panels.

The first panel dealt with the promotion of democratic accountability of the private security sector. During the Lusaka Assembly, the topic had been presented as a potential subject item for the upcoming resolution. Although it had been defeated with the issue of outside interference being the preferred option for the next resolution, the Bureau of the Committee had proposed to keep an eye on the issue and to organize a panel discussion during this Assembly. Mr. F. Lombardi, a Swiss delegate, was the promotor of the subject item and agreed to be the moderator of this segment. MPs discussed the fact that the security landscape was changing and new actors were emerging, such as private military and security companies (PMSCs); whose range of services were becoming increasingly diversified while their nature and role often remained unclear. Two experts took the floor: Ms. H. Obregón Gieseken, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Ms. A.M. Burdzy, Project Officer, Public-Private Partnerships Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). They referred to the Montreux document on pertinent international legal obligations and good practices for States related to operations of private military and security companies during armed conflict¹ (September 2008). This document informs actors of obligations regarding private military and security companies in war zones. It lists some 70 recommendations for good State practices towards PMSCs and many of them can also be applied during peace time. The panellists also presented the legislative guidance tool created by DCAF². This tool was a response to growing challenges in national regulation of the private security industry. It is aimed to provide guidance to parliamentarians, lawmakers, members of oversight committees and other actors in national legislative processes who were in the process of updating or developing national regulation related to PMSCs.

Following the experts' interventions, a total of 11 speakers took the floor during the discussion. Participants discussed possible measures that parliaments could take to regulate and oversee the activities of these companies. The majority of the interventions referred to the growing number of PMSCs around the world and the challenges they created to the traditional role of government in maintaining peace and security. Many expressed concerns that PMSCs seriously endangered international peace and security whereas others were of the view that privatization of security was an irreversible trend. Speakers mentioned that proper international and domestic legislative framework was needed to support implementation of international law on PMSCs. Parliaments that had already legislated on the issue encouraged their peers to do the same and to cooperate. Participants also raised the question of the legitimacy of PMSCs' actions and the need to follow the international code of conduct for private service providers to frame the privatization of security trend.

The two panellists concluded by recalling the Montreux document and its related forums which could assist MPs in legislating on PMSCs issues. They also mentioned that their respective organizations could provide technical assistance if needed.

During the second panel, Committee members heard three presentations: from Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University, Mr. I. Sene, Member of the 1540 Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and Ms. D. Pascal Allende, Second Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile.

Mr. Plesch presented the Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP) proposal, which provided a holistic approach to global disarmament through the adoption of an international legally binding agreement for complete and general disarmament. He highlighted the need for MPs to promote implementation of existing treaties and mechanisms such as the NPT and UN Security Council resolution 1540. He also stated that disarmament should not be treated as business as usual since this would lead to World War III. Mr. Sene called for increased international engagement, especially on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. He urged parliamentarians to assist in the implementation of resolution 1540 and recalled that even if States did not own weapons

¹ https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0996.pdf

² <http://www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Legislative-Guidance-Tool-for-States-to-Regulate-Private-Military-and-Security-Companies>

of mass destruction (WMDs), they might have the material to build them and that these could fall into the hands of non-state actors. He also briefed Committee members on the comprehensive review of the resolution 1540 and referred to the IPU regional seminar held in Abidjan as a good example to engage MPs in the implementation of the resolution. Ms. Pascal Allende referred to the current new arms race and its attendant concerns. She also mentioned that nuclear weapons were a global threat to peace and international security and that complete nuclear disarmament should be the ultimate aim.

The ensuing debate involved 14 speakers, including one observer to the IPU.

Interventions referred mainly to disarmament as a major issue of international security and called for international process to be established to ensure the elimination of certain weapons globally. Many speakers made the point that some States who claimed to be reducing their arsenal were in reality modernizing them by acquiring new and improved weapons. The need to budget for peace and not for war in order to meet Agenda 2030 was stressed. Small arms and light weapons were considered much more murderous than the weapons of mass destruction. International cooperation was needed to achieve disarmament.

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 27 October; ten out of 18 members were present.

The President of the Committee proposed that it establish its work programme around the areas on its agenda and decide how to address them, i.e. through panels, reports, workshops or field visits. Two members proposed adding non-interference to the listed topics.

The Bureau discussed its working methods. Some members called for a manual of Committee bureau members to be drafted, including the exact mandate of the committee. Members also stated that they would like to hold additional Bureau meetings between Assemblies to discuss at length emerging issues pertaining to the peace and security agenda.

Members agreed that the President would communicate with them shortly after the Assembly with a proposal for a two-year work-plan which they will be invited to comment on and validate.

Lastly, the Bureau was briefed on the concept of sustaining peace by Mr. O. Fernandez-Taranco, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 October 2016)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 25 and 26 October 2016 with its President, Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia), in the chair.

Parliamentary contribution to the 2016 United Nations Climate Change Conference

This segment discussed the preliminary draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference that would take place on 13 November in Marrakech.

The session started with an overview of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Mr. S. Huq, Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, summarized the main provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as the ratification mechanism and highlighted that the ratification process was quicker than expected, especially in comparison with the Kyoto Protocol. He expressed the hope that members of parliament from developed countries would press their governments to provide funds and technology to developing countries to cut gas emissions. He also encouraged parliamentarians from developing countries to put in place accountability and oversight mechanisms to ensure effective use of technical and financial resources.

Mr. A. Touizi, member of the House of Councillors of Morocco and rapporteur to the Parliamentary Meeting in Marrakech, introduced his draft document to the Committee. He stressed that the Parliamentary Meeting in Marrakech could be fundamental to help understand how the policies and provisions set out in the Paris Agreement would be implemented at the national level. He emphasized the need for a human dimension to climate change, which also included reflections on gender equality.

Fourteen delegates took the floor and provided comments on the draft outcome document. They largely expressed agreement with the current text and highlighted that the Paris Agreement was an occasion for all countries to transition from non-renewable to renewable sources. They were encouraged to submit all comments in writing.

In his final remarks, Mr. Huq noted that climate change had increasingly become an issue that was being taken up across party lines and was no longer a trigger of political conflict in countries.

Debate on Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development

At the beginning of the debate, the Committee endorsed the appointment of Mr. N.K. Premachandran from India as a rapporteur, to replace Ms. P. Mahajan, also from India.

This debate was organized around the theme of the future Committee resolution, expected to be adopted at the 136th Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The purpose of the debate was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about challenges that stood in the way of ensuring the financial inclusion of women. The debate would also provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments might approach the issue.

The debate was chaired by Mr. J. Fried, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the World Trade Organization. It included a panel of experts consisting of Ms. G. Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank; Ms. S. Iqbal, Manager of Women, Business and the Law Project, World Bank Group; and Ms. D. Tembo, Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

Ms. Fraser-Moleketi presented the results of a recently-published study from McKinsey on how advancing women's equality could add US\$ 12 trillion to global growth. She pointed out the importance of countries coming together to raise funds for implementation of gender-sensitive policies in view of the economic empowerment of women. She added that national ownership of funds and technical assistance from key development partners were vital for success and that

technology in particular was a way to empower women and facilitate their participation in national economies. Ms. Fraser-Moleketi also drew the Committee's attention to the role that parliaments could play in this context. She affirmed that they not only had a pressing moral and social duty to approve supportive legislation but also had to create an enabling environment in terms of attitude leveraging their representative role.

Ms. Iqbal briefed the Committee about the work that the World Bank was conducting on the issue of the financial inclusion of women, especially on the collection and analysis of data in view of evidence-based recommendations to countries. She mentioned the example of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that had recently approved new legislation that allowed women to open a bank account without permission from men. She added that effective implementation of supportive legislation was likely to produce positive outcomes in terms of women's health and access to education. She also stated that the financial inclusion of women was the result of an ecosystem-wide effort where all actors and stakeholders were called to play a decisive role. Ms. Iqbal informed the Committee that according to a World Bank study, the presence of women MPs in parliament was a strong driver of renewed legislation on the issue, as well as positive change in terms of attitudes.

Ms. D. Tembo stressed the critical inequality factor among women living in urban and rural areas, according to which a one-size-fits-all approach would not be able to generate positive outcomes. She emphasized that parliaments and other political institutions should aim to maximize positive outcomes of the most vulnerable women, especially the ones living in hard-to-reach areas. While it was important to achieve equal representation between women and men in parliaments, she identified the involvement of men in renewed legislation as a critical factor for changing attitudes at the community level. She invited members of parliament to exercise their oversight role to make sure that legislation was effectively implemented.

A total of 21 delegates took part in the debate that followed. Most of them shared the good practices that their countries had put in place for the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development. Several delegations provided concrete examples of laws and policies that their parliaments had developed in this area. Some pointed out that affordable housing and childcare would be instrumental to supporting the financial inclusion of women. Others mentioned the practice already adopted by some countries to avail themselves of a gender-responsive budget and highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector in turning the financial inclusion of women into reality.

At the end of the debate, the rapporteurs, Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Mr. N.K. Premachandran (India) reflected on the input received and how they would like to include it in the draft resolution. They invited the panellists and delegates to send them written comments by 16 November.

Panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*

The panel discussion was chaired by the President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and benefitted from the expert contribution of Mr. A. Gwynne, MP, United Kingdom, Mr. S. Crusnière, Member of the House of Representatives, Belgium, and Mr. T. Stichelmans de Castro Freire, Policy and Networking Analyst, European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad).

Mr. Stichelmans explained that vulture funds were private entities that acquired distressed debt on the secondary market for a lower-than-face value. Vulture funds then waited for an improvement in the financial situation of the debtor State to sue the debtor to get reimbursement of the full value. He affirmed that they undermined countries' capacity to invest in development and poverty alleviation. Mr. Stichelmans outlined a set of solutions that were being discussed at the global level to counter vulture funds, pointing out that the best possible solution would be the creation of an independent international sovereign debt mechanism.

Mr. Gwynne explained how he had managed to have a landmark bill on vulture funds approved in his country and why it was a first attempt, hence a precedent, to protect poor countries from being sued for vulture funds using the UK judicial system.

Mr. Crusnière presented the main provisions of Belgian legislation on vulture funds, which was considered as the most advanced worldwide. He outlined the main provisions of legislation that limited the duty of countries to repay vulture funds, especially if there was a demonstrated disproportion between face value and issue price.

Nine delegations took the floor in the ensuing debate. Members of parliament highlighted the need to counter vulture funds to put in place better strategies for national development and poverty alleviation. They agreed that vulture funds represented a human rights abuse perpetrated by the rich. Members of parliament also pointed out that vulture funds were not illegal and therefore an extraordinary effort from countries was needed to be made in order to have the issue regulated at the national level. They called for the issue to be further examined in plenary at a future IPU Assembly.

Elections to the Bureau

The Committee elected Mr. C. Tursunbekov (Kyrgyzstan) to fill the vacancy for the Eurasia Group.

In addition, GRULAC nominated Mr. R.F. Acuña Nuñez (Peru) to complete the term of Mr. J. León (Peru), who was no longer an MP. Mr. Nuñez's term will therefore end in October 2019. The Committee endorsed the change.

The Committee approved the proposal from the Bureau to dedicate time allocated to the Committee at the 136th IPU Assembly to the drafting of the resolution.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 135th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 October 2016)*

The President introduced two new appointments to the Bureau, Ms. B. Sampatisiri (Thailand) and Mr. D. Asylbek uulu (Kyrgyzstan), and invited the Committee to formally elect these members by acclamation.

Pursuant to Standing Committee Rule 10.2, the President further proposed that a Bureau recommendation to replace Ms. I. Montenegro (Nicaragua) for failure to participate in meetings be adopted by the Committee. As no objection was raised, the Committee agreed with this recommendation.

The President then proceeded to open the plenary debate, which consisted of two sessions.

The following panellists took part in the first session, *Funding the United Nations*: Mr. R. Lalli, Secretary, High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), United Nations, Ms. B. Adams, Board Member, Global Policy Forum, Ms. E. Nursanty, MP, Indonesia, Ms G. Ortiz, Senator, Mexico

Mr. Lalli began the session with a presentation outlining the key facts and figures of the UN funding model and building on a comprehensive background note prepared by the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs. A total of 15 interventions, including two from UN entities (UNDP and OCHA), were heard in the ensuing debate.

Over the past two decades, the UN funding model had become over-dependent on earmarked, voluntary funding from relatively few donor countries, as well as a growing number of non-government donors (e.g. the Gates Foundation). This pattern obtained across the entire system of over 30 entities (i.e. agencies, funds and programmes) in addition to the UN proper. Each of these entities had its own governing body, making it difficult for the UN “system” to act coherently, under a central budget authority.

More earmarked funding as opposed to core funding not targeted to specific activities made long-term planning difficult. Other downsides of earmarking included: high transaction costs to negotiate bilateral funding and abide by different donors’ reporting requirements; potential “bias” in terms of the work the United Nations might end up doing to satisfy major donor demands, potentially at the expense of its own core mandate; increased competition for limited donor funds between agencies; a diversion of core resources to support voluntary (non-core) projects; and a “bilateralization” of UN funding in what could be called a “pay to play” system and in contradiction with the very nature of the United Nations as a multilateral organization.

It was noted that the total annual budget of the UN system, including development operations, peacekeeping, humanitarian and normative work amounted to a mere US\$ 48 billion, or about half the operating budget of the City of New York, or US\$ 6 per person (globally). Any discussion about the UN budget should consider first and foremost whether this amount is adequate to support such a large worldwide organization whose workload has grown considerably bigger over the years in the face of mounting global challenges. This is best exemplified by the humanitarian work of the UN (31% of its budget), which has grown three-fold in just one decade.

From the perspective of “value for money”, there is no question that the UN is delivering a lot to the world. Programme support fees that the UN charges donors to execute their chosen projects is well below those charged by other major international agencies and even NGOs (8-10% vs. 15-18% on average). Under pressure from Member States, and in order to meet difficult budget circumstances, the United Nations has taken and continues to take a number of measures to make itself more efficient and cost-effective. Yet this can only go so far: without additional resources, the United Nations cannot be asked to meet ever increasing demands.

In the end, Member States were caught in a contradiction: at the same time as they were asking the United Nations to “self-correct”, streamlining operations, innovating, and improving administrative procedures to cut costs, they insist on earmarked funding despite its well-known downsides.

Similarly, while Member States insisted on austerity and expected the UN to do its own fundraising, they were generally opposed to innovative funding practices such as international taxes, which could provide the United Nations with an independent revenue stream.

Parliaments can play a major role in this issue as they have the final say on all allocations to the UN through the budget process. Yet very few MPs truly understand how the UN is funded as this information tends to be broken down in different sections of the budget document. MPs generally lack awareness of the *kind* of funding that goes to the UN and not just of the total amount that each government contributes. Conversely, MPs in countries that are at the receiving end of UN operations know even less about those operations and their costs.

At the end of the debate, the President invited participants to look more carefully at the budget document to see how funding for the various agencies and programmes is presented. MPs should consider asking their governments to summarize all allocations to the UN into a single annex to the budget document. This annex would need to clearly identify the kind of contribution to the UN – i.e. assessed, voluntary, earmarked – and not just the amounts.

The second session was devoted to *The UN response to allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers*. The following experts participated in the debate: Mr. B. Klappe, Senior Military Legal Expert, Office of the Special Coordinator on improving UN response to sexual exploitation and abuse, United Nations; Ms. S. Whitman, Executive Director, Roméo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative, Canada (via Skype); Ms. A. Rashed Albasti, MP, United Arab Emirates; Mr. E. Mokolo Wa Mpombo, First Vice-President of the Senate, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The session began with a presentation by Mr. Klappe outlining the main steps the United Nations had taken to prevent its peacekeepers from committing sexual abuse and exploiting children and adults. A number of such violations had occurred over the years partly as a result of a reconfiguration of peacekeeping, which required more interaction between peacekeepers and the civilian population in conflict zones. Despite a long-standing zero tolerance policy on the matter, in 2014 the need for a comprehensive policy review became urgent as a result of a whistle-blower exposing the failure of the UN to deal with sexual abuse cases involving peacekeepers in the Central African Republic.

Following the recommendations of an independent panel of experts, and under the leadership of a Special Coordinator, the UN response included such steps as: creating an interdepartmental steering group to oversee peacekeeping operations; putting in place a clear, system-wide protocol for victims assistance (on the premise that victim protection must come first); establishing clear accountability lines to identify who is responsible for what action throughout the chain of command; developing a common glossary to clarify the various meanings of sexual abuse and exploitation; and establishing a trust fund to support victims.

Conflict is in itself a form of abuse of the civilian population, and particularly of children. Sexual abuse and exploitation are unfortunately all too common around the world and in both public and private sectors. Notwithstanding these considerations, the United Nations must make every possible effort to protect innocent civilians from abuse by the hands of their protectors, i.e. peacekeepers, and to ensure that people can trust the United Nations as a force for good in all circumstances. No abuse is ever justified and the argument that poverty, cultural differences, and other vulnerabilities of people in conflict countries contribute to the problem should be roundly rejected as an attempt “to blame the victim” instead of the perpetrators.

Key steps to prevent new cases of abuse include: ensuring soldiers are properly trained on human rights, and on appropriate conduct in the field, not just before deployment but from the beginning and throughout their careers; shortening the length of time troops are deployed; and making more systematic use of the UN Secretary-General’s authority to dismiss an entire contingent in case of any violation. An overlooked approach but possibly a game changer when it comes to prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation may be the inclusion of more women soldiers in peacekeeping missions. Women are far less likely to commit sexual violations than men. As investigators, women are also better suited to obtain evidence from children and other women.

Next to prevention, ensuring a proper handling of each allegation is key to the whole process. Collecting evidence and testimonials as soon as possible and on-site is critical to ensure a fair hearing or a possible trial. Ideally, troop-contributing countries should provide the United Nations with access to a DNA sample from each soldier (DNA data bank), should allegations arise regarding unlawful physical contact, or to settle paternity cases.

Regarding the legal jurisdiction that should apply to each case, the UN default option can only be the jurisdiction of the soldier's nationality. Leaving it to the host country's court system to try such cases is not advisable given that most countries in conflict lack the capacities to uphold the rule of law. Countries where peacekeepers are present should collect evidence of abuse in response to an allegation and in concert with the UN authorities in the field.

Parliamentarians can help facilitate legislation to make sure that the highest standards of accountability as well as due process under the law are followed. In troop-contributing countries, parliaments can make DNA collection from soldiers mandatory before deployment. They can also require that all deployments and their applicable conditions are subject to parliamentary approval. In troop-receiving countries, parliaments can ensure laws allow UN investigators the right to interview witnesses as needed. Parliaments and civil society organizations can do more to educate people to reduce the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation. They can review the training programmes provided to their troops to ensure adequate respect for human and gender rights, and child protection.

Most importantly, parliaments everywhere must make sure that sexual abuse and exploitation are properly defined and classified as crimes under the law.

**Helping to consolidate international peace and security through
the recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State
with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments**

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Morocco
for the inclusion of an emergency item**

Results

Affirmative votes.....653 Total affirmative and negative votes 1,087
Negative votes434 Two-thirds majority..... 725
Abstentions464

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	Absent			Finland		12		Nicaragua	10		
Albania	Absent			France		18		Niger		13	
Algeria	15			Gabon		11		Nigeria		20	
Andorra			10	Germany		19		Norway		12	
Angola	8		6	Ghana		14		Oman	11		
Argentina	Absent			Greece	10	3		Pakistan	21		
Armenia			11	Guatemala			10	Palestine	11		
Australia		14		Guinea	13			Peru			14
Austria		12		Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Philippines	Absent		
Bahrain	11			Haiti	Absent			Poland			15
Bangladesh	20			Hungary	10			Portugal		13	
Belarus	Absent			Iceland		10		Qatar	8		
Belgium		13		India			23	Republic of Korea		17	
Benin	8	4		Indonesia	22			Romania		14	
Bhutan	7		3	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation	10		10
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Iraq	14			Rwanda	12		
				Ireland	8	3		San Marino			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Absent			Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe	10		
				Italy		10	7	Saudi Arabia	14		
Botswana	Absent			Japan			20	Senegal	12		
Brazil	22			Jordan	12			Serbia			12
Bulgaria			10	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore			12
Burkina Faso	13			Kenya		15		South Africa		17	
Burundi	12			Kyrgyzstan	10			South Sudan	Absent		
Cabo Verde			10	Lao People's Dem. Republic	Absent			Sri Lanka			13
Cambodia		13						Sudan	15		
Cameroon	Absent			Latvia		11		Suriname	5		5
Canada		15		Lebanon	Absent			Swaziland			11
Chad			13	Lesotho			11	Sweden		12	
Chile	5		5	Liechtenstein		10		Switzerland			12
China	13		10	Lithuania	Absent			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Colombia			14	Luxembourg			8	Thailand			18
Comoros	Absent			Madagascar	14			Timor-Leste			11
Costa Rica	Absent			Malawi				Togo			10
Cuba	13			Malaysia	14			Tunisia	13		
Cyprus	5		5	Maldives	10			Turkey	18		
Czech Republic			13	Mali	10			Uganda			13
DPR of Korea	10			Mauritania	10			Ukraine			17
DR of the Congo			17	Mauritius			11	United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark	5		5	Mexico		20		United Kingdom		18	
Djibouti	Absent			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	Absent			Uruguay		11	
Dominican Rep.			12					Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
Ecuador	10			Monaco	Absent						
Egypt	19			Morocco	15						
El Salvador	Absent			Mozambique	Absent						
Equatorial Guinea	11			Myanmar			10				
Estonia		11		Namibia			11	Viet Nam	12		7
Ethiopia			19	Netherlands		13		Zambia		13	
Fiji	Absent			New Zealand		11		Zimbabwe	13		

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.

Addressing the South Sudan conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding peace and security

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Kenya for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....529	Total affirmative and negative votes 904
Negative votes375	Two-thirds majority..... 603
Abstentions647	

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		<i>Absent</i>		Finland		12		Nicaragua			10
Albania		<i>Absent</i>		France		18		Niger	13		
Algeria	15			Gabon	11			Nigeria	20		
Andorra			10	Germany		19		Norway		12	
Angola	14			Ghana	14			Oman		11	
Argentina		<i>Absent</i>		Greece			13	Pakistan			21
Armenia			11	Guatemala			10	Palestine	1	10	
Australia		14		Guinea	6	7		Peru			14
Austria			12	Guinea-Bissau		<i>Absent</i>		Philippines		<i>Absent</i>	
Bahrain			11	Haiti		<i>Absent</i>		Poland			15
Bangladesh			20	Hungary	10			Portugal		13	
Belarus		<i>Absent</i>		Iceland		10		Qatar		8	
Belgium		13		India			23	Republic of Korea		17	
Benin	8	4		Indonesia			22	Romania		14	
Bhutan	6		4	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Russian Federation			20
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Iraq	14			Rwanda	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		<i>Absent</i>		Ireland			11	San Marino			10
Botswana		<i>Absent</i>		Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Brazil	22			Italy			17	Saudi Arabia		14	
Bulgaria			10	Japan	20			Senegal	12		
Burkina Faso			13	Jordan			12	Serbia			12
Burundi	12			Kazakhstan			10	Singapore			12
Cabo Verde	10			Kenya	15			South Africa	17		
Cambodia		13		Kyrgyzstan	10			South Sudan		<i>Absent</i>	
Cameroon		<i>Absent</i>		Lao People's Dem. Republic		<i>Absent</i>		Sri Lanka			13
Canada		15		Latvia		11		Sudan	15		
Chad	13			Lebanon		<i>Absent</i>		Suriname		5	5
Chile			10	Lesotho	11			Swaziland	11		
China	5		18	Liechtenstein		10		Sweden		12	
Colombia			14	Lithuania		<i>Absent</i>		Switzerland			12
Comoros		<i>Absent</i>		Luxembourg			8	Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Costa Rica		<i>Absent</i>		Madagascar	14			Thailand			18
Cuba		13		Malawi		<i>Absent</i>		Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus			10	Malaysia	14			Togo			10
Czech Republic			13	Maldives			10	Tunisia		13	
DPR of Korea			10	Mali	10			Turkey			18
DR of the Congo	17			Mauritania	10			Uganda	13		
Denmark			10	Mauritius	11			Ukraine	10		7
Djibouti		<i>Absent</i>		Mexico			20	United Arab Emirates		11	
Dominican Rep.			12	Micronesia (Fed. States of)		<i>Absent</i>		United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador			10	Monaco		<i>Absent</i>		Uruguay		11	
Egypt			19	Morocco			15	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10		5
El Salvador		<i>Absent</i>		Mozambique		<i>Absent</i>					
Equatorial Guinea	11			Myanmar			10				
Estonia		11		Namibia	11			Viet Nam	15		4
Ethiopia	19			Netherlands			13	Zambia	13		
Fiji		<i>Absent</i>		New Zealand		11		Zimbabwe	13		

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.

The role of parliamentarians in protecting the principles of State sovereignty and State immunity from prosecution in the national courts of another State, and in preventing the adoption of unilateral legislation undermining these principles, which constitutes a violation of international law, international treaties and the Charter of the United Nations

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of the Parliaments of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	470	Total affirmative and negative votes	914
Negative votes	444	Two-thirds majority.....	609
Abstentions	637		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	Absent			Finland		12		Nicaragua			10
Albania	Absent			France		18		Niger	13		
Algeria	15			Gabon		11		Nigeria			20
Andorra			10	Germany		19		Norway		12	
Angola	4		10	Ghana		14		Oman	11		
Argentina	Absent			Greece			13	Pakistan	21		
Armenia			11	Guatemala			10	Palestine	11		
Australia		14		Guinea	8	5		Peru			14
Austria			12	Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Philippines	Absent		
Bahrain	11			Haiti	Absent			Poland		15	
Bangladesh	20			Hungary			10	Portugal		13	
Belarus	Absent			Iceland		10		Qatar	8		
Belgium		13		India			23	Republic of Korea		17	
Benin	8	4		Indonesia			22	Romania		14	
Bhutan	6		4	Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Russian Federation	20		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)			12	Iraq	14			Rwanda	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Absent			Ireland			11	San Marino			10
Botswana	Absent			Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe			10
Brazil	22			Italy		17		Saudi Arabia	14		
Bulgaria			10	Japan			20	Senegal	12		
Burkina Faso	13			Jordan	12			Serbia			12
Burundi			12	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore			12
Cabo Verde			10	Kenya		15		South Africa			17
Cambodia	13			Kyrgyzstan			10	South Sudan	Absent		
Cameroon	Absent			Lao People's Dem. Republic	Absent			Sri Lanka			13
Canada		15		Latvia		11		Sudan	15		
Chad			13	Lebanon	Absent			Suriname	10		
Chile	10			Lesotho			11	Swaziland			11
China	23			Liechtenstein		10		Sweden		12	
Colombia			14	Lithuania	Absent			Switzerland		12	
Comoros	Absent			Luxembourg		8		Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Costa Rica	Absent			Madagascar			14	Thailand			18
Cuba			13	Malawi	Absent			Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus			10	Malaysia	14			Togo			10
Czech Republic			13	Maldives	10			Tunisia	13		
DPR of Korea	10			Mali			10	Turkey	13		5
DR of the Congo			17	Mauritania			10	Uganda			13
Denmark		10		Mauritius			11	Ukraine	17		
Djibouti	Absent			Mexico		20		United Arab Emirates	11		
Dominican Rep.			12	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	Absent			United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador			10	Monaco	Absent			Uruguay		11	
Egypt	19			Morocco	15			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)			15
El Salvador	Absent			Mozambique	Absent			Viet Nam	12		7
Equatorial Guinea		11		Myanmar		10		Zambia		13	
Estonia		11		Namibia			11	Zimbabwe			13
Ethiopia			19	Netherlands		13					
Fiji	Absent			New Zealand		11					

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.

The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Germany and Mexico for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	802	Total affirmative and negative votes	1,043
Negative votes	241	Two-thirds majority.....	695
Abstentions	508		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Finland	12			Nicaragua			10
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			France	18			Niger		13	
Algeria		15		Gabon		11		Nigeria			20
Andorra	10			Germany	19			Norway	12		
Angola			14	Ghana			14	Oman		11	
Argentina	<i>Absent</i>			Greece	13			Pakistan			21
Armenia	6		5	Guatemala	10			Palestine		11	
Australia	14			Guinea	13			Peru	14		
Austria	12			Guinea-Bissau	<i>Absent</i>			Philippines	<i>Absent</i>		
Bahrain	11			Haiti	<i>Absent</i>			Poland	15		
Bangladesh			20	Hungary	10			Portugal	13		
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Iceland	10			Qatar	8		
Belgium	13			India			23	Republic of Korea	17		
Benin	8	4		Indonesia			22	Romania	14		
Bhutan	8		2	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		18		Russian Federation		20	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		12		Iraq		14		Rwanda	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Ireland	11			San Marino	10		
Botswana	<i>Absent</i>			Israel	12			Sao Tome and Principe			10
Brazil	22			Italy	17			Saudi Arabia			14
Bulgaria			10	Japan	20			Senegal			12
Burkina Faso	10		3	Jordan	12			Serbia	9	3	
Burundi			12	Kazakhstan			10	Singapore	12		
Cabo Verde	10			Kenya		15		South Africa			17
Cambodia			13	Kyrgyzstan		10		South Sudan	<i>Absent</i>		
Cameroon	<i>Absent</i>			Lao People's Dem. Republic	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka			13
Canada	15			Latvia	11			Sudan		15	
Chad	13			Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname			10
Chile	10			Lesotho			11	Swaziland			11
China		23		Liechtenstein	10			Sweden	12		
Colombia	14			Lithuania	<i>Absent</i>			Switzerland	12		
Comoros	<i>Absent</i>			Luxembourg	8			Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Costa Rica	<i>Absent</i>			Madagascar			14	Thailand	12		6
Cuba			13	Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus	6		4	Malaysia	14			Togo			10
Czech Republic	13			Maldives	5		5	Tunisia			13
DPR of Korea		10		Mali			10	Turkey	18		
DR of the Congo			17	Mauritania			10	Uganda			13
Denmark	10			Mauritius			11	Ukraine	17		
Djibouti	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	20			United Arab Emirates	11		
Dominican Rep.	12			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	<i>Absent</i>			United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador			10	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Uruguay	11		
Egypt			19	Morocco			15	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10	5	
El Salvador	<i>Absent</i>			Mozambique	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam	12		7
Equatorial Guinea	11			Myanmar		5	5	Zambia		13	
Estonia	11			Namibia			11	Zimbabwe			13
Ethiopia	14		5	Netherlands	13						
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			New Zealand	11						

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.

Restoring peace and security in Syria: The contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of the Russian Federation and Syrian Arab Republic for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....491	Total affirmative and negative votes 1,038
Negative votes547	Two-thirds majority..... 692
Abstentions513	

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	Absent			Finland		12		Nicaragua	10		
Albania	Absent			France		18		Niger		13	
Algeria	15			Gabon		11		Nigeria		20	
Andorra			10	Germany		19		Norway		12	
Angola	14			Ghana		14		Oman	11		
Argentina	Absent			Greece	7	6		Pakistan			21
Armenia	11			Guatemala			10	Palestine	11		
Australia		14		Guinea			13	Peru			14
Austria	3	9		Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Philippines	Absent		
Bahrain		11		Haiti	Absent			Poland		15	
Bangladesh	20			Hungary			10	Portugal		13	
Belarus	Absent			Iceland		10		Qatar		8	
Belgium		13		India			23	Republic of Korea			17
Benin			12	Indonesia			22	Romania		14	
Bhutan	5		5	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation	20		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Iraq	14			Rwanda	12		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Absent			Ireland		11		San Marino	5		5
Botswana	Absent			Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe			10
Brazil			22	Italy	3	14		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bulgaria			10	Japan		20		Senegal			12
Burkina Faso			13	Jordan	12			Serbia	12		
Burundi			12	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore			12
Cabo Verde			10	Kenya		15		South Africa	17		
Cambodia	7		6	Kyrgyzstan	10			South Sudan	Absent		
Cameroon	Absent			Lao People's Dem. Republic	Absent			Sri Lanka			13
Canada		15		Latvia		11		Sudan	15		
Chad			13	Lebanon	Absent			Suriname	5		5
Chile			10	Lesotho			11	Swaziland			11
China	23			Liechtenstein		10		Sweden		12	
Colombia		14		Lithuania	Absent			Switzerland		12	
Comoros	Absent			Luxembourg		8		Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Costa Rica	Absent			Madagascar	14			Thailand	12		6
Cuba	13			Malawi	Absent			Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus	10			Malaysia	14			Togo			10
Czech Republic			13	Maldives	10			Tunisia	13		
DPR of Korea	10			Mali			10	Turkey	5	13	
DR of the Congo			17	Mauritania			10	Uganda			13
Denmark		10		Mauritius			11	Ukraine		17	
Djibouti	Absent			Mexico		20		United Arab Emirates			11
Dominican Rep.			12	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	Absent			United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador	10			Monaco	Absent			Uruguay		11	
Egypt	19			Morocco			15	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	5	10	
El Salvador	Absent			Mozambique	Absent						
Equatorial Guinea			11	Myanmar	10						
Estonia		11		Namibia			11	Viet Nam	12		7
Ethiopia	19			Netherlands		13		Zambia		13	
Fiji	Absent			New Zealand		11		Zimbabwe			13

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.

The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 135th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 26 October 2016)*

The 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Deploing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), most of them civilians,

Recalling that over 11 million people have lost their homes in Syria, 6.5 million of whom are internally displaced, and that 4.8 million have had to flee abroad,

Also recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Further recalling that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949) provides that direct attacks against civilian targets constitute a war crime,

Taking account of the resolutions of the 134th IPU Assembly (Lusaka), the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva), the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito) and in particular, the resolution of the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala) entitled *Inter-Parliamentary Union initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts*,

Also taking account of United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 of 22 December 2015, “reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in Syria and, reiterating that parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to protect civilians, and recalling in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel”; and *noting* that this resolution highlights the role of the Syrian authorities in the conflict and the actions of terrorist organizations operating in Syria,

Emphasizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 2258 (2015) notes “the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help save civilian lives”; and *taking into account* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on Syria,

Noting, with regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, that those who perpetrate war crimes, including crimes against humanity, must be held responsible,

Considering that Syria has signed and ratified the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which has not been respected; and *stressing* the incalculable historic value of the ancient city of Aleppo, which is part of the heritage of humanity,

Emphasizing that, in the long term, the situation for people in Syria cannot be improved through humanitarian measures, but only through political negotiations,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest possible terms crimes, which target attacks against civilians in Syria, such as the targeting of hospitals, and attacks on and blockading of aid convoys, which are depriving over 550,000 civilians in besieged areas from almost all humanitarian aid;

* The Syrian Arab Republic rejected the entire resolution. Cuba expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 5 and preambular paragraphs 5, 6 and 8.

2. *Calls upon* all parties to the conflict to stop attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, and besieging and forcefully evacuating cities, and to stop the suffering of people, with immediate effect;
3. *Appeals* to the parties to the conflict to reinstate the ceasefire agreement of 12 September 2016;
4. *Urges* the United States of America and the Russian Federation and all relevant parties involved in the conflict to resume serious dialogue aiming at a permanent, peaceful and political solution and at maintaining the unity and integrity of Syria, and to bring an end to this war that is claiming the lives of men, women and children;
5. *Requests* the United Nations Security Council to fulfil its primary responsibility of maintaining world peace and international security;
6. *Urges* the parties to the conflict to ensure the security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel, including those exclusively carrying out medical duties, medical staff, and United Nations staff; and *supports* the initiatives taken by the United Nations regarding humanitarian aid;
7. *Demands* immediate, unimpeded and permanent humanitarian and medical access in order to ensure that supplies reach the civilian population;
8. *Requests* its Members to undertake efforts to encourage their countries to increase emergency aid to the region, and support, in every possible way, aid organizations on the ground;
9. *Calls upon* the international community to make firm commitments and adequately support Syria's neighbouring countries, which are providing assistance to the refugees, to mitigate and address the impact of the large influx of Syrian refugees;
10. *Also calls upon* parliamentarians to urge their Governments to support the UNESCO campaign Unite4heritage, an initiative that stems from the destruction of the heritage of humanity in Syria and Iraq, and that is designed to support, champion and safeguard cultural inheritance;
11. *Urges* its Members to monitor the situation in Syria, to commit the parliamentary community to undertake further efforts to improve the situation in Syria, and to remain in close contact with all relevant parties, as well as the League of Arab States and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, which hold the status of Permanent Observers at the IPU.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Mr./M. Saber Chowdhury

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS – MEMBRES**AFGHANISTAN**

IBRAHIMI, Abdul Raouf (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Président de la Chambre du peuple</i>
ZABULI, Zalmai (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Complaints Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Commission des plaintes</i>
ANHAMI, Abdul Rauf (Mr./M.)	Member and Secretary of the House of the People <i>Membre et Secrétaire de la Chambre du peuple</i>
KOOFI, Fawzia (Mrs./Mme) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of the People Chair of the Women Affairs Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple Présidente de la Commission des affaires féminines</i>
AZIZ, Fatema (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of the People National Economy Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple Commission de l'économie nationale</i>
STANIKZAI, Mohammad Akbar (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
MAHDAVI, Jafer (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
TARA-KHEL, Mir Hatam (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Chairman of the Provincial Council Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Président de la Commission du Conseil des Provinces</i>
MANGAL, Maajan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Telecommunications Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Commission des télécommunications</i>
AZAMI, Gul Ahmad (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Elders Telecommunications Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Commission des télécommunications</i>
AHMADI, Lailuma (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the House of Elders Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens Présidente de la Commission des affaires culturelles</i>
NASRAT, Khudai Nazar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre du peuple</i>
GHALIB, Rahimullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Chambre du peuple</i>
QAWIM, Temor Shah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General for Parliamentary and Legislative Affairs, House of Elders <i>Secrétaire général adjoint des affaires parlementaires et législatives, Conseil des anciens</i>
JAMILY, Khalilullah (Mr./M.)	Senior Adviser to the Speaker on International Affairs, House of the People <i>Conseiller principal du Président sur les affaires internationales, Chambre du peuple</i>
RAHIMI, Wazir Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Director, IPU Relations, House of Elders <i>Directeur des relations avec l'UIP, Chambre des Anciens</i>
HUSSAINI, Samiullah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, International Relations, House of the People <i>Directeur, Relations internationales, Chambre du peuple</i>

IBRAHIMI, Abdul Fatah (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Assistant du Président, Chambre du peuple</i>
ARMAN, Mohammad Shah (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Assistant du Président, Chambre du peuple</i>
BAKHSI, Fardeen (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

ALBANIA – ALBANIE

RAMA, Luan (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ULQINI, Musa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
DODA, Mesila (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
PALOKA, Edi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

LAKHDARI, Said (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly Vice-Chair, Communication, Culture, Editing and Training <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale Vice-Président chargé de la communication, de la culture, de l'édition et de la formation</i>
BEN BADIS, Faouzia (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (ex-officio) <i>Membre du Comité exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires (de droit)</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Nation <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil de la Nation</i>
MANI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
BOUCHELACHEM, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
MEFTALI, Yamina (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
DJELLOUT, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
CHIHEB, Seddik (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
DADA, Mohamed Dris (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of the Nation <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Nation</i>
SLIMANI, Bachir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National People's Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SI BACHIR, Noureddine (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Executive Assistant, National People's Assembly <i>Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
MAAZOUZ, Amal (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director, Council of the Nation <i>Sous-Directrice, Conseil de la Nation</i>

ANDORRA – ANDORRE

BONELL, Mònica (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the General Council <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil général (DA)</i>
ALIS, Gerard (Mr./M.)	Member of the General Council Committee on Home Affairs Committee on Social Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil général (PS)</i> <i>Commission de l'intérieur</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
GALLARDO, Jordi (Mr./M.)	Member of the General Council Committee on Home Affairs Deputy Chair of the Committee on Finance and Budget Committee on Health and Environment <i>Membre du Conseil général (PLA)</i> <i>Commission de l'intérieur</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des finances et du budget</i> <i>Commission de la santé et de l'environnement</i>
MARTISELLA, Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the General Council Committee on Home Affairs Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil général (DA)</i> <i>Commission de l'intérieur</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
RODRIGUEZ, Arantxa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Legislative Committees and Parliamentary Delegations, General Council <i>Commissions législatives et délégations parlementaires,</i> <i>Conseil général</i>

(DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)

(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti Social-démocrate)

(PLA: Liberal Party / Parti Libéral)

ANGOLA

DIAS DOS SANTOS, Fernando (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
DANDA, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNITA)</i>
ALBERTO, Yaba (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ELIAS, Carolina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
GAMBÔA, Exalgina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TITO, Lindo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Casa-CE)</i>
JOSÉ, Larissa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
VALENTE, Idalina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
NERI, Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
MEDEIROS, Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Director of the Speaker's Office's, National Assembly <i>Directrice du Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
BARRICA, Nildeice (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale</i>
VICENTE, Lázaro (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>

DOMINGOS, Dilízia (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, National Assembly
Conseillère, Assemblée nationale

TUSAMBA, Alice (Mrs./Mme)

Translator to the Speaker, National Assembly
Traductrice du Président, Assemblée nationale

QUICOLO, Salvador (Mr./M.)

Translator to the Speaker, National Assembly
*Traducteur du Président, Assemblée nationale*VARELA, Osvaldo (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*CORREIA, Apolinário (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*JAIME, António (Mr./M.)
Diplomat
*Diplomate*GUIMARÃES, Alberto (Mr./M.)
Diplomat
*Diplomate*EDUARDO, Manuel (Mr./M.)
Diplomat
*Diplomate*VENÂNCIO, Nelson (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*MATEUS, Adélio (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*MANUEL, José (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*MAKEMBA, Maurício (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*FONSECA, Geraldo (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*ESTEVÃO, Filipe (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*BADI, Miguel (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*ALFREDO, Ângelo (Mr./M.)
Press / *Presse*

(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)

ARGENTINA – ARGENTINEPINEDO, Federico (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate
Spokesman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee,
External Relations Committee, National Economy
Committee, Committee on Agreements
Président pro tempore du Sénat (RP)
Porte-parole de la Commission des affaires
constitutionnelles, Commission des relations extérieures,
Commission de l'économie nationale, Commission des
approbations

URTUBEY, Rodolfo Julio (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Committee on Agreements
Membre du Sénat (FV)
Président de la Commission des approbations

CREXELL, Carmen Lucila (Mrs./Mme)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Forum des jeunes parlementaires

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Legislation Committee
Membre du Sénat (MPN)
Présidente de la Commission de la législation

ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Vice-President, Economy and Investment Committee,
Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Foreign Affairs
Committee
Membre du Sénat (PJ)
Vice-Président de la Commission de l'économie et des investissements, Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, Commission des affaires étrangères

TUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Parliamentary Secretary, Senate
Secrétaire parlementaire, Sénat

(RP: Republican Proposal / Proposition républicaine)
(FV: Victory Front / Front pour la victoire)
(MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)
(PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)

ARMENIA – ARMENIE

ATSHEMYAN, Karine (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security, Leader of the Delegation
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix
et de la sécurité internationale, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly
Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)
*Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, de la jeunesse
et du sport*

BISHARYAN, Heghine (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ROLF)
*Commission de la science, de l'éducation, de la culture,
de la jeunesse et du sport*

GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Senior Specialist of the Foreign Relations Department,
National Assembly
*Spécialiste principale au Département des relations
étrangères, Assemblée nationale*

(HHK: Republican Party of Armenia / Parti républicain arménien)
(ROLF: Rule of Law Party / Parti « L'Etat de droit »)

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

SMITH, Tony (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Président de la Chambre des Représentants

GALLACHER, Alex (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (ALP)

MACDONALD, Ian (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (LPA)

STERLE, Glenn (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (ALP)

MARINO, Nola (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade
*Bureau de la Commission permanente du
développement durable, du financement et du
commerce*

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LPA)

SURTEES, Claressa (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives
*Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des
Représentants*

CLUNIES-ROSS, Cate (Ms./Mme)

Senior Adviser to the Speaker

HALLETT, Brien (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	<i>Conseillère principale du Président</i> Clerk Assistant (Committees), Senate <i>Greffier adjoint (commissions), Sénat</i>
MATULICK, Toni (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Committee Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire de commission, Sénat</i>
QUINN, John (Mr./M.) Permanent Representative in Geneva <i>Représentant permanent à Genève</i>	
BENNETT, Tanya (Ms./Mme) Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva <i>Représentante permanente adjointe à Genève</i>	
SLADE, Tristen (Ms./Mme) Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva <i>Représentante permanente adjointe à Genève</i>	
ALBLAS, Greer (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission in Geneva <i>Mission permanente à Genève</i>	
(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien) (LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)	

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

SCHIEDER, Andreas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)</i>
LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (ÖVP)</i>
KARLSBÖCK, Andreas F. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (FPÖ)</i>
ASLAN, Berivan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (Grüne)</i>
BAYR, Petra (Ms./Mme) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)</i>
BRENNER, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)	Head of EU and International Services <i>Chef des services européens et internationaux</i>
VELBERG, Sophie (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Division of Multilateral Relations and Development Cooperation, National Council <i>Division des relations multilatérales et de la coopération au développement, Conseil national</i>
(SPÖ: Social Democrat Party / Parti social-démocrate) (ÖVP: People's Party / Parti populaire) (FPÖ: Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté) (Grüne: Greens / Les Verts)	

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council <i>Premier Vice-Président du Conseil Consultatif</i>
SALMAN, Jameela (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
TAQAWI, Sawsan (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>

ALAHMED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALJAWDER, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALKOOHEJI, Isa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
AL SAMMAK, Jameela (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALDOSERI, Abdulla (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des représentants</i>
ALMAHMEED, Mahmeed (Mr./M.)	Director of Communication, Council of Representatives <i>Directeur de la communication, Conseil des représentants</i>
AL KHALIFA, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist, Council of Representatives <i>Spécialiste du développement des relations parlementaires, Conseil des représentants</i>

BANGLADESH

RABBI, Fazle (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Chairman of Parliament Library Committee Business Advisory Committee Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la bibliothèque parlementaire</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission permanente des règles de procédure</i>
ERSHAD, Raushan (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Business Advisory Committee Standing Committee on Privileges <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission permanente des privilèges</i>
FEROZ, A S M (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the House Committee Business Advisory Committee Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président du Comité de la Chambre</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission permanente des règles de procédure</i>
ATIK, Md. Atiur Rahman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'électricité, de l'énergie et des ressources minérales</i>
KHASRU, Abdul Matin (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on Estimates Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des évaluations</i> <i>Commission permanente des règles de procédure</i>
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning Parliament Library Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>

CHOWDHURY, A B M Fazle Karim (Mr./M.)
President of the Committee on the Human Rights
of Parliamentarians
*Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des
parlementaires*

MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr./M.)
Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH
*Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la
santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant*

TAUFIQ, Rejwan Ahammad (Mr./M.)

FERDUSHE, Nasima (Ms./Mme)

MANNAN, Rowshan Ara (Ms./Mme)

UDDIN, Salim (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

AWAL, M.A. (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

HOWLADER, Md. Abdur Rob (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

HELAL, Md. Abu Al (Mr./M.)

HOQUE, Md. Mosta Gausul (Mr./M.)

KHAN, Naimul Azam (Mr./M.)

ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr./M.)

HASAN, Mohammad Mamun (Mr./M.)

YESMIN, Raihana (Ms./Mme)

RAHMAN, Mohammad Anisur (Mr./M.)

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)
(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

*Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère
de la planification
Commission de la bibliothèque parlementaire*

Member of Parliament
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of
Railways
Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration
*Membre du Parlement (AL)
Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère
des chemins de fer
Commission permanente du Ministère de
l'administration publique*

Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare
*Membre du Parlement (AL)
Commission permanente du Ministère de la protection
sociale*

Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Water Resources
*Membre du Parlement (AL)
Commission permanente du Ministère des ressources
en eau*

Member of Parliament
Standing Committee on Ministry of Power, Energy and
Mineral Resources
*Membre du Parlement (AL)
Commission permanente du Ministère de l'électricité,
de l'énergie et des ressources minérales*

Member of Parliament, Parliament
Membre du Parlement, Parlement

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement

Senior Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire principal, Parlement

Deputy Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement

Deputy Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement

Deputy Director, Parliament
Directeur adjoint, Parlement

Senior Assistant Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire assistant principal, Parlement

Public Relations Officer to the Leader of the Opposition,
Parliament
*Chargé des relations publiques auprès du chef de
l'opposition, Parlement*

Committee Officer, Parliament
Fonctionnaire de commission, Parlement

Assistant Private Secretary to the Chief Whip
Secrétaire particulier adjoint du Chef de file

BELARUS

SHCHOTKINA, Marianna (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation
Chef de la délégation

Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Republic
Vice-Présidente du Conseil de la République

AMBRAZEVICH, Yury (Mr./M.)
Permanent Representative in Geneva
Représentant permanent à Genève

OPIMAKH, Alexander (Mr./M.)
Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva
Représentant permanent adjoint à Genève

BOGOMAZ, Vladimir (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission in Geneva
Mission permanente à Genève

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Pol (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Group of Facilitators
for Cyprus, Leader of the Delegation
*Président du Groupe, Groupe de facilitateurs
concernant Chypre, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate
Chairman of the Committee on Cross-cutting Issues –
Community Competences
Advisory Committee on European Affairs
Parliamentary Committee on the Legislative Follow-up
Membre du Sénat (N-VA)
*Président de la Commission des matières transversales
– Compétences communautaires*
Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes
Comité parlementaire chargé du suivi législatif

MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.)
President of the Twelve Plus Group
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL
*Président du Groupe des Douze Plus, Membre du
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH*

Member of the Senate
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on European
Affairs
Committee on Institutional Affairs
Special Committee on Radicalisation
Membre du Sénat (PS)
*Président du Comité d'avis chargé des questions
européennes*
Commission des affaires institutionnelles
Commission spéciale "Radicalisation"

GROUWELS, Brigitte (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Committee on Institutional Affairs
Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Community
Competences
Special Committee on Radicalisation
Membre du Sénat (CD&V)
Commission des Affaires institutionnelles
*Commission des Matières transversales - Compétences
communautaires*
Commission spéciale "Radicalisation"

BATTHEU, Sabien (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure,
Communications and State Enterprises
Committee on the Interior, General Affairs and the Civil
Service
Select Committee on Rules and Reform of Parliamentary
Proceedings
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Open VLD)
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'Infrastructure, des
communications et des entreprises publiques*
*Commission de l'Intérieur, des affaires générales et de la
fonction publique*
*Commission spéciale du Règlement et de la réforme du
travail parlementaire*

GRYFFROY, Andries (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

	Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (N-VA)</i> <i>Commission des Matières transversales - Compétences régionales</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des Questions européennes</i>
CRUSNIÈRE, Stéphane (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee on External Relations Committee on Finance and Budget Special Committee for the Follow-up of Missions Abroad <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PS)</i> <i>Commission des Relations extérieures</i> <i>Commission des Finances et du Budget</i> <i>Commission spéciale chargée du suivi des missions à l'étranger</i>
VAN DER BIESEN, Gert (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Director, Senate <i>Directeur, Sénat</i>
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director, House of Representatives <i>Premier Conseiller de direction, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MICHAUX, Anne (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Twelve Plus Group <i>Conseillère au Groupe des Douze Plus</i>	Senior Adviser, Senate <i>Première Conseillère, Sénat</i>
(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande / Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie) (MR: Movement for Reform / Mouvement Réformateur) (CD&V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands / Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams) (PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste) (Open VLD: Flemish Liberals / Libéraux flamands / Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten)	

BENIN

HOUNGBEDJI, Adrien (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DAGNIHO, Rosine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BAKO ARIFARI, Nassirou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair, External Relations Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Président de la Commission des relations extérieures</i>
ALLADATIN, Jean-Baptiste O. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GOUNOU, Sanni (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LAOUROU, Eloi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AGONKAN, Gildas (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DASSI, Thomas (Mr./M.)	Deputy Administrative Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général administratif adjoint</i>
HOUETOGNANKOU, Jude (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer to the Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Chargé du protocole du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

HOUNKPEVI, Clément (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp du Président

BHUTAN – BHOUTAN

ZANGPO, Jigme (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)

GURUNG, Kamal Bahadur (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Good Governance Committee
Membre du Conseil national
Commission de la bonne gouvernance

GYELTSHEN, Nima (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council
Vice Chairperson of the Natural Resources and
Environment Committee
Membre du Conseil national
Vice-Président de la Commission des ressources
naturelles et de l'environnement

DORJEE, Sonam Dondup (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Economic Development and Private Sector Committee
House Committee
Finance Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)
Commission du développement économique et du
secteur privé
Comité de la Chambre
Commission des finances

WANGCHUK, Pelzang (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights
Bureau de la Commission permanente de
la démocratie et des droits de l'homme

Member of the National Assembly
Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)
Présidente du Comité des droits de la personne

X., Dupthob (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPT)
Vice-Président de la Commission des relations
étrangères

ZANGMO, Dechen (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Legislative Committee
Women, Children and Youth Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPT)
Commission législative
Commission de la femme, de l'enfant et de la jeunesse

DUBA, Sangay (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

TSHERING, Chencho (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Council
Secrétaire général, Conseil national

(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)
(DPT: Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) – BOLIVIE (ETAT PLURINATIONAL DE)

MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ, Edith (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Bureau des femmes
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
GUZMAN GOMEZ, Beatriz Flora (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
LLANOS, Daniela (Ms./Mme)	Adviser <i>Conseillère</i>

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

SOKOLOVIC, Salko (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>
KOZUL, Predrag (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (HDZ)</i>
LIKOKUR, Milena (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	House of Peoples <i>Chambre des Peuples</i>
ZUJO, Amila (Ms./Mme) Interpreter <i>Interprète</i>	

(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Union démocratique croate de Bosnie-Herzégovine)

BOTSWANA

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)</i> <i>Présidente, Forum parlementaire des femmes</i>
BOKO, Duma G. (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Labour and Home Affairs Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight Committee of Selection Business Advisory Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille du travail et des affaires internes</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille de la gouvernance et de la surveillance</i> <i>Comité de sélection</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i>
GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Development Finance and Estimates Committee Public Accounts Committee Statutory Bodies Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille du commerce, des finances et du développement économique</i> <i>Comité des finances et des prévisions budgétaires</i> <i>Comité des comptes publics</i> <i>Comité des organes statutaires</i>
SAUBI, Babui (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Clerk Assistant I (Research Unit), National Assembly <i>Assistant principal, Service de recherche, Assemblée nationale</i>
SEEMULE, Sissy V. (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission in Geneva <i>Mission permanente à Genève</i>	

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

BRAZIL – BRESIL

NOGUEIRA LIMA FILHO, Ciro (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Federal Senate <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PP)</i>
ANASTASIA, Antonio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on International Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PSDB)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales</i>
CAMELI, Gladson (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal Senate <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PP)</i>
LINS, Atila (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	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>
PETECÃO, Sergio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal Senate <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PSD)</i>
MORAIS, Wilder (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal Senate <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PP)</i>
RODRIGUES, Maria Helena (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSB)</i>
ARAUJO, Silvia (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, Federal Senate <i>Conseillère, Sénat fédéral</i>
BANDEIRA DE MELLO, Luiz Fernando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Senate / <i>Sénat</i>
LOUREIRO, Marcos (Mr./M.)	Chief of Staff, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Chef du Secrétariat, Relations internationales, Chambre des Députés</i>
DE OLIVEIRA VARANDA, José Henrique (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Federal Senate <i>Sénat fédéral</i>
CARVALHO E SILVA, Antonio (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Coordinator, Executive Office Governance and Strategic Management, Chamber of Deputies <i>Coordinateur, Bureau exécutif de la gouvernance et de la gestion stratégique, Chambre des Députés</i>
(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste) (PSDB: Parti of the Brazilian Social Democracy / Parti socialiste brésilien) (PSD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (DEM: Democrats / Démocrates) (PSB: Brazilian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste brésilien)	

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

IMAMOV, Aliosman (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Budget and Finance Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (DPS)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances</i>
MIKOV, Mihail (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Culture and Media Committee Committee on the Policies towards Bulgarians who live Abroad <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BSP)</i> <i>Commission de la culture et des médias</i> <i>Commission de la politique sur les Bulgares à l'étranger</i>
SLAVCHOV, Ivan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>

ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Mrs./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

State Expert, International Relations and Protocol
Directorate, National Assembly
*Experte d'Etat, Direction des relations internationales et
du protocole, Assemblée nationale*

STOYANOVA, Mariana (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

(DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés)
(BSP: Left Bulgaria / Bulgarie de gauche)

BURKINA FASO

BAKYONO, Bienvenue (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

ABGA, Armand (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC)

NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)

OUATTARA, Lassina (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)

OUEDRAOGO, Honorine W. Sawadogo (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAREN)

TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)

TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Diplomacy Director, National Assembly
*Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée
nationale*

(MPP: Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès / People's Movement for Progress)
(UPC: Union pour le progrès et le changement / Union for Progress and Change)
(CDP: Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès / Congress for Democracy and Progress)
(PAREN: Parti de la renaissance nationale / National Rebirth Party)

BURUNDI

NDUWIMANA, Edouard (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
*Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
(CNDD-FDD)*

NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr./M.)

Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate
Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat

BARANYIZIGIYE, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

NDIKUMANA, Pierre Célestin (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Deputy Chair, Finance Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Abigenga-Amizero
y'Abarundi)
Vice-Président de la Commission Finance*

HAKIZIMANA, Gloriose (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Gender Committee
*Membre du Sénat (CNDD-FDD)
Présidente de la Commission des questions de genre*

RWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

NIYONZIMA, Rénovat (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

NIKIZA, Providence (Ms./Mme)

Senior Communication Adviser, National Assembly
*Conseillère principale en charge de la communication,
Assemblée nationale*

GAHUNGU, Barthélémy (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer
Chargé du protocole

BIMENYIMANA, Prosper (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer, Senate
Chargé du protocole, Sénat

(CNDD: National Council for the Defence of Democracy / Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie)

(FDD: Front for the Defence of Democracy / Forces pour la défense de la démocratie)

(Abigenga-Amizero y'Abarundi: Hope for Burundians coalition / Coalition « Espoir des Burundais »)

CABO VERDETAVARES CORREIA, Austelino (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MpD)

DIAS DOS SANTOS, Ana Paula (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAICV)

DOS SANTOS, Celita Anne (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MpD)

ALFAMA PEREIRA, Celita Annie (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Technical Adviser
Technicien parlementaire

(MpD: Movement for Democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)

(PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde)

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGEYANG, Sem (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the Senate
Vice Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights,
Complaint Reception, Investigation.
Membre du Sénat
Vice-Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme,
de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes

CHHIT, Kimyeat (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

BAN, Srey Mom (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

KHIEV, Muth (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*TIOULONG, Saumura (Mrs./Mme)
President of the Standing Committee
on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Présidente de la Commission permanente
du développement durable, du financement et du
*commerce*Member of the National Assembly
Vice Chairperson of the Commission on Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation, Information and Media
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires
étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de
*l'information et des médias*KHENG, Lork (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights
Bureau de la Commission permanente de
*la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*SRUN, Dara (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
*Membre de l'ASGP*Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale

CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)

Director, Senate
Directeur, Sénat

KHLANG, Oudam (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, National Assembly
Directeur adjoint, Assemblée nationale

KIM YEAT, Dararith (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director of PIC, Senate

	<i>Directeur adjoint de la CIP, Sénat</i>
KIM, Sochetra (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Senate <i>Assistant, Sénat</i>
SENG, Bora (Mr./M.)	Staff of International Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat du Département des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
KOY, Malayvireak (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of Protocol and International Relations Department, Senate <i>Directeur adjoint du protocole et du Département des relations internationales, Sénat</i>
OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
LY, Trakal (Mr./M.)	Staff of Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des relations multilatérales, Assemblée nationale</i>
DANET, Chea (Ms./Mme) Assistant / <i>Assistante</i>	

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

TJOUES, Geneviève (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
MAMA, Jean-Marie (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
DJOMO, Honoré (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ABOUI, Marlyse (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
KOULTCHOUMI, Oumoul (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)</i>
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
TSOMELOU, Jean (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
NONO, Nono (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
MEVA'A M'EBOUTOU, Michel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
YENE OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Assembly Senior Administrator, National Assembly <i>Administrateur principal d'Assemblée, Assemblée nationale</i>

ETOGA, Ursule (Ms./Mrs.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

Administrative Secretary, Senate
Secrétaire administrative du Sénat

INDJECK, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Relations with the Assemblies
Conseiller, Relations avec les assemblées

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)

(SDF: Front social démocratique / Social Democratic Front)

(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union nationale pour la démocratie et le progrès)

CANADA

ERSKINE-SMITH, Nathaniel (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Commons (LPC)
Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the
Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy
and Ethics
Standing Committee on Public Safety and National
Security
Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy
and Ethics
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PLC)
Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du
Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la
protection des renseignements personnels et de
l'éthique
Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale
Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la
protection des renseignements personnels et de
l'éthique

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the Senate (CPC)
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee
Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee
National Finance Committee
Membre du Sénat (PCC)
Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce
international
Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de la personne
Commission des finances nationales

DOHERTY, Todd (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (CPC)
Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
Standing Joint Committee on the Library of Parliament
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PCC)
Comité permanent des pêches et des océans
Comité mixte permanent de la Bibliothèque du
Parlement

MATHYSSEN, Irene (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Commons (NDP)
Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Veterans
Affairs
Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee on Private Members' Business of the
Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NPD)
Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des anciens
combattants
Sous-Comité du programme et de la procédure du
Comité permanent des anciens combattants
Sous-Comité des affaires émanant des députés du
Comité permanent de la procédure et des affaires de la
Chambre

SHIPLEY, Bev (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (CPC)
Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture
and Agri-Food
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PCC)
Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'agriculture et
de l'agroalimentaire

SPENGE MANN, Sven (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons (LPC)

	Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security Standing Committee on National Defence <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PLC)</i> <i>Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale</i> <i>Comité permanent de la défense nationale</i>
ZAHID, Salma (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons (LPC) Standing Committee on Public Accounts Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (PLC)</i> <i>Commission permanente des comptes publics</i> <i>Sous-Comité du programme et de la procédure du Comité permanent de la citoyenneté et de l'immigration</i>
BÉCHARD, Julie (Mrs./Mme)	Analyst, Library of Parliament, House of Commons <i>Analyste, Bibliothèque du Parlement, Chambre des Communes</i>
GRAVEL, Line (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	International and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Directorate <i>Direction des affaires internationales et interparlementaires</i>
JANSE, Eric (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk Assistant, Committees and Legislative Services Directorate, House of Commons <i>Greffier adjoint, Direction des commissions et des services législatifs, Chambre des Communes</i>
(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada / Parti libéral du Canada (PLC)) (CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada (PCC)) (NDP: New Democratic Party / Nouveau parti démocratique (NPD))	

CHAD – TCHAD

KADAM, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i>
AYMADJI, Opportune (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Defence and Security <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
GATTA, Gali Ngotte (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PR)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'économie et du plan</i>
NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP-JS)</i>
HAMIDI, Béchir Issa (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
(MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut) (PR: Republican Party / Parti Républicain) (PAP-JS: African Party for Peace and Justice / Parti africain pour la paix et la justice)	

CHILE – CHILI

PASCAL ALLENDE, Denise (Mrs./Mme) President of the Committee on Middle East Questions Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Labour and Social Security Committee Family and Elderly Committee Internal Government and Administration Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i> <i>Commission de la famille et des aînés</i> <i>Commission du gouvernement interne et de l'administration</i>
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LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.)
President of the GRULAC
Président du GRULAC

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
National Defence Committee
Chair of the Housing and Urban Development Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)
Commission de la défense nationale
Président de la Commission du logement et du développement urbain

LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.)
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires

Member of the Senate
Foreign Affairs Committee
Transport and Telecommunications Committee
Chair of the Labour and Social Welfare Committee
Membre du Sénat (PPD)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des transports et des télécommunications
Président de la Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale

MEZA, Fernando (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

LANDEROS, Miguel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés

PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director, International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
Directrice, Affaires internationales, Chambre des Députés

BUSTOS, Marcelo (Mr./M.)

Adviser, International Relations, Senate
Conseiller, Relations internationales, Sénat

FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr./M.)
Diplomatic Adviser
Conseiller diplomatique

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

(PPD: Party for Democracy / Parti pour la démocratie)

CHINA – CHINE

YAN, Junqi (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress
Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

WANG, Xiaochu (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

SU, Hui (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairperson of the Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires internes et judiciaires

WU, Xiaoling (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Vice-Chairperson of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires financières et économiques

ZHAO, Donghua (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Law Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Commission des lois

LI, Xiaobin (Mr./M.)

Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National

	People's Congress <i>Directeur général du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WANG, Aihua (Ms./Mme)	Director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Directrice du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
XIE, Zhangwei (Ms./Mme)	First Secretary of the International Economy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Première Secrétaire du Département de l'économie internationale du Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
PEI, Fang (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Vice-Chairperson Yan Junqi, National People's Congress <i>Secrétaire de la Vice-Présidente, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHANG, Siqi (Ms./Mme)	Second Secretary of the International Organizations and Conference Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Deuxième Secrétaire du Département des organisations internationales et conférences du Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
SHEN, Zheyi (Mr./M.)	Principle Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SONG, Ting (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Vice-Chairperson Yan Junqi, National People's Congress <i>Secrétaire de la Vice-Présidente, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WANG, Yu (Mr./M.)	Attache, Department of Translation and Interpretation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Attaché Département de traduction et interprétation, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
YANG, Tao (Mr./M.)	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
LIU, Yanran (Ms./Mme)	Staff, Department of Translation and Interpretation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Secrétariat, Département de traduction et interprétation, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
ZHENG, Yi (Ms./Mme)	Staff of the Foreign Affairs Bureau, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
MA, Zhaoxu (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
YU, Shukun (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
WEI, Xing (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
GAO, Jie (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

CORZO ROMÁN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
GARCÍA ROMERO, Teresita (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
CORREA, Catherine (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to Mr. Corzo, Senate <i>Assistante de M. Corzo, Sénat</i>

COMOROS – COMORES

OUSSENI, Abdou (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Assembly of the Union <i>Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
CHARIF, Maoulana (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Union Finance Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i> <i>Membre Commission des finances</i>
OUMOURI, Hadjira (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Union Chair, Production Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la production</i>
MOHAMED, Amirdine (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office, Assembly of the Union <i>Directeur de cabinet du Président, Assemblée de l'Union</i>
SAID ALI, Fairise (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser to the Speaker, Finance Committee, Assembly of the Union <i>Conseillère du Président, Commission des finances, Assemblée de l'Union</i>

CONGO

KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président délégué de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
OKELE, Gaspard (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	Adviser, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, National Assembly <i>Conseiller aux relations interparlementaires, Assemblée nationale</i>

COSTA RICA

ATENCIO DELGADO, Marvin (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PAC)</i>
FERNÁNDEZ AGUILA, Anyerid (Ms./Mme) (PAC: Citizens' Action Party / Parti d'action citoyenne)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana Maria (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)</i>
BARREDO MEDINA, Lazaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)</i>
FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
CASTILLO SANTANA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
BERTI OLIVA, Pablo (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
LAZO HERNANDEZ, Marilyn (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
MORA GONZÁLEZ, Jesus Rafael (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	

RODRIGUEZ CAMEJO, Anayansi (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
PÉREZ ALVARES, Claudia (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>
ROMEY ALVAREZ, Belkis (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly of the People's Power <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i>

(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)

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 Financial and Budgetary Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DISY)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente des affaires budgétaires et financières</i>
KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme) Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Rapporteuse de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AKEL)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, disparues ou lésées</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente du travail de la protection et de l'assurance sociale</i>
MOUSHOUTTAS, Marinos (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'énergie, du commerce, de l'industrie et du tourisme</i>
THEOLOGOU, Anna (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and Works <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CA)</i> <i>Commission permanente des communications et des travaux</i>
ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme) Advisor to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	International Relations Officer A' <i>Chargée des Relations internationales A'</i>
PERSIANI, Elena (Mrs./Mme) Advisor to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	International Relations Officer, House of Representatives <i>Chargée des relations internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>

(DISY: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)

(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)

(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)

(CA: Citizens' Alliance / Alliance des citoyens)

CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

GROSPÍČ, Stanislav (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Mandate and Immunity Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (KSCM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles et légales</i> <i>Commission des mandats et immunités</i>
LÁTKA, Jan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Mandate and Immunity Committee Committee on European Union Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (CSSD)</i>

	<i>Commission des mandats et immunités</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>
MALÝ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Education, Science, Human Rights and Petitions Vice-Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity <i>Membre du Sénat (CSSD)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la science, des droits de l'homme et des pétitions</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des mandats et des immunités</i>
ADÁMEK, František (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Administration and Regional Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CSSD)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'administration publique et du développement régional</i>
FISCHEROVÁ, Jana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ODS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Agriculture <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (TOP 09)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i>
KYNSTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
UKLEIN, Jiří (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
(KSCM: Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia / Parti communiste de Bohème et de Moravie) (CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (ODS: Civic Democratic Party / Parti démocrate civique) (TOP 09: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 / Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09)	

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE

RI, Jong Hyok (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM, Chung Song (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
HYON, Jong Ung (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM, Hak Song (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of the Senate Defence and Security Committee <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i> <i>Commission défense et sécurité</i>
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SHE OKITUNDU, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate External Relations Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PPRD)</i> <i>Commission relations extérieures</i>
BOKONA WIIPA, François (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Political, Administrative and Legal Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission politique, administrative et juridique</i>
MBILAMBANGU LUNGAMBO, Anne Marie (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Political, Administrative and Legal Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i> <i>Commission politique, administrative et juridique</i>
MBUKU LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Economy, Finance and Budget Control Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)</i> <i>Commission économique et financière et contrôle budgétaire</i>
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>
NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
KATAKO, Josué (Mr./M.)	Head of Cabinet of the First Vice-President, Senate <i>Chef de Cabinet du Premier Vice-Président, Sénat</i>
KANIKA SUMBAYI, Philibert (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser/Coordinator, Research Office, National Assembly <i>Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études, Assemblée nationale</i>
MAMANYA NGABU, Guy (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
ABABA NONGA, Gustave (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Research Bureau of the Senate <i>Conseiller au Bureau d'études du Sénat</i>
SALAPAMBA, Gilbert (Mr./M.)	Technical Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Chargé de Missions du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie)
(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Danish Parliament Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee Vice Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly <i>Membre du Parlement danois (SDP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires culturelles</i> <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE</i>
SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr./M.)	Member of the The Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Cultural Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (RGA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission des affaires culturelles</i>

VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme)

Consultant, the Danish Parliament
Consultante, Parlement danois

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)

DJIBOUTIALI HOUMED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (FRUD)

GOUMANEH, Hassan Said (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSD)

DAOUD, Ali Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FRUD)

ALI, Amdan Abdou (Mr./M.)

Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly
Conseiller du Président, Assemblée nationale

HASSAN, Mahdi Waberi (Mr./M.)

Cabinet Director, National Assembly
Directeur de cabinet, Assemblée nationale

(FRUD: Front for Restoration of Unity and Democracy / Front pour la restauration de l'unité et la démocratie)

(PSD: Djibouti Social-Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate de Djibouti)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINEFERMÍN NUESÍ, Graciela (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix
et de la sécurité internationale*Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Human Rights Committee
Education Committee
Technology Committee
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)
Commission des droits de l'homme
Commission de l'éducation
Commission de la technologie*

VICENTE, Juana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

FADUL, Víctor (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

MERCEDES, María (Ms./Mme)

Director, International Relations Department, Chamber
of Deputies
*Directrice du Département des relations internationales
de la Chambre des Députés*

(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party / Parti de la libération dominicaine)

ECUADOR – EQUATEURCALLE, María Augusta (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale***EGYPT – EGYPTE**ABDEL AAL, Ali (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Speaker of the House of Representatives
*Président de la Chambre des représentants*AZER ABDELMALAK, Margret (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
*Bureau des femmes parlementaires*Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des représentants

EL AMARY, Mohamad Khalil (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

HELMY SAID, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

HAMID WALY, Alaa Eldin (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

ELDIN DAWOOD, Diao Eldin (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELWANY, Rania Amr (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
TALAAT MOUSTAFA, Sahr (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
YOUSSEF, Dalia (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELDEEN MOHAMMED, Ahmad Saad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ELSHIEKH, Yousry (Mr./M.),	Director, Speaker's Office / <i>Directeur, Bureau du Président</i>
WAHAB, Ashraf Abdel (Mr./M.)	Director, Protocol Department <i>Directeur du Département du protocole</i>
MAHMOUD KAMEL, Mahmoud Ali (Mr./M.) MORGAN, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

EL SALVADOR

MERINO, Francisco (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly Vice-President of the Treasury and Budget Committee Rapporteur of the Environment and Climate Change Committee Economy Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (CN)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la trésorerie et du budget</i> <i>Rapporteur de la Commission de l'environnement et du changement climatique</i> <i>Commission de l'économie</i>
FLORES, Santiago (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Labour and Social Welfare Committee Policy Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i> <i>Commission des politiques</i>
TENORIO, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly President of the Legislation and Constitutional Points Committee Rapporteur of the Culture and Education Committee Labour and Social Welfare Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (GANA)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la législation et des questions constitutionnelles</i> <i>Rapporteur de la Commission de l'éducation et de la culture</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i>
SOSA, Karina Ivette (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly President of the External Relations Committee Family, Children and Adolescents Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des relations extérieures</i> <i>Commission de la famille, de l'enfance et de l'adolescence</i>

(CN: National Conciliation Party / Parti de conciliation nationale)

(FMLN: Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Martí)

(GANA: Grand Alliance for National Unity / Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

MESU, Gaudencio Mohaba (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Président de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)</i>
TORAO OYO, Ricardo Maximo (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (PDGE)</i>
ATANASIO ELA, Ntugu Nsa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
MANGUE ESENG, Juliana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
NZE MEDJA, Juan Ondo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
BIENVENIDO ESONO, Ekoa Abé (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés</i>
VICTORINO NKA, Obiang Maye (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
ELA ONANA, Jose (Mr./M.)	Protocol General Director, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur général de protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>
MARIANO NVÉ, Nfa (Mr./M.)	General Director, Press, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur général chargé de la presse, Chambre des Députés</i>
GARCIA BIKIE, Diego (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÜTT, Helmen (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Estonian Parliament Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament Chair of the Committee of Economic Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (ERP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires économiques</i>
ALAJÕE, Maria (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
LUTTER, Kadri (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, Foreign Relations Department, The Estonian Parliament <i>Conseillère au Département des relations étrangères, Parlement estonien</i>
PUNG, Andre (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	
LUMISTE, Taavo (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission in Geneva <i>Mission permanente à Genève</i>	

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

RETA, Yalew Abate (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the Federation <i>Président de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
AYENEW, Worku (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation

GONDA, Hailu (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i> Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
BAHETA, Gebregziabher (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
DERSSA, Shambel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
ZEGEYE, Asmelash (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
WOLDESEMEYAT, Ayelech (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
GELAW, Haymanot (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
MAREGN, Yassin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary, House of the Federation <i>Secrétaire, Chambre de la Fédération</i>
CHWAKA, Estifanos (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol <i>Chef du protocole</i>
(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Éthiopie)	

FIJI – FIDJI

LUVENI, Jiko (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Présidente du Parlement</i>
KARAVAKI, Semesa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Deputy Chairperson of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Soldelpa)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la justice, des lois et des droits de l'homme</i>
VUNIWAQA, Mereseini (Mrs./Mme) Vice President of the Group <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
EMBERSON, Jeanette (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Parlement</i>
DITOKA, Joeli (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Legislature Director, Parliament <i>Directeur de la législature, Parlement</i>
(Soldelpa: Social Democratic Liberal Party / Parti libéral social-démocrate) (FF: FijiFirst / Les Fidji d'abord)	

FINLAND – FINLANDE

URPILAINEN, Jutta (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i>
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ELO, Simon (Mr./M.)
Vice President of the Group
Vice-Président du Groupe

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (PS)

LINTILÄ, Mika (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (KESK)

MODIG, Silvia (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (Vas)

VIROLAINEN, Anne-Mari (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (KOK)

HUTTUNEN, Marja (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Assistant for International Affairs, Parliament
Assistante, Affaires internationales, Parlement

VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Secretary for International Affairs, Parliament
Secrétaire, Affaires internationales, Parlement

CARLANDER, Gunilla (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Head of the International Department of
Parliament
Chef adjoint du Département international du Parlement

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PS: The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais)

(KESK: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)

(Vas: Left Alliance / Alliance de gauche)

(KOK: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)

FRANCE

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme)
Vice-President of the Bureau of Women
Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation
*Vice-Présidente du Bureau des femmes
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Finance Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PS)
Présidente de la Commission des finances*

DUMONT, Laurence (Mrs./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Law Committee
*Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)
Commission des lois*

DEL PICCHIA, Robert (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

Member of the Senate
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed
Forces
*Membre du Sénat (LR)
Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et
des forces armées*

DURRIEU, Josette (Mrs./Mme)
Standing Committee on Peace and International
Security
*Commission de la paix et de la sécurité
internationale*

Member of the Senate
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
*Membre du Sénat (PS)
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires
étrangères*

GUITTET, Chantal (Mrs./Mme)
Committee on Middle East Questions
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the National Assembly
Secretary of the Bureau of the Committee on Foreign
Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)
Secrétaire du Bureau de la Commission des affaires
étrangères*

MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Foreign Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LR)
Commission des affaires étrangères*

BIGNON, Jérôme (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Committee on Land Planning and Sustainable
Development
*Membre du Sénat (LR)
Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et du
développement durable*

JOURDA, Gisèle (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
DAGOMA, Seybah (Mrs./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
PALLEZ, Christophe (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Questure of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de la Questure de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TAVERNIER, Eric (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, Sénat <i>Directeur général, Sénat</i>
EIFERMANN, Didier (Mr./M.) Executive Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe</i>	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
VANCE, Loïc (Mr./M.) Executive Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe</i>	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
FAUCONNIER, Inès (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	Administrator, National Assembly <i>Administrateur, Assemblée nationale</i>
PREUVOT, Perrine (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
VELASCO, Karine (Mrs./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale</i>
PARUTA, Frédéric (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission in Geneva <i>Mission permanente à Genève</i>	
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste) (LR: The Republicans / Les Républicains)	

GABON

ONOUVIET, Richard Auguste (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Law Committee Planning Committee Finance Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i> <i>Commission de la planification</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
OSSELE NDONG, Rémy (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Finance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commissions des finances</i>
NZE MOUENIDIAMBOU, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Law Committee Planning Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i> <i>Commission de la planification</i>
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
RAOUMBE, Roger Bertin (Mr./M.) Private GP to the Speaker <i>Médecin personnel du Président</i>	

PONCY, Thierry Lionel (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp du Président

RELONGOUET, Herve Ferry (Mr./M.)
Security Officer to the Speaker
Agent de sécurité du Président

(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti Democratique Gabonais)

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

ROTH, Claudia (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag
Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad
Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
Vice-Présidente, Bundestag allemand (Bündnis90/Die Grünen)
Sous-Commission de la culture et de l'éducation à l'étranger
Commission de la coopération économique et du développement

FABRITIUS, Bernd (Mr./M.)
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires

Member of the German Bundestag
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid
Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)
Président, Sous-Commission de la culture et de l'éducation à l'étranger
Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'aide humanitaire

SÜTTERLIN-WAACK, Sabine (Ms./Mme)

Member of the German Bundestag
Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
Committee of Inquiry on Cum/ex Trades
Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)
Commission des affaires légales et de la protection des consommateurs
Commission d'enquête sur les opérations cum/ex

UHL, Hans-Peter (Mr./M.)

Member of the German Bundestag
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention and Integrated Conflict Management
Spokesman of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Sous-Commission de la prévention civile des crises, et du règlement des conflits
Porte-parole, Sous-Commission du désarmement, la maîtrise des armements et la non-prolifération

SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag
Secrétaire général adjoint, Bundestag allemand

LEUENBERGER, Saskia (Ms./Mme)

Head of the Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag
Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms./Mme)
Assistant to the delegation
Assistante de la délégation

International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, German Bundestag
Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

RAU, Hannah (Ms./Mme)

Permanent Mission in Geneva
Mission permanente à Genève

RECKER, Clemens (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission in Geneva
Mission permanente à Genève

(Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)

(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)

GHANA

ADJAHO, Edward Doe (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of Parliament
Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee
Président du Parlement (NDC)
Président de la Commission du règlement

AGBESI, Alfred (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (NDC)

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Minority Leader
Business Committee
Membre du Parlement (NPP), Chef de la minorité
Comité directeur

NKRUMAH ABOAH, Georgina (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (NDC)

AMOAKO-ATTA, Kwasi (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (NPP)

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Clerk of Parliament
Secrétaire général du Parlement

BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Principal Assistant Clerk
Greffière principale adjointe

TEYE BOTCHWAY, Linda (Ms./Mme)

Speaker's Secretary
Secrétaire du Président

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

GREECE – GRECE

TRANTAFYLLOU, Maria (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign
Affairs, Committee on European Affairs
Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)
Commission permanente de la défense nationale et
des affaires étrangères, Commission des affaires
européennes

KEFALOGIANNI, Olga (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on Production and Trade
Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and
Transparency
Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)
Commission permanente de la production et du
commerce
Commission permanente spéciale des institutions et de
la transparence

KAMMENOS, Dimitrios (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign
Affairs
Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
Membre du Parlement hellénique (AnEI)
Commission permanente de la défense nationale et
des affaires étrangères
Commission permanente des affaires économiques

KARAOGLOU, Theodoros (Mr./M.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Production and Trade Special Permanent Committee on Greeks Abroad <i>Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la production et du commerce</i> <i>Commission permanente spéciale des Grecs à l'étranger</i>
PANTZAS, Georgios (Mr./M.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational Affairs Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la culture et de l'éducation</i> <i>Commission permanente de la défense nationale et des affaires étrangères</i>
KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the B' Section of International Organizations , Hellenic Parliament <i>Chef de la Section B' des organisations internationales, Parlement hellénique</i>
TSOUNI, Fotini (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Directorate for International Affairs, Hellenic Parliament <i>Direction des affaires internationales, Parlement hellénique</i>
(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale) (ND: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie) (AnEI: Independent Greeks / Parti des Grecs indépendants)	

GUATEMALA

SANDOVAL, Patricia (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress of the Republic <i>Membre du Congrès de la République</i>
MATIAS, Marleny (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic <i>Membre du Congrès de la République</i>

GUINEA – GUINEE

FOFANA, Luceny (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)</i>
KEITA, Elhadj Abdoulaye Bernard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SYLLA, El Hadj Dembo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Cooperation Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération</i>
SOW, Mamadou Dioude (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFDG)</i>
COUMBASSA, Mariama Mimi (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Former Minister <i>Ancienne Ministre</i>
SAGNO, Jean Edouard (Mr./M.)	Cabinet Director <i>Directeur de cabinet</i>

(RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel)
(UFDG: Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea / Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée)

GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINEE-BISSAU

CASSAMÁ, Cipriano (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly Women's Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire Commission de la femme</i>
SUCUMA, António (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
RODRIGUES DA FONSECA, José Carlós (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, People's National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
SANHÁ, Ansumane (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Director, President's Executive Office, People's National Assembly <i>Directeur, Cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale populaire</i>

HAITI

BENOIT, Stevenson (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (OPL)</i>
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(OPL: Organisation Peuple en Lutte)

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

BALLA, Mihály (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz) Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LATORCAI, János (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (KDNP)</i>
BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on Sustainable Development <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz) Commission des affaires étrangères Commission du développement durable</i>
JÓZSA, István (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP) Commission des affaires européennes</i>
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Jobbik) Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP) Vice-Président de la Commission du budget</i>
ÁDÁM SOMFAI, Katalin (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations <i>Chef du Bureau de l'UIP, Direction des relations étrangères</i>

VATTAI Tamás (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)
(KDNP: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti chrétien-démocrate du peuple)
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois)
(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)
(LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)

ICELAND – ISLANDE

GUDFINNSSON, Einar K. (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Président du Parlement</i>
RIKHARDSDOTTIR, Ragnheidur (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group <i>Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of Parliament Chair of the Parliamentary Group <i>Membre du Parlement (IP)</i> <i>Présidente du Groupe parlementaire</i>
DADASON, Asmundur (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chair of the Parliamentary Group <i>Membre du Parlement (PP)</i> <i>Président du Groupe parlementaire</i>
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
BANG, Arna (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Group / <i>Conseillère du Groupe</i>	International Secretariat, Parliament <i>Secrétariat international, Parlement</i>
(IP: Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance) (PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)	

INDIA – INDE

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
PREMACHANDRAN, N.K. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (RSP)</i>
SOLANKI, Kirit Premjibhai (Mr./M.) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
DESAI, Anil Yeshwant (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats</i>
GUPTA, Vivek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (AITC)</i>
SYIEM, Wansuk (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (INC)</i>
SINGH, Nagendra (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
SINGH, Raj Kumar (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
MAHAJAN, Poonam Pramod (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
VANAROJA, R. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (AIADMK)</i>
MISHRA, Anoop (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre du peuple</i>
SHERIFF, Shumsher K. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of States <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des Etats</i>
TATED, Sunil (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Leader of the delegation	Principal Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People

<i>Conseiller de la Chef de la délégation</i>	<i>Secrétaire principal de la Présidente, Chambre du peuple</i>
JOHN, Cyril (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, House of the People <i>Co-Secrétaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
CHATURVEDI, Pradeep (Mr./M.)	OSD to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire de la Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
JASON, S. (Mr./M.)	Director, Council of States <i>Directeur, Conseil des Etats</i>
MENDIRATTA, Arpana (Mrs./Mme)	Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Council of States <i>Directrice, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha, Conseil des Etats</i>
RAMANA, L. V. (Mr./M.)	Additional Director, House of the People <i>Directeur supplémentaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
ROY, Rashmi (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol Officer, House of the People <i>Chargée du protocole, Chambre du peuple</i>
BIST, Umesh (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
MISHRA, Vijay (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
NAND, Rama (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, Council of States <i>Attaché de liaison, Conseil des Etats</i>

(AITC: All India Trinamool Congress / Congrès des "racines" de tous les Indiens)

(INC: Indian National Congress / Parti du Congrès national indien)

(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)

(AIADMK: All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam)

(RSP: Revolutionary Socialist Party / Parti socialiste révolutionnaire)

INDONESIA – *INDONESIE*

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chair of the GOPAC <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (Gerindra)</i> <i>Président de GOPAC</i>
ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
NURSANTY, Evita (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation/Committee I <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire/Commission I</i>
ROBA PUTRI, Irine Yusiana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Commission on Defence, Foreign Affairs and Information <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la défense, des affaires étrangères et de l'information</i>
HARIYADI, Siti Hediati (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives

	Deputy Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Plantations, Forestry, Maritime, Fisheries and Food <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'agriculture, des plantations, de la sylviculture, de la pêche et de l'alimentation</i>
EDY, Tjatur Sapto (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAN)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
SUDITOMO, Mohammad Arief (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Hanura)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
SWASANANI, Winantuningtyastiti (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HARYANTI (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Affairs Officer <i>Chargée des affaires internationales</i>
ANGGORO, Heriyono Adi (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SUKARNA, Annisa Mariana (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
JULIASIH (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	Head, Bureau of Law and People's Grievance <i>Chef du Bureau des lois et des plaintes</i>
NUGRAHA KHUSWARA, Nunu (Mr./M.) ASGP Secretariat <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	Head, Bureau of Human Resources and Organizations <i>Chef du Bureau des ressources humaines et des organisations</i>
SUDJA, Dimiyati (Mr./M.) ASGP Secretariat <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	Head, Bureau of Sitings <i>Chef du Bureau des séances</i>
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NUGROHO, Tarli (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Conseiller du Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
GAFUR, Abdul (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Conseiller, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
TJARYA, Edison Eman (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Deputy Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Vice-Président</i>	
PRAYITNO, Ramadhian Fadillah (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
NUGRAHA, Rokhim (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)
(Golkar: Party of Functional Groups / Parti des groupes fonctionnels)

(PAN: National Mandate Party / Parti du mandat national)
 (PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)
 (PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)
 (Golkar: Party of Functional Group / Parti des groupes fonctionnels)
 (Hanura: People's Conscience Party / Parti de la conscience du peuple)

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

KAVAKEBIAN, Mostafa (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la politique étrangère</i>
NEZAHBAN, Salami (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
EBRAHIMI, Alireza (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission des affaires sociales</i>
MOKHTAR, Jalil (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission des affaires sociales</i>
YOUSEFNEJAD, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Committee on Industries and Mines <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission des industries et des mines</i>
ZONNOUR, Mojtaba (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission de la sécurité nationale et de la politique étrangère</i>
ZAR ABADAI, Hamideh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Committee on Industries and Mines <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission des industries et des mines</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran National Security and Foreign Policy Committee <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran Commission de la sécurité nationale</i>
BAFRANI, Pour (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
DASTGHEIB, S. Ahmad Reza (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
GHASHQAVI, Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Directeur général adjoint du Département du protocole, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
YOUSEFI, Alireza (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
KHALVANDI, Hosna (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
ZABOLI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

IRAQ

ALI, Aram Mohammed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Vice-Président du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (G)</i>
TALABANI, Ala (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Human Rights Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (PUK) Commission des droits de l'homme</i>
AL-HALBOOSI, Mohammed Rikan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Chair, Finance Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq Président de la Commission des finances</i>
AL-MUSAWI, Sameerah Jaafer (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq Commission des relations internationales</i>
AL-RIKABI, Sadiq Hamidi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq Commission des relations internationales</i>
MOHAMMAD, Renas Jano (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq Commission des relations internationales</i>
AL-ASADI, Dhiaa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (SM) Commission des relations internationales</i>
AL-GBURI, Mohammed Noori (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq Commission des relations internationales</i>
ALRAMMANI, Razzaq (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
AL-BAWI, Sabah Jumaah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
AL-JAF, Ahmed Hussein (Mr./M.)	Director General, Deputy Speaker's Office <i>Directeur général du Bureau du Vice-Président</i>
MOHAMMED AL-OGAILI, Salam Ali (Mr./M.)	Director General, Protocol, Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Directeur général du protocole, Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
MOHAMMED, Aram Mahmood (Mr./M.)	Media Adviser to the Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Conseiller des médias auprès du Vice-Président du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
MOHAMED, Fawzi (Mr./M.)	Manager, International Relations Section, Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Responsable de la Section des relations internationales, Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
KHLEEF AH, Saad Mohsin (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer to the Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Chargé du protocole du Vice-Président du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
ANBORI, Abbas (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>

ALTAMIMI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

MAHDI, Muqdad Ahmed (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

ABU-LIRA, Mustafa (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

ISMAEL, Abdullah Ismael (Mr./M.)
Security Officer to the Deputy Speaker
Agent de sécurité du Vice-Président

(G: Gorran)
(PUK: Patriotic Union of Kurdistan / Union patriotique du Kurdistan)
(SM: Sadrist Movement / Mouvement sadriste)

IRELAND – IRLANDE

O'DONOVAN, Denis (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Senate
Président du Sénat (FF)

GAVAN, Paul (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Jobs Committee
Membre du Sénat (SF)
Commission des emplois

CONWAY, Martin (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (FG)

CURRAN, John T.D. (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FF)

RUANE, Lynn (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (CEG)

HAMILTON, John (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of Representatives
Chef des relations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants

MATHEWS, Bernadette (Ms./Mme)

Senior Clerk, House of Representatives
Greffière principale, Chambre des Représentants

(FF: Fianna Fáil)
(FG: Fine Gael)
(SF: Sinn Féin)
(CEG: Civic Engagement Group / Groupe de l'engagement civique)

ISRAEL

SHAI, Nachman (Mr./M.)
Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation

Member of Parliament
Chair of the Subcommittee for Foreign Policy and Public Relations
Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality
Membre du Parlement (Z)
Président, Sous-Commission de la politique étrangère et des relations publiques
Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense
Commission de la condition de la femme et de l'égalité des sexes

HASKEL, Sharren (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee
Internal Affairs and Environment Committee
Membre du Parlement (L)
Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense
Commission des affaires internes et de l'environnement

MARGALIT, Erel (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (Z)

MELLER-HOROVITZ, Yardena (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Parliament
Secrétaire générale, Parlement

MARGALIT, Liat, (Ms./Mme)

Foreign Affairs Department
Département des affaires étrangères

(Z: Zionist Camp / Union sioniste)
(L: Likud)

ITALY – ITALIE

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr./M.)
Honorary President, Leader of the Delegation
Président honoraire, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Sénat (NCD-UDC)
Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

AMORUSO, Francesco (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Sénat (ALPA)
Commission des affaires étrangères

ASCANI, Anna (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Education Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PD)
Commission de l'éducation

FARINA, Gianni (Mr./M.)
Committee on Middle East Questions
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PD)

LOCATELLI, Pia Elda (Mrs./Mme)
Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH, Bureau
of Women Parliamentarians
*Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la
santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant,
Bureau des femmes parlementaires*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ISP)
Commission des affaires étrangères

SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr./M.)
Secretary General of the Group
Secrétaire général du Groupe

Chamber of Deputies
Chambre des Députés

RADONI, Susanna (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies
Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés

REGAZZONI, Carlo (Mr./M.)

Adviser to Mr. Casini / *Conseiller de M. Casini*

FABI, Catia (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

President's Secretariat, Chamber of Deputies
Secrétariat du Président, Chambre des Députés

LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

Chamber of Deputies / *Chambre des Députés*

OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

Senate / *Sénat*

SERRA, Maurizio Enrico Luigi (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(NCD-UDC: Area popolare)
(ALPA: Alleanza Liberalpopolare.Autonomie)
(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)
(ISP: Italian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste italien)

JAPAN – JAPON

SUZUKI, Shunichi (Mr./M.)
Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the
Delegation
Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

TAKANO, Kojiro (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors

Deputy Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef adjoint de la délégation</i>	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (LDP)</i>
ITO, Shintaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)</i>
OTA, Kazumi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPCI)</i>
YAMAMOTO, Hiroshi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (K)</i>
NIIMI, Jun (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, House of Representatives <i>Directeur général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MIZUTANI, Kazuhiro (Mr./M.)	Director, House of Representatives <i>Directeur, Chambre des Représentants</i>
TAIRAGO, Yumi (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ARAHORI, Tadasuke (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KURATA, Yasuo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, House of Councillors <i>Directeur, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr./M.)	Adviser / Conseiller
KAWASAKI, Masahiro (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
LUMPKIN, Tomoko Sawada (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KIKUCHI, Kyoko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAWADA, Naoko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
TAKAGI (DUGGAL), Izumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SHINOZAKI, Keiko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
FUJII, Yoriko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
OYAMADA, Nana (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
MURAKAMI, Setsuko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter <i>Interprète</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers</i>

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

(K: Komeito / Komei)

(DPCI: The Democratic Party and Club of Independents / Parti démocrate et Club des indépendants)

JORDAN – JORDANIE

AL-AREKAT, Talal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
AL-HADID, Naif (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate

	<i>Membre du Sénat</i>
BSISU, Hala (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
AL-GHRIR, Hamad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-AMOUSH, Akram (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

KAZAKHSTAN

NIGMATULIN, Nurlan (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Mazhilis <i>Président du Mazhilis (Nur Otan)</i>
ASHIMBAYEV, Maulen (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Mazhilis Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security <i>Membre du Mazhilis (Nur Otan)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires internationales, de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
YERSHOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances</i>
SULTANOV, Kuanysh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security <i>Membre du Mazhilis (Nur Otan)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales, de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
ZHAILGANOVA, Anar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Mazhilis Committee on Legislation and Legal Reform <i>Membre du Mazhilis (Nur Otan)</i> <i>Commission de la législation et des réformes juridiques</i>
MAKHAYEV, Dastan (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman <i>Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président</i>
MEDEUBAY, Darkhan (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman <i>Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président</i>
NUKEZHANOV, Yerzhan (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman <i>Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président</i>
KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr./M.)	Head, Department of International Relations and Protocol <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
KELSEITOV, Yergali (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head, Department of International Relations and Protocol <i>Chef adjoint du Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
ILIYAS, Talgat (Mr./M.)	Desk Officer, Department of International Relations and Protocol <i>Fonctionnaire, Département des relations internationales et du protocole</i>
AITZHANOVA, Zhanar (Mrs./Mme) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

ABRAMOVA, Olga (Ms./Mme)
Press / Presse

MAILYBAYEV, Sailybai (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

YELEUOV, Zhomart (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

ZHUMAGULOV, Aibol (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

ABILDAYEV, Askar (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party / Parti populaire démocratique)

KENYA

EKWEE ETHURO, David (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Senate
Président du Sénat

KILONZO JUNIOR, Mutula (Mr./M.)
Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights
*Rapporteur de la Commission permanente de la
démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

Member of the Senate
Finance, Commerce and Budget Committee
Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee
Information and Communication Committee
*Membre du Sénat
Commission des finances, du commerce et du budget
Commission des affaires juridiques et des droits de
l'homme
Commission de l'information et de la communication*

NABWALA, Catherine Mukiite (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires
des Nations Unies*

Member of the Senate
Finance Committee
Health Committee
*Membre du Sénat (ODM)
Commission des finances
Commission de la santé*

GATOBU, Kinoti (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)

HUSSEIN GURE, Shukran (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)

KEDOGO, Dorcus (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CORD)

LOSIAKU, David Pkosing (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de
la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (URP)

WA KABANDO, Kabando (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)

BUNDI, Justin (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Clerk of the National Assembly, National Assembly
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale, Assemblée
nationale*

M. NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

GICHANGI, Eunice (Ms./Mme)

Senior Deputy Clerk, Senate
Greffière principale adjointe, Sénat

MBAYA, Innocent (Mr./M.)
Assisting Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe

Clerk Assistant, Senate
Greffier adjoint, Sénat

KALAMA, Samuel (Mr./M.)

Clerk Assistant, National Assembly

	<i>Greffier adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
WANYONYI, Mercy (Ms./Mme)	Clerk Assistant, National Assembly <i>Greffière adjointe, Assemblée nationale</i>
NJOROGE, Samuel (Mr./M.) Assisting Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
AMOLO, Lawrence (Mr./M.)	Principal Clerk Assistant / <i>Greffier principal adjoint</i>
KOLI, Derrick (Mr./M.)	Clerk Assistant I / <i>Greffier adjoint I</i>
EDUNG, Edward (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant particulier du Président</i>

(ODM: Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange)

(J: Jubilee)

(CORD: Coalition for Reforms and Democracy / Coalition pour les réformes et la démocratie)

(URP: United Republican Party / Parti républicain uni)

KYRGYZSTAN – KIRGHIZISTAN

DAMIRBEK, Asylbek Uulu (Mr./M.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Supreme Council <i>Membre du Conseil suprême</i>
KUTUSHEV, Abdymanap (Mr./M.)	Head of Apparatus of the Supreme Council <i>Chef de l'appareil du Conseil suprême</i>

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

BOUTTANAVONG, Bounpone (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BOUPHA, Phonphet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairperson of the Social Cultural Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles</i>
THEPHACHANH, Viengthavisone (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
THANTHAVONGSA, Phetla (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Directeur général du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOUPHANOUVONG, Kalamoungkhoun (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission in Geneva <i>Mission permanente à Genève</i>	

LATVIA – LETTONIE

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Parliamentary Inquiry Committee <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (ZZS) Commission des affaires juridiques Commission d'enquête</i>
ABOLTINA, Solvita (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Chairperson of the National Security Committee Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (VIENOTIBA) Présidente de la Commission de la sécurité nationale Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament

	Foreign Affairs Committee Citizenship, Migration and Social Cohesion Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (C)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission de la citoyenneté, de la migration et de la cohésion sociale</i>
PETERSONE, Karina (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale, Parlement</i>
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau, Parliament <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires, Parlement</i>
VASILEVSKIS, Karlis (Mr./M.)	Assistant
(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans) (VIENOTIBA: Unity / Unité) (C: Concord)	

LEBANON - LIBAN

BERRY, Nabih (Mr./M.) President of the Arab Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe arabe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
EL-CHAB, Bassem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
JABER, Yassine (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DAHER, Adnan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHARARA, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Foreign Affairs <i>Secrétaire général chargé des relations extérieures</i>
HAMAD, Ali (Mr./M.)	Director General, Speaker's Affairs, National Assembly <i>Directeur général des affaires de la présidence, Assemblée nationale</i>
BERRI, Mahmoud (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseiller du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHEHAIB, Youssef (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
EL-CHEIKH ALI, Adnan (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
FAWAZ, Fouad (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
HAMZA, Khodr (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
HAMAD, Amir (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Secretary <i>Secrétaire parlementaire</i>
NOUREDDINE, Ali (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
NASSIF, Nicolas (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MOHAMMAD, Issam (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MARMAL, Imad (Mr./M.)	

Press / Presse

HAISSAM, Nabil (Mr./M.)

Press / Presse

FAWAZ, Ali (Mr./M.)

Press / Presse

BALLOUT, Mohammad (Mr./M.)

Press / Presse

AKIL, Radwan (Mr./M.)

Press / Presse

LESOTHO

MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme)

Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation

Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly

Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (DC)

HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate

Chairman of the Sustainable Development Goals Committee

Business Committee

Committee on Standing Orders and Staff

Vice-Président du Sénat (ABC)

Président de la Commission des objectifs de développement durable

Comité directeur

Commission du règlement et du personnel

PHEKO, Thabang (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Deputy Chief Whip of the Law and Public Accounts Committee

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)

Chef de file adjoint de la Commission de la loi et des comptes publics

MAKGOTHI, Lesego (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ABC)

MABELENG, Katleho (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group

Secrétaire du Groupe

Private Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly

Secrétaire particulier de la Présidente, Assemblée nationale

MOSITO, Lelimo (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

Assistant Deputy Clerk, National Assembly

Secrétaire adjoint, Assemblée nationale

TSEPANE, Maduma (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group

Secrétaire du Groupe

Clerk Assistant, Senate

Greffier adjoint, Sénat

(DC: Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique)

(ABC: All Basotho Convention / Convention des Basotho)

(LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy / Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho)

LIECHTENSTEIN

LANTER-KOLLER, Violanda (Mrs./Mme)

Leader of the Delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the Diet

Vice-Présidente, Diète (VU)

BÜCHEL, Helmuth (Mr./M.)

Member of the Diet

Membre, Diète (FBP)

WACHTER, Gabriele (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

Secretary of Parliament

Secrétaire parlementaire

(VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)

(FBP: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

GYLYS, Povilas (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of Parliament
Committee on Budget and Finance
Membre du Parlement (L)
Commission du budget et des finances

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

LUXEMBOURG

BODRY, Alex (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Bureau, Conference of Presidents
Membre, Chambre des Députés (POSL/LSAP)
Bureau, Conférence des Présidents

FRIESEISEN, Claude (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies
Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés

BARRA, Isabelle (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Deputy Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des Députés

ROTH, Georges (Mr./M.)

Official, Chamber of Deputies
Fonctionnaire de la Chambre des Députés

(POSL/LSAP: Socialist Workers' Party / Parti ouvrier socialiste)

MADAGASCAR

RAKOTOMAMONJY, Jean Max (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

BETIANA, Bruno (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

ANDRIARILALA, Germain (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

RAZAFITOMBO, Alibena Elisa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

RAMAROSOA, Emiline (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

RAHANTASOA, Lydia Almé Vololona (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

ZAFIMAHATRATRA Abel (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

RAHERISOA, Volonona Victorine (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

BEFOUROUACK, William (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Andriamitarijato Calvin (Mr./M.)

Inspector General, National Assembly
Inspecteur général de l'Assemblée nationale

RANDRIAMANDRATO, Richard James (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Special Permanent Adviser to the President of the Senate
Conseiller spécial permanent du Président du Sénat

MALAWI

MHONE, Ralp (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Legal Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)

	<i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
KACHIKHO, Anna Namathanga (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Social and Community Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et communautaires</i>
MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
MPAWENI, Yaumi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the Government Assurance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)</i>
NJOLOMOLE, Henry Hilary (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Chief Clerk Assistant, National Assembly <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire) (DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste) (MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi) (UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)	

MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

ABDUL AZIZ, Mohamed Nazri (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 (UMNO)</i>
MOHAMMAD YIT, Mariany (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (UMNO)</i>
WEI HOW, Yoo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (MCA)</i>
KOK PING, Julian Tan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DAP)</i>
RAJA AHMAD, Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AMANAH)</i>
SIONG, Su Keong (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DAP)</i>
WEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MCA)</i>
MOHAMED, Hashim (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HARON, Abdul Rahim (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAMSURI, Zamrizam (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senior Assistant Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire principal, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SELAMAT, Suzana Akmam (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
LING TIAN SOON (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WYETH KONG SIN, Lester (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>

(UMNO: United Malays National Organization / Organisation malaisienne nationale unie)
(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / Association sino-malaisienne)
(DAP: Democratic Action Party / Parti d'action démocratique)
(AMANAH: National Trust Party / Parti de la fiducie nationale)

MALDIVES

MOHAMED, Abdulla Maseeh (Mr./M.) President of the Asia-Pacific Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe Asie-Pacifique, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Majlis <i>Président, Majlis du Peuple</i>
SOLIH, Ibrahim Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (MDP)</i>
MAUROOF, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (MDA)</i>
FAZAD, ALI (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)</i>
MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, People's Majlis <i>Secrétaire général, Majlis du Peuple</i>
ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Asia Pacific Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe Asie-Pacifique</i>	Head, Foreign Relations, People's Majlis <i>Chef des relations étrangères, Majlis du Peuple</i>
SHAHEED, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker , People's Majlis <i>Conseiller du Président, Majlis du Peuple</i>
AHMED, Abdul Gafoor (Mr./M.) Security Officer to the Speaker <i>Agent de sécurité du Président</i>	
(MDP: Maldivian Democratic Party / Parti démocratique des Maldives) (MDA: Maldives Development Alliance / Alliance des Maldives pour le développement) (PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)	

MALI

THIAM, Amadou (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Committee on Water, Energy, Industries and Mines <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ADP) Commission de l'eau, de l'énergie, de l'industrie et des mines</i>
CISSE, Amadou (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Vice-Président du Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Public Works and Habitat Chair, SDG Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (URD) Commission des travaux publics et de l'habitat Président du Comité ODD</i>
SANKARE, Idrissa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Committee on Rural Development and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ASMA) Président de la Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>
DRAME, Maimouna (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Work, Employment, Women, Children, Youth and Sport <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM) Commission du travail, de l'emploi, de la femme, de l'enfant, de la jeunesse et du sport</i>
SIDIBE, Modibo (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
TOURE, Ibrahim. M (Mr./M.) Second Secretary of the Group	Head of the International Relations Service, National Assembly

*Deuxième Secrétaire du Groupe**Chef du Service des relations internationales,
Assemblée nationale*

(ADP: Alliance for Democracy and Progress - Maliba / Alliance pour la démocratie et le progrès - Maliba)

(URD: Republic and Democracy Union / Union pour la République et la démocratie)

(ASMA: Alliance for Solidarity in Mali / Alliance pour la solidarité au Mali)

(RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali)

MAURITANIA – MAURITANIEBABA SY, Mariem (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

TALEBNA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale***MAURITIUS – MAURICE**HANOOMANJEE, Santi Bai (Mrs./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

DUVAL, Charles Adrien (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

JAHANGEER, Ahmad Bashir (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
House Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Comité de la Chambre*

JOOMAYE, Zouberr Houssein Issa (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

RAMCHURN, Urmeelah Devi (Ms./Mme)

Acting Clerk of the National Assembly
*Secrétaire générale ad interim de l'Assemblée
nationale***MEXICO – MEXIQUE**CUEVAS, Gabriela (Mrs./Mme)
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL, Leader
of the delegation
*Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH,
Chef de la délégation*Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the International Affairs Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PAN)
Présidente de la Commission des affaires internationales*

GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, North America
Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PRI)
Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures,
Amérique du Nord*ORTIZ, Graciela (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires
des Nations Unies*Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Legislative Studies Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PRI)
Présidente de la Commission des études législatives*

POZOS, Raúl (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Chairman of the Administration Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PRI)
Président de la Commission de l'administration*ROJAS, Laura (Ms./Mme)
President of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security
*Présidente de la Commission permanente de la paix et
de la sécurité internationale*Member of the Senate
Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, International
Organizations Committee
*Membre du Sénat (PAN)
Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures,
Organisations internationales*

ALVARADO VARELA, Anabel (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)</i>
AGUIRRE CHÁVEZ, Marco Polo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)</i>
BERMÚDEZ MÉNDEZ, José Erandi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair, Committee on Rural Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du développement rural</i>
GARCÍA CHÁVEZ, Héctor Javier (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on External Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
CASTAÑEDA HOEFLICH, José Clemente (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Governance Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MC)</i> <i>Commission de la gouvernance</i>
VÁZQUEZ, Pablo (Mr./M.)	Adviser to Mr. Hoeflich <i>Conseiller de M.Hoeflich</i>

(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)
(MC: Citizens' Movement / Mouvement des citoyens)

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)

SIMINA, Wesley (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Congress <i>Président, Congrès</i>
ALIK, Alik (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress Vice Chairman of the Resources and Development Committee Vice Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations <i>Membre, Congrès</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des ressources et du</i> <i>développement</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des opérations</i> <i>judiciaires et gouvernementales</i>
MOSES, Esmond (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress Vice Chairman of the Education Committee <i>Membre, Congrès</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'éducation</i>
DANG, Tung-Lam (Mr./M.)	Legislative Counsel, Congress <i>Directeur des services juridiques, Congrès</i>

MONACO

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i>
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MOROCCO – MAROC

BENCHAMACH, Hakim (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 (PAM)</i>
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)</i>
CHEIKHI, Nabil (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PJD)</i>

BENMESSAOUD, Mohammed Salem (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)</i>
KHOUJA, Abdelouahid (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Councillors <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	General Councillor, Parliamentary Diplomacy, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité) (PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la Justice et du développement) (PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti de l'Istiqlal)	

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 Spokesperson of the Permanent Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i> <i>Porte-parole de la Commission permanente</i>
MACUIANE, Saimone Muhambi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Constitution and Legal Affairs, Human Rights Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (RENAMO)</i> <i>Commission des affaires légales et constitutionnelles,</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme</i>
MALEMA, Lucinda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Social Affairs and Gender Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et de l'égalité des sexes</i>
CORREIA, Armando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BONIFÁCIO, Cesar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director <i>Directeur</i>
COMISSARIO, Pedro (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
SILYA, Carlos (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
(FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique) (RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique)	

MYANMAR

AUNG KYI NYUNT (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Union Vice-Chairman of the Joint Coordinating Committee on Parliamentary Strengthening <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i> <i>Vice-Président du Comité mixte de coordination du renforcement parlementaire</i>
KYAW SOE (Mr./M.)	Committee Secretary and Director General <i>Secrétaire de commission et directeur général</i>
SAW BWE DOE AYE (Mr./M.)	Officer, UNDP-IPU Parliamentary Support Program <i>Fonctionnaire, Programme PNUD-UIP de soutien aux parlements</i>

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

KATJAVIVI, Peter H. (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Rules, Orders and Internal Arrangements Committee, Privileges Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement, de la procédure et des modalités internes</i>
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Présidente du Groupe, Présidente du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Chairperson of the National Council Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>
KATAMELO, Phillipus Wido (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chairperson of the Urban and Rural Development Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du développement urbain et rural</i>
KAVARA, Rosa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council Chairperson of the Audit Committee Women Caucus <i>Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission d'évaluation</i> <i>Forum des femmes</i>
THEOPHELUS, Emma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Speaker of the Children's Parliament <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente du Parlement des enfants</i>
KANDUMBU, Marina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HAINGURA, Petrina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DIENDA, Elma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MKUSA, Emilia N (Ms./Mme) Secretary, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General to the National Council <i>Secrétaire générale du Conseil national</i>
FERIS, El-Zanne (Ms./Mme)	Private Secretary, National Council <i>Secrétaire particulière, Conseil national</i>
TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms./Mme)	Assistant, National Assembly <i>Assistante, Assemblée nationale</i>
KAUKUNGUA, Ndahafa S. (Ms./Mme)	Senior Information Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée principale de l'information, Assemblée nationale</i>
KANDETU, Lydia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary to the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
VAN WYK, Berenice (Mrs./Mme)	Director, National Council <i>Directrice, Conseil national</i>
SHALI, Auguste T (Ms./Mme) <i>Co-Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council <i>Greffière parlementaire, Conseil national</i>
WALENGA, Margaret (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	National Council <i>Conseil national</i>

(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

AT SMA, Joop (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Senate
Economic Affairs Committee
Health Committee
Education Committee
Environment Committee
Membre du Sénat (CDA)
Commission des affaires économiques
Commission de la santé
Commission de l'éducation
Commission de l'environnement

SCHRIJVER, Nico (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

Member of the Senate
Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee
European Affairs Committee
Immigration and Asylum Committee
Justice Committee
Membre du Sénat (SDP)
Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des affaires européennes
Commission de l'immigration et de l'asile
Commission de la justice

T AVERNE, Joost (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Foreign Affairs Committee
Home Affairs Committee
Justice Committee
European Affairs Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PL)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des affaires intérieures
Commission de la justice
Commission des affaires européennes

HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

HEIDA, Harke (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Director, Constitutional Affairs, House of Representatives
Directeur des affaires constitutionnelles, Chambre des Représentants

NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bastiaan (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Department,
House of Representatives
Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

KING, Annette (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie
et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives
Health Committee
Parliamentary Service Commission
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (L)
Commission de la santé
Commission du service parlementaire

CLENDON, David (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Business Committee
Law and Order Committee
Officers of Parliament Committee
Standing Orders Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Green)

	<i>Comité directeur</i> <i>Commission de la loi et de l'ordre</i> <i>Commission des fonctionnaires du Parlement</i> <i>Commission du règlement</i>
NGARO, Alfred (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of Social Services Committee Commerce Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des services sociaux</i> <i>Commission du commerce</i>
TASKER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Relations Officer, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des relations parlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail) (Green: Green Party / Les Verts) (NP: National Party / Parti national)	

NICARAGUA

PALACIOS BENAVIDEZ, Alba Azucena (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
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NIGER

SANI, Iro (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS Tarayya)</i> <i>Membre</i>
ABDOUL MALIK ALKASSOUM, Mahamadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Defence and Security <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPR Jamhouria)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
AMADOU MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD Nassara)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques et du plan</i>
MAMANE, Saley (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS Tarayya)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles</i>
NOUHOU, Daouda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Amen Amin)</i> <i>Commission des Finances et du Budget</i>
HABIBOU, Aminatou (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (ex-officio) <i>Membre du Comité Exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires (de droit)</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS Tarayya)</i> <i>Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>
SAMINOU LAOUALI, Amina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Parliamentary Secretary, General and Institutional Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire parlementaire, Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles (RSD Gaskiya)</i>
MOSSI, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur de cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOUTARI, Moussa (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Technical Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller technique, Assemblée nationale</i>
(PNDS Tarayya: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme) (MPR Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République)	

(MNSD Nassara: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement national pour la société de développement)
(Amen Amin: Alliance of Movements for the Emergence of Niger / Alliance des mouvements pour l'émergence du Niger)
(RSD-Gaskiya: Social Democratic Rally / Rassemblement socialiste et démocratique)

NIGERIA

SARAKI, Bukola (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate, Chairman of the National Assembly <i>Président du Sénat, Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
YUSSUFF, Sulaimon (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i>
NAFADA, Bayero (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
GAYA, Kabiru (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
IBRAHIM, Rafiu (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Banking and Finance <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Commission bancaire et financière</i>
ODUA, Stella (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
IKON, Samuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires</i>
IGBOKWE, Raphael (Mr./M.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDP)</i> <i>Commission des relations interparlementaires</i>
FULATA, Abubakar (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Petitions <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des pétitions</i>
ADEDOYIN, Olufunke (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Defence <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la défense</i>
FASEYI, Duro (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
DASUKI, Abdussamad (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i>
SANI-OMOLORI, Muhammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AYEWOH, Nelson (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
AUDU, Rabi (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, Senate <i>Directrice, Sénat</i>
GARBA, Lawal (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Global Institutions, Senate <i>Directeur, Institutions mondiales, Sénat</i>
NAVATI, Ilia (Ms./Mme)	Director, Special Duties, House of Representatives <i>Directrice, Fonctions spéciales, Chambre des représentants</i>
UZEME, Okoh Benard (Mr./M.)	Clerk, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs, Senate <i>Greffier, Commission des affaires interparlementaires, Sénat</i>

ASAN, Caroline (Ms./Mme)	Clerk, Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs, House of Representatives <i>Greffière, Commission des affaires interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ESEKE, Augustine (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Chief Administrative Officer (IPU Desk), National Assembly <i>Chef du Service administratif, Assemblée nationale</i>
ONAH, Innocent (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Assistant spécial du Président du Sénat</i>
SHITTA, Eniola (Ms./Mme)	Special Assistant to the President of the Senate <i>Assistante spéciale du Président du Sénat</i>
MADAKI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Assistant spécial du Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AGADA, Rawlings (Mr./M.)	Clerk to the House Committee, House of Representatives <i>Greffier de la Commission de la Chambre, Chambre des représentants</i>
GREMA, Garba (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères</i>

(APC: All Progressives Congress / Congrès progressiste)
(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

NORWAY – NORVEGE

SVENDSEN, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Sub-Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (PP)</i> <i>Sous-Commission des finances et des affaires économiques</i>
ELDEGARD, Gunvor (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee and of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (ex-officio) <i>Membre du Comité exécutif et du Bureau des femmes parlementaires (de droit)</i>	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (L)</i> <i>Sous-Commission du scrutin et des affaires constitutionnelles</i>
LOEDEMEL, Bjoern (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Local Government and Public Administration <i>Membre du Parlement (C)</i> <i>Sous-Commission du gouvernement local et de l'administration publique</i>
LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (L)</i> <i>Sous-Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles</i>
FRASER, Thomas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller principal, Parlement</i>
STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement</i>

(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)
(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

OMAN

AL-GHASSANI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
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AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Ms./Mme) Vice President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Vice-Présidente du Bureau des femmes Parlementaires</i>	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL SHIHHI, Badria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL AMRI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL RASBI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL SAIDI, Khalid (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, State Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL AWFY, Sabah (Ms./Mme)	Director of External Relations, State Council <i>Directrice des relations extérieures, Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL TOOBI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Head of the Secretary General Office, State Council <i>Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL UWAISI, Aiman (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL RAHBI, Abdullah (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
AL AMRI, Amer (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

PAKISTAN

SADIQ, Sardar Ayaz (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 (PML-N)</i>
RABBANI, Mian Raza (Mr./M.) Joint President of the Group <i>Co-Président du Groupe</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat (PPPP)</i>
ABID, Samina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PTI)</i>
HASHMI, Nehal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
AFRIDI, Taj Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
TARAR, Mumtaz Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
HARRAJ, Muhammad Raza Hayat (Mr./M.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
PARVEZ, Arifa Khalid (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
QAMAR, Syed Naveed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP) Président de la Commission permanente des chemins de fer</i>
KHAN, Ghulam Sarwar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTI)</i>
AHMED, Sajid (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament, National Assembly <i>Membre du Parlement, Assemblée nationale</i>
KHAN, Khazada (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate

Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	<i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ALI, Abdul Jabbar (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
PERVEZ, Amjed (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary of the Senate, Senate <i>Secrétaire du Sénat, Sénat</i>
BHARWANA, Babar Hassan (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Public Affairs Unit <i>Secrétaire, Unité des affaires publiques</i>
HASHMI, Syed Shamoan (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe</i>	Adviser, International Relations, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
SIAL, Mohammad Sial (Mr./M.)	Director General, Public Relations <i>Directeur général des relations publiques</i>
JAN PATHAN, Muhammad Arshad (Mr./M.)	Joint Secretary, Senate Secretariat <i>Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Sénat</i>
NAZAR, Muhammad Arshad (Mr./M.) Security Officer to the Chairman of the Senate <i>Agent de sécurité du Président du Sénat</i>	
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz)) (PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais) (PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf / Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf)	

PALESTINE

AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Palestinian National Council Political Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F) Commission des affaires politiques</i>
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F) Commission des affaires sociales</i>
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (Ind) Commission des affaires sociales</i>
QASEM, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Economic Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (PLF) Commission économique</i>
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (Ind) Commission des affaires sociales</i>
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Palestinian National Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil national palestinien</i>
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Palestinian National Council <i>Directeur des relations interparlementaires, Conseil national palestinien</i>
QAWAS, Rasha (Ms./Mme)	Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>
(F: Fatah) (Ind: Independent / Indépendant) (PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)	

PERU – PEROU

BARTRA BARRIGA, Rosa María (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic
Première Vice-Présidente, Congrès de la République (FP)

ACUÑA NÚÑEZ, Richard Franck (Mr./M.)

Second Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic
Deuxième Vice-Président, Congrès de la République (APP)

BETETA RUBÍN, Karina Juliza (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Congress of the Republic
Membre, Congrès de la République (FP)

(FP: Popular Force / Force populaire)
(APP: Alliance for Progress of Peru)

PHILIPPINES

PIMENTEL III, Aquilino Koko (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

President of the Senate
Président du Sénat

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.)

Pro Tempore President of the Senate
Président pro tempore du Sénat

CAYETANO, Pia (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants

ABU, Raneo E. (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

HERNANDEZ, Ferdinand (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

HONTIVEROS, Risa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

FUENTEBELLA, Arnulfo (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

ROMUALDEZ, Yedda Marie K. (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BARBO, Lutgardo B. (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

ADASA, Artemio A. Jr. (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Secrétaire général adjoint, Chambre des Représentants

SALOMON, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Chief of Staff of the President
Chef du Secrétariat du Président

DE GUZMAN, Antonio (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director General
Directeur général

AYSON, Esperanza P. (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Director General
Directrice générale adjointe

BARIOU-BONDOC, Valerie (Ms./Mme)

Executive Assistant to the President
Assistante exécutive du Président

TORRES III, Anthony (Mr./M.)

Executive Assistant to the Pro Tempore President
Assistant exécutif du Président pro tempore

DALEON III, Benjamin Paolo (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

REBONG, Cecilia (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

FOS, Enrico (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

POLAND – POLOGNE

SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PiS)</i>
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PO)</i>
DLUGI, Grzegorz (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (K15)</i>
SAWCKI, Marek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PSL)</i>
STEPIEN, Elzbieta (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (N)</i>
KACZMARSKA, Agnieszka (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Director, Research and Analysis Bureau, Senate <i>Directrice du Bureau de recherches et analyses, Sénat</i>
WOJCIK, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
WITECKI, Pawel (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
(PiS: Law and Justice / <i>Droit et justice</i>)	
(PO: Civic Platform / <i>Plate-forme civique</i>)	
(K15: Kukiz'15)	
(PSL: Polish Peasant Party / <i>Parti paysan polonais</i>)	
(N: Nowoczesna)	

PORTUGAL

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
LACÃO, Jorge (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
ALBERNAZ, Rosa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr./M.) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus <i>Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
MORAIS, Teresa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
PEREIRA, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée de la République</i>

Membre de l'ASGP

PINTO FERREIRA, Rita (Ms./Mme)

Directorate International Relations and Protocol
*Direction des relations internationales et du protocole*ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme)
Adviser to the delegation
*Conseillère de la délégation*Adviser for International Affairs, Assembly of the Republic
*Conseillère, Affaires internationales, Assemblée de la République***QATAR**AL-KUWARI, Issa Rabia (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council
Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif

LABDA, Khalid Hamad (Mr./M.)

Member of the Advisory Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

AL-JEHANI, Nasser Ahmad (Mr./M.)

Member of the Advisory Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

AL-RUMAIHI, Ahmed Khalifa (Mr./M.)

Member of the Advisory Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad (Mr./M.)

Secretary General
Secrétaire général

AL-MAJID, Abdulreda (Mr./M.)

Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Advisory Council
Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction, Conseil consultatif

AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer Hemaïd (Mr./M.)

Deputy Head, Public Relations Section
*Chef adjoint de la Section des relations publiques***REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE**CHIN, Young (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPK)

PARK, Young-Sun (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPK)

LEE, Sang-Don (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)

CHONG, Jong-Sup (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)

LEE, Man-Hee (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)*WOO, Yoon-Keun (Mr./M.)
Head of the ASGP delegation
*Chef de la délégation de l'ASGP*Secretary-General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

YOON, Sung-Min (Mr./M.)

Director / *Directeur*

KIM, Hyun-Sook (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Director / *Directrice adjointe*KIM, Jun-Heon (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the ASGP delegation
*Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP*Deputy Director
*Directeur adjoint*JEONG, So Young (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*Protocol Officer, National Assembly
*Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale*IM, So-Young (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*Protocol Officer, National Assembly
*Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale*KIM, Gyeong-Hun (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

LIM, Kyu-Eun (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

KIM, Young-Geun (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the ASGP delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP

(MPK: Minjoo Party of Korea / Parti Minjoo de Corée)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(SP: Saenuri Party / Parti Saenuri)

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

BORBELY, Laszlo (Mr./M.)
Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DAHR)
Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure

MITU, Augustin-Constantin (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate
Committee on Labour, Family and Social Protection
Vice-Président du Sénat (SDP)
Commission du travail, de la famille et de la protection sociale

DONȚU, Ovidiu-Liviu (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Chairman of the Committee on Constitutionality, Civil Liberties and Monitoring of the Execution of ECHR Decisions
Committee on Legal Affairs, Nominations, Discipline, Immunities and Validations
Membre du Sénat (SDP)
Président de la Commission de la constitutionnalité, des libertés civiles et du contrôle de l'exécution des décisions CEDH
Commission des affaires juridiques, des nominations, de la discipline, des immunités et des validations

CIOATĂ, Cezar (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Public Administration and Territorial Planning
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)
Vice-Président de la Commission de l'administration publique et de l'aménagement territorial

IONESCU, Cristina (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat

BĂGNEANU, Ioana (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Adviser, General Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
Conseillère, Direction générale des affaires étrangères, Chambre des Députés

DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate
Directrice, Direction des relations extérieures multilatérales, Sénat

TEODOREL, Luminița (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation (ASGP)
Secrétaire de la délégation (ASGP)

Adviser, Secretariat of the Group, Senate
Conseillère, Secrétariat du Groupe, Sénat

(DAHR: Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania / Alliance démocratique des Hongrois en Roumanie)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

MATVIENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Chairperson of the Council of the Federation
Présidente du Conseil de la Fédération

UMAKHANOV, Iliyas (Mr./M.)

Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation
Member Science, Education and Culture Committee
Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération
Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture

SLUTSKY, Leonid (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Duma
Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs
Membre de la Douma d'Etat
Président de la Commission des affaires internationales
Member of the Council of the Federation
Deputy Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee
Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture

GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the State Duma
Chairman of the Committee on Public Associations and Religious Organizations Affairs
Membre, Douma d'Etat (CP)
Président de la Commission des associations publiques et des organisations religieuses

GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du Commerce

Member of the Council of the Federation
Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

Member of the Council of the Federation
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee, Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Membre du Comité exécutif, Rapporteur de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

Member of the Council of the Federation
Social Politics Committee
Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
Commission des politiques sociales

PETRENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme)
Committee to promote respect for IHL, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH, Bureau des femmes parlementaires

EMELIYANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Duma
First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on State Construction and Legislature
Membre, Douma d'Etat
Premier Vice-Président de la Commission de la construction de l'Etat et de la législation

VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms./Mme)

Member of the State Duma
Deputy Chairperson of Family, Women and Children Affairs
Membre, Douma d'Etat
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires relatives à la famille, aux femmes et à l'enfance

DZHABAROV, Vladimir (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Member of the Council of the Federation
Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères

MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Council of the Federation
Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Fédération

GOLOV, Gennadiy (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Council of the Federation Staff <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ERMOSHIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Counsellor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller principal, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
UDALOVA, Natalia (Mrs./Mme)	Head of the Council of the Federation Chairperson's Secretariat <i>Chef du Secrétariat de la Présidente, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
PARUZIN, Nikolay (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TKACHENKO, Mikhail (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation, Secretary of the Eurasia Group <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Secrétaire du Groupe Eurasie</i>	Deputy Head of the International Organisations Division, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des organisations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
YAKOVLEVA, Marina (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
STAVITSKIY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	
KOZHEVNIKOV, Kirill (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant, Council of the Federation <i>Assistant particulier, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
UDALTSOVA, Marina (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol, Council of the Federation <i>Protocole, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
NOVIKOVA, Yulia (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol, Council of the Federation <i>Protocole, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ALEKSEEV, Alexandr (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Council of the Federation Chairperson <i>Conseiller de la Présidente du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
RUDAKOVA, Diana (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant to Mr. Slutsky <i>Assistante particulière de M. Slutsky</i>
ZHOLOBOVA, Maria (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms./Mme) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP <i>Interprète, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant, Council of the Federation <i>Assistante, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ABRAMOV, Victor (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
GOVOR, Andrei (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
ZHURAVLEV Aleksander (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	State Duma <i>Douma d'Etat</i>
CHKAURELI Gennadiy (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	State Duma <i>Douma d'Etat</i>

BOLSHAKOVA, Natalia (Mrs./Mme) Press / Presse	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ERMAKOVA, Irina (Mrs./Mme) Press / Presse	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GASTEV, Vitaly (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
FOMENKO, Natalia (Mrs./Mme) Press / Presse	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
PANKOV, Georgy (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>

RWANDA

HARERIMANA, Fatou (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat</i>
SEBUHORO, Célestin (Mr./M.) IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i>	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development and Finance Committee <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission du développement économique et des finances</i>
CYITATIRE, Sosthène (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

TERENZI, Gian Franco (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)</i>
MICHELOTTI, Augusto (Mr./M.) Vice President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (SU)</i>
(PDCS: Christian Democrats / Parti chrétien-démocrate) (SU: United Left / Gauche Unie)	

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

DA GRAÇA DIOGO, José (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 (ADI)</i>
CASSANDRA CORREIA, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADI)</i>
GUIVA, Vasco (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP)</i>
PRAZERES, Filomena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PCD)</i>
BOA MORTE, Domingos (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDEIRA MANDINGA, Bilma (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Public and International Relations Office, National Assembly <i>Directrice du Cabinet des relations publiques et Internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
FERREIRA, Edna (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
ROSARIO AFONSO, Domingos (Mr./M.) Security Officer to the Speaker <i>Agent de sécurité du Président</i>	

(ADI: Independent Democratic Alliance / Action démocratique indépendante)
(MLSTP: Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement / Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe)
(PCD: Democratic Convergence Party / Parti démocratique de convergence)

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALJEFRI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSHAMAN, Amal (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
FLATAH, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Deputy Speaker, Consultative Council <i>Conseiller du Vice-Président, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALTURKI, Khalid Abdulkarim (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Consultative Council <i>Chargé du protocole, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSHALAN, Meshal (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Consultative Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALANAZI, Metab (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Consultative Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSAUD, Turki Nawaf F. (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Consultative Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil consultatif</i>

SENEGAL

SQUARE, Djimo (Mr./M.) Acting President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président délégué du Groupe Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economy, Finance, Planning and Economic Cooperation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY) Commission de l'économie, des finances, du plan et de la coopération économique</i>
SECK DIENG, Penda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly First Vice-President of the Committee on Economy, Finance, Planning and Economic Cooperation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY) Première Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'économie, des finances, du plan et de la coopération économique</i>
DIOUF, Aïssatou (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Development and Land Use Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY) Commission du développement et de l'aménagement du territoire</i>
THIAM, Fatou (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDS)</i>
GUEYE, Alioune Abatalib (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Defence and Security Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BGG) Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
CISSE, Baye Niassé (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>

(BBY: Groupe Benno Bok Yakaar)
(PDS: Senegalese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique sénégalais)
(BGG: Bokk Guis Guis)

SERBIA – SERBIE

GOJKOVIĆ, Maja (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Culture and Information Committee Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (SNS)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la culture et de l'information</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des droits de l'enfant</i>
BOGOSAVLJEVIĆ BOŠKOVIĆ, Snežana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SPS)</i>
GRUJIĆ, Mladen (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly European Integration Committee Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NS)</i> <i>Commission de l'intégration européenne</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MIJATOVIĆ, Milorad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending Security Services Control Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SDPS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des finances, du budget d'Etat et du contrôle des dépenses publiques</i> <i>Commission de surveillance des services de sécurité</i>
RAŠKOVIĆ IVIĆ, Sanda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on the Rights of the Child <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'enfant</i>
BULAJIĆ, Svetislava (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
FILIPOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
MILANOVIĆ, Ana (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Head of the Translation Services Section, National Assembly <i>Chef du Service des traductions, Assemblée nationale</i>
KRIŠANOVIĆ, Aleksandar (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe) (SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe) (NS: New Serbia / Nouvelle Serbie) (SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe) (DPS: Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti démocratique serbe)	

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

LEE, Bee Wah (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
TAN, Dennis (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
NAIR, Vikram (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament

Membre du Parlement

FOO, Sharon (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Senior Assistant Clerk, Parliament
Greffière assistante principale, Parlement

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

MBETE, Baleka (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)

TAU, Raseriti (Mr./M.)

Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces
Vice-Président du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)

BONGO, Bongani (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)

BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)

MAZZONE, Natasha (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)

MENTE, Ntombovuyo Veronica (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (EFF)

KUBAYI, Mmamoloko (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)

MATEME, Hunadi (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Council of Provinces
Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)

MGIDLANA, Gengezi (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary to the Parliament
Secrétaire du Parlement

MONNAKGOTLA, Mpho (Ms./Mme)

Researcher, Parliament
Chercheuse, Parlement

PAULSE, Cheryl-Anne (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Acting Team Leader, Parliament
Responsable d'équipe a.i., Parlement

XASO, Masibulele (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary of the National Assembly
Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale

KHUZWAYO, June (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Administrative Officer, Parliament
Fonctionnaire administrative, Parlement

MVULANE, Sebolelo (Mrs./Mme)

Office Manager, National Council of Provinces
Directrice de bureau, Conseil national des provinces

SONJICA, Nomfundo (Ms./Mme)

Acting Division Manager, Parliament
Directrice de division a.i., Parlement

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)

(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

(EFF: Economic Freedom Fighters / Combattants pour la liberté économique)

SOUTH SUDAN - SOUDAN DU SUD

MAKANA, Anthony Lino (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée législative nationale de transition (SPLM)

ALEX, Janet Aya (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale de transition (SPLM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale</i>
AKEC, Paul Mayom (Mr./M.)	Member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative de transition</i>
SAID, Alalla Younis (Mr./M.)	Clerk, Transitional National Legislative Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée législative nationale de transition</i>
DENG, Ayaga Garang (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Secretary, Transitional National Legislative Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée législative nationale de transition</i>
WILSON, Martin (Mr./M.)	Private Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant privé du Président</i>

(SPLM: Sudan People Liberation Movement / Mouvement populaire de libération du Soudan)

SRI LANKA

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Committee of Selection Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders Chairman of the Committee on High Posts <i>Président du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Président du Comité de sélection</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement</i> <i>Président de la Commission des postes de haut niveau</i>
DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Committee of Selection Committee on High Posts Committee on Parliamentary Business <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i> <i>Comité de sélection</i> <i>Commission des postes de haut niveau</i> <i>Commission des affaires parlementaires</i>
HERATH, Vijitha (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands Committee on Standing Orders Committee on Public Accounts <i>Membre du Parlement (JVP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'agriculture et des terres</i> <i>Commission du règlement</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
WIJERATNE, Rohini Kumari (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance des femmes et du genre</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'éducation et du développement des ressources humaines</i>
VELU, Kumar (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management Sectoral Oversight Committee on Education and Human Resources Development <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'administration interne et de la gestion publique</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance de l'éducation et du développement des ressources humaines</i>

DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Parliament
Secrétaire général, Parlement

(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié)

(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté)

(JVP: Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna)

SUDAN – SOUDAN

AHMED ALHARDALOW, Abdalla (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Council of States
Chair of the Justice Committee
Membre, Conseils des Etats (NCP)
Président de la Commission de la justice

HAJ HASSAN OSMAN, Mathapa (Mrs./Mme)
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH

Member of the National Assembly
Justice Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Dem UP)
Commission de la justice

HUSSAIN ADAM AHMED, Al Amin (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade
Bureau de la Commission permanente du
développement durable, du financement et du
Commerce

Member of the National Assembly
Deputy Chair of the Economic Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NUP)
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires
économiques

MOHAMED AL TIGANI ABDELMAJID, Mutawakil
(Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FJ)
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires
étrangères

ABDALLA KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

YAGHOUB, Mohamed (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Council of States
Secrétaire général, Conseil des Etats

FADUL ABDELGADIR, Thana (Ms./Mme)
Executive Secretary of the Group, Member
of the ASGP
Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe, Membre
de l'ASGP

National Assembly
Assemblée nationale

(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)

(Dem UP: Democratic Unionist Party / Parti démocratique unioniste)

(NUP: UMMA Party for Reform and Development / Parti OUMMA pour les réformes et le développement)

(FJ: Freedom and Justice Party / Parti de la liberté et de la justice)

SURINAME

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the
Delegation
Bureau de la Commission permanente de
la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Chef
de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairman of the Ministry of Natural Resources
Committee
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)
Président de la Commission du Ministère des
ressources naturelles

ILAHIBAKS, Ruchsana (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)

WAIDOE, William (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VHP)

DE WINDT, Ruth (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

(VHP: Progressive Reform Party / Parti progressiste et réformiste)

SWAZILAND

KHUMALO, Marwick T. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>
SITHOLE, Jan J. (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>
KHOZA, Celumusa Erick (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

SWEDEN – SUEDE

ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (SAP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.) President of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Président de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament Committee on Justice <i>Membre du Parlement (M)</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i>
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of Parliament Committee on Finance <i>Membre du Parlement (SAP)</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
LINDBERG, Teres (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of Parliament Committee on Transport and Communications <i>Membre du Parlement (SAP)</i> <i>Commission des transports et des télécommunications</i>
MÅRTENSSON, Claes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary-General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Parlement</i>
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseillère internationale, Parlement</i>
SONDÉN, Björn (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller international, Parlement</i>
JOHANSSON, Jonas (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

(SAP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

KIENER-NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council Chair of the Finance Committee <i>Membre, Conseil national (PS)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des finances</i>
AMAUDRUZ, Céline (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre, Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i>
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chair, Committee on Social Security and Public Health <i>Membre, Conseil national (FDP/PLR)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la sécurité sociale et de la santé publique</i>
HÉCHE, Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre, Conseil des Etats (PS)</i>
LOHR, Christian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre, Conseil national (CVP/PDC)</i>

LOMBARDI, Filippo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States Deputy Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre, Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure</i>
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the National Council Chairman of the Committee on Science, Education and Culture <i>Membre, Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP <i>Vice-Président de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations <i>Chef adjoint, relations internationales</i>
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Secretariat, International Relations <i>Secrétariat, relations internationales</i>
STOSIC, Marija (Mrs./Mme) Academic Intern <i>Stagiaire académique</i>	Secretariat, International Relations <i>Secrétariat, relations internationales</i>
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste) (SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre) (FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radiciaux) (CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

ABBAS, Hadieh (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>
MERJANEH, Boutros (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chair of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (Ind)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires arabes et étrangères</i>
KUZBARI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chair of the Constitutional and Legislation Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la constitution et de la législation</i>
BAGDACHE, Ammar (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chair of the Financial Laws Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (SCP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du droit financier</i>
DIB, Fadia (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
HAMCHO, Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Member Planning and Production Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (Ind)</i> <i>Commission du plan et de la production</i>
ABBAS, Ashwaq (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>
AGHA, Ghati Abbas (Mr./M.)	Assistant Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
AL WAWI, Nasser (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Public Relations Director, People's Assembly <i>Directeur des relations publiques, Assemblée du Peuple</i>

DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr./M.)
Secretary and Translator
Secrétaire et traducteur

Protocol Officer, People's Assembly
Chargé du protocole, Assemblée du Peuple

(BAP: Baath Arab Party / Parti Baath arabe)
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)
(SCP: Syrian Communist Party / Parti communiste syrien)

THAILAND – THAILANDE

SAMPATISIRI, Bilaibhan (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative
Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères*

SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Social Affairs,
Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and
the Underprivileged Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative
Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires
sociales, des enfants, des jeunes, des femmes, des
aînés, des invalides et des défavorisés*

SUWANNACHEEP, Saowanee (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative

SWANGKARN, Somchai (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative

SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Legislative Assembly
Committee on Political Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative
Commission des affaires politiques*

PUTORNJAI, La-or (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat

KUNKLOY, Chollada (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Advisor on Legislative Procedure, House of
Representatives
*Conseillère sur la procédure législative, Chambre des
Représentants*

TESTHOMSAP, Sirawasa (Ms./Mme)

Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary
Organizations, House of Representatives
*Directrice du Bureau des Organisations
interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants*

NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)

Director, Inter-Parliamentary Division, House of
Representatives
*Directeur de la Division interparlementaire, Chambre
des Représentants*

SUNGTO, Neeranan (Ms./Mme)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary
Organizations, House of Representatives
*Chargée des affaires étrangères, Bureau des
organisations interparlementaires, Chambre des
Représentants*

SAEREEPRAYOON, Kitt (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary
Organizations, House of Representatives
*Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des
organisations interparlementaires, Chambre des
Représentants*

SIRIBOON, Sanan (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Foreign Affairs,
Senate
*Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des affaires
étrangères, Sénat*

SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr./M.)

Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary

	Organizations, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SIRIWONG, Kanjanat (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Foreign Affairs, Senate <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des affaires étrangères, Sénat</i>
THONGPHAKDI, Thani (Mr./M.) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	

TIMOR-LESTE

DA COSTA, Aderito Hugo (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Parliament <i>Président du Parlement national (CNRT)</i>
NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence <i>Vice-Président du Parlement national (CNRT)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense</i>
LOPES, Aniceto Guterres (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Justice, Public Administration, Local Government and Anti-Corruption <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, de la justice, de l'administration publique, du gouvernement local et de la lutte anti-corruption</i>
CORREIA, Brigida Antónia (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Committee on Economy and Development <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie et du développement</i>
SOARES, Izilda Pereira (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)</i> <i>Commission des finances publiques</i>
XIMENES, David Dias (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense</i>
DOS REIS, Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)</i> <i>Commission des finances publiques</i>
BELO, Mateus Ximenes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement national</i>
ALMEIDA, Efigenia (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement national</i>
ALMEIDA, Alexandre (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement national</i>
LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr./M.)	Senior Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseiller principal, Parlement national</i>
MARTINS, Lilia (Mrs./Mme)	Technical Assistant, National Parliament <i>Assistante technique, Parlement national</i>
PEREIRA, Jemmy (Mr./M.)	Technical Assistant, National Parliament <i>Assistante technique, Parlement national</i>
PEREIRA, Izilda (Mrs./Mme)	Technical Assistant, National Parliament <i>Assistante technique, Parlement national</i>

PINTO, Julio Tomas (Mr./M.)

Adviser, National Parliament
*Conseiller, Parlement national*DE OLIVEIRA, Delfim (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)
(FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)**TOGO**DAGBAN-ZONVIDE, Ayawavi Djigbodi (Mrs./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Third Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Troisième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (UNIR)

PENN, Laré Batouth (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNIR)

LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)

APEVON, Kokou Dodji (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Commission des lois (Arc-en-Ciel)*WAGUENA, Fademba Madakome (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
*Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale(UNIR: Union for the Republic / Union pour la République)
(ANC: National Alliance for Change / Alliance nationale pour le changement)
(Arc-en-Ciel: Rainbow Coalition / Coalition Arc-en-ciel)**TUNISIA - TUNISIE**

TOUBEL, Sofiene (Mr./M.)

Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives
*Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple*KSANTINI, Soulef (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
*Bureau des femmes parlementaires*Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives
Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple

ZANGAR, Nadia (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives
*Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple***TURKEY – TURQUIE**CAKIR, Coskun (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
*Chef de la délégation*Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

AYATA, Süleyman Sencer (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)

ATICI, Aytug (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)

CERITOGU KURT, L. Ilksen (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

GIZLIGIDER, Ebu Bekir (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

SERT, Hasan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

KAVCIOGLU, Sahap (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

YILDIRIM, Ahmet (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (HDP)

KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire général, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
GÜNER, Mümtaz (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ÖZTÜRK, Necati (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ÖNAL, Elif Esra (Mrs./Mme)	Staff, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétariat, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
AKSELI, Saren (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
AZIZOGLU, Zeynep (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement) (CHP: Republican's People Party / Parti populaire républicain) (HDP: People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)	

UGANDA – OUGANDA

ALITWALA KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairperson of the Appointments Committee, Business Committee <i>Présidente du Parlement (NRM)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des nominations, Commission des affaires</i>
MAGYEZI, Raphael (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (NRM)</i>
MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FDC)</i>
OSORU, Mourine (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
SSEBAGGALA, Abdu Latif Sengendo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ZABWE, Julie (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
KIBIRIGE, Jane Lubowa (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to Parliament, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale, Parlement</i>
WABWIRE, Paul Gamusi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk to Parliament, Parliament <i>Greffier adjoint, Parlement</i>
MUKAGA, James (Mr./M.)	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Parlement</i>
TUMUKWASIBWE, Robert (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Parliament <i>Directeur adjoint, Parlement</i>
DEOGRATIAS, Okwalinga (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp de la Présidente</i>	
(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale) (FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)	

UKRAINE

TARASYUK, Borys (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (Batk)</i>
CHUBAROV, Refat (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i>
IONOVA, Mariya (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i>

POPOV, Ihor (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (OLRP)</i>
SOTNYK, Olena (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PPSU)</i>
LOKSHYN, Viacheslav (Mr./M) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Directorate <i>Directeur adjoint, Direction des relations interparlementaires</i>
NADZHOS, Andriy (Mr./M) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Head of the Secretariat, Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Premier Chef adjoint, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>

(Batk: All-Ukrainian Union “Batkivshchyna / Batkivschina)
(PPB: Petro Poroshenko bloc / Bloc Petro Porochenko)
(OLRP: Oleh Liashko Radical Party / Parti radical Oleh Liashko)
(PPSU: Samopomich)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

ALQUBAISI, Amal (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALMEHRZI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL HAI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALBASTI, Afraa (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALTENAIJI, Nedal (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALREMEITHI, Saeed (Mr./M.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALEGHFLI, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
JASEM AHMAD, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALSHAMSI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant Secretary General, Federal National Council <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AHMED AL MAINAH, Sara (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
GHAOUI, Patricia (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SUWAIDI, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Director of the Parliamentary Group, Federal National Council <i>Directeur du Groupe parlementaire, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALHADDABI, Amal (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALKINDI, Aliya (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
MOHAMED KAMALI, Mai (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Head of Communication, Federal National Council <i>Chef de la communication, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

EVANS, Nigel (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Executive Committee <i>Vice-Président du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
GAPES, Mike (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
CLWYD, Ann (Ms./Mme) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
HOOPER, Baroness (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)</i>
DHOLAKIA, Lord (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>
PRITCHARD, Mark (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
MACTAGGART, Fiona (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
GWYNNE, Andrew (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes</i>
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, British IPU Group <i>Directeur, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director, British IPU Group <i>Directrice adjointe, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
DAVIES, Emily (Ms./Mme)	International Project Manager, British IPU Group <i>Chef de projets internationaux, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
EVANS, Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Principal Clerk of the Table Office, House of Commons <i>Chargé principal du dépôt de rapports, Chambre des Communes</i>
VAUGHAN, Jake (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Legislation, House of Lords <i>Greffier chargé de la législation, Chambre des Lords</i>
PICHE, Nicole (Ms./Mme) Human Rights Adviser <i>Conseillère aux droits de l'homme</i>	
(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur) (L: Labour / Parti travailliste) (Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)	

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Education and Culture Committee Public Health Committee Labour Issues and Social Security Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (FA)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation et de la culture</i> <i>Commission de la santé publique</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i>
MARTÍNEZ HUELMO, Ruben (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate International Affairs Committee Constitution and Legislation Committee National Defence Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (FA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution et de la législation</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i>

DELGADO, Alvaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Labour Issues and Social Security Committee Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries Committee Finance Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (NP)</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
CAMY, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Labour Issues and Social Security Committee Constitution and Legislation Committee Transport and Public Works Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (NP)</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution et de la législation</i> <i>Commission des transports et des travaux publics</i>
MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Internal Affairs Committee Constitution and Codes Committee Special Committee on Security and Cohabitation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internes</i> <i>Commission de la constitution et des codes</i> <i>Commission spéciale de la sécurité et de la cohabitation</i>
ARISTIMUÑO, Saúl (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Industry, Energy and Mining Committee Special Committee on Animal Health and Welfare Special Committee on Río de la Plata, the Waterfront and the Antarctic <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)</i> <i>Commission de l'industrie, de l'énergie et des mines</i> <i>Commission spéciale de la bonne gestion et du bien-être des animaux</i> <i>Commission spéciale sur Río de la Plata, les rivages et l'Antarctique</i>
COUTINHO, Germán (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate National Defence Committee Population, Development and Inclusion Committee Transport and Public Works Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (C)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i> <i>Commission de la population, du développement et de l'inclusion</i> <i>Commission des transports et des travaux publics</i>
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and Secretary of the GRULAC <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	Head of International Relations <i>Chef des relations internationales</i>
GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme) Assistant Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC <i>Secrétaire assistante du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	International Relations, House of Representatives <i>Relations internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi) (NP: National Party / Parti national) (C: Partido Colorado / Parti Colorado)	

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) - VENEZUELA (REPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DE)

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Mrs./Mme) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires,</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly President of the Standing Committee on Domestic Policy <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNT)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la politique intérieure</i>
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FLORES, Romny (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AD)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation</i>
FIGUERA, Dinorah (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly President of the Standing Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PJ)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la science, de la technologie et de l'innovation</i>
GONZÁLEZ, Eudoro (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chief of the Parliamentary Delegation to Parlasur <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PJ)</i> <i>Chef adjoint de la Délégation parlementaire de Parlasur</i>
JABOUR, Yul (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Policy Sovereignty and Integration, Parliamentary Delegation to Parlasur <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la politique étrangère, de la souveraineté et de l'intégration, Délégation parlementaire de Parlasur</i>
PICHARDO, Adriana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Domestic Policy, Parliamentary Delegation to Parlasur <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VP)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la politique intérieure, Délégation parlementaire de Parlasur</i>
VIVAS, Darío (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Domestic Policy <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la politique intérieure</i>
TEIXEIRA, Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i>
GARCIA SEQUERA, Fenix Liz (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to Mr. Vivas <i>Assistante de M. Vivas</i>
AVILA TORRES, Jose Gregorio (Mr./M.)	Adviser, International Relations, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
OCHOA TERÁN, Luis (Mr./M.)	Director, International Relations, National Assembly <i>Directeur des Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
MARTÍNEZ UBIEDA, Alejandro (Mr./M.) Assistant to the delegation / <i>Assistant de la délégation</i>	
FIGUEROA, Olga Luisa (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to Mr. Jabour <i>Assistante de M. Jabour</i>
(UNT: Un Nuevo Tiempo) (AD: Democratic Action / Action démocratique) (PJ: Primero Justicia) (CPV: Communist Party of Venezuela / Parti communiste vénézuélien) (VP: Voluntad Popular) (PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela) (MP: Movimiento progresista)	

VIET NAM

NGUYEN, Van Giau (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
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VU, Hai Ha, (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LE, Thu Ha, (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
LINH, Le Bo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
NGUYEN, Tuong Van (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Group / <i>Conseillère du Groupe</i>	Advisor, National Assembly <i>Conseillère, Assemblée nationale</i>
PHAM, Thi Ngoc Ha, (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale</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>
KATUTA, Given (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FDD)</i>
KUNDA, Haward (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)</i>
LUO, Nkandu (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (ex-officio) <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires (de droit)</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
NG'ONGA, Maxas (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
MUTELO, Misheck (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)</i>
MWINGA, Doris K (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of National Assembly, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHELU, John (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDA, Naomi (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MPOLOKOSO, Anthony K (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
NGULUBE, Roy (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>

(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)

(MMD: Movement for Multiparty Democracy / Mouvement pour une démocratie pluraliste)

(PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)

(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national)

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob F. (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>
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MHLANGA, Jennifer (Mrs./Mme)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade
*Bureau de la Commission permanente du
développement durable, du financement et du
commerce*

Member of the National Assembly
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment
Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des
jeunes*

DZIVA, Tionei Melody (Ms./Mme)
Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Forum des jeunes parlementaires

Member of the National Assembly
Speaker's Panel
Member Public Accounts Committee
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment
Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)
Commission présidentielle
Commission des comptes publics
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des
jeunes*

MUTOMBA, William (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Committee
Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment
Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC-T)
Commission des services publics, du travail et de la
protection sociale
Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des
jeunes*

NYAMAHOWA, Frank Mike (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director in the Speaker's Office, National Assembly
Directeur, Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale

CHISANGO, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly
*Chargée principale des relations extérieures, Assemblée
nationale*

SIBANDA, Robert (Mr./M.)
Aide to the Speaker / Aide du Président

(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)
(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change (T) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES**ANDEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ANDIN**

DUQUE GARCÍA, Luis Fernando (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*

RESTREPO, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*

**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ALJARWAN, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Speaker / *Président*
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

FAHAM M. ALSULAMI, Meshal (Mr./M.) Member / *Membre*

MUHAMMED ALLAFI, Ahlam (Mrs./Mme) Member / *Membre*

FAWZY, Maye (Mrs./Mme) Officer, General Secretariat
Fonctionnaire, Secrétariat général

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

KIDEGA, Daniel Fred (Mr./M.) Speaker
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
Chairperson of the EALA Commission
Président (NRM)
Président de la Commission EALA

TASLIMA, Issa Twaha (Mr./M.) Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee
Commission juridique, des règles et privilèges

KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme) Senior Private Secretary to the Speaker
Adviser to the Delegation
Conseillère de la délégation
Secrétaire particulière principale du Président

ODIKO, Bobi (Mr./M.) Senior Public Relations Officer
Chargé principal des relations publiques

WIMILE, Asheri (Mr./M.) Senior Clerk Assistant
Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
Greffier principal adjoint

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE
LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS**

MATVIENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme) Chairperson
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
Présidente

KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.) Member, Permanent Commission on Political Issues
and International Cooperation
*Membre, Commission permanente des affaires
politiques et de la coopération internationale*

SLUTSKIY, Leonid (Mr./M.) Member of the State Duma
Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs
Membre de la Douma d'Etat
Président de la Commission des affaires internationales

ZHUK, Denis (Mr./M.) Acting Head of Department of External Relations
*Chef ad intérim du Département des relations
extérieures*

PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)

NSOBEYA EFUMAN NCHAMA, Santiago (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Cooperation and Parliamentary Affairs <i>Directeur de la coopération et des affaires parlementaires</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)

CISSE LO, Moustapha (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
BENAO SAKANDE, Kaboubie (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
SUKU, Ablie (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
MAGBAGBEOLA, Nelson (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary-General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
SOME, Bertin (Mr./M.)	Director of Parliamentary Affairs and Research <i>Directeur des affaires parlementaires et de la recherche</i>
FALLOU, Serigne (Mr./M.)	Aide to the Speaker <i>Aide du Président</i>
THIAM, Ibrahima (Mr./M.)	Aide to the Speaker <i>Aide du Président</i>
DIALLO, Fily (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
 RODRIGUES BIRKETT, Carolyn (Ms./Mme), Coordinator Parliamentary Alliances
Coordinatrice des alliances parlementaires

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME (HCDH)
 HICKS, Peggy (Ms./Mme), Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division / *Directrice de la Division de l'engagement thématique, des procédures spéciales et du droit au développement*
 PROUVEZ, Nathalie (Ms./Mme), Chief, Rule of Law and Democracy Section / *Chef de la Section Etat de droit et démocratie*
 VALES, Hernán (Mr./M.), Human Rights Officer / *Chargé des droits de l'homme*

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT
 SUN, Nina (Ms./Mme), Consultant / *Consultante*
 BAY BUNDEGAARD, Anita (Ms./Mme), International Advocacy Director and UN Representative, Save the Children
Directrice et Représentante auprès des Nations Unies, Bureau de Save the Children à Genève

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)
 CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP New York / *Chef d'équipe, Processus de participation politique, Bureau de New York*
 CAHILL, Warren (Mr./M.), Chief Strategic Adviser, UNDP Yangon / *Conseiller stratégique principal, Bureau de Yangon*
 SAEEDI, Nika (Ms./Mme), Policy Specialist, Political Processes and Peacebuilding, UNDP New York / *Spécialiste des politiques, Processus politique et consolidation de la paix*
 JONES, Dyfan (Mr./M.), Effective Governance Team Leader, UNDP Pacific Office, Fiji

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE
 ALMUZAINI, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.), Director, Liaison Office in Geneva / *Directeur, Bureau de liaison à Genève*
 TUKHTABAYEV, Bobir (Mr./M.), Senior Liaison Officer, Liaison Office in Geneva / *Agent de liaison, Bureau de liaison à Genève*

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES
 HANSEN, Ellen (Ms./Mme), Senior Policy Adviser to the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection / *Conseillère principale pour les politiques auprès du Haut-Commissaire assistant en charge de la protection*

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE
 MCCORMICK, Cary (Mr./M.), Civic Engagement Specialist / *Spécialiste de l'engagement citoyen*
 POWELL, James (Mr./M.), Global U-Report Lead, Office of Innovation / *Chef de Global U-Report, Bureau de l'innovation*
 SOTOMAYOR, Maria Luisa (Mrs./Mme), Global U-Report Coordinator / *Coordinatrice de Global U-Report*

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UNISDR)
STRATEGIE INTERNATIONALE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA PREVENTION DES CATASTROPHES (ONU-SIPC)
 MADI, Kirsi (Ms./Mme), Director / *Directrice*
 LOPEZ, Liliana (Ms./Mme), Programme Officer / *Chargée de programme*
 CASTILLO, Ana María (Ms./Mme), Advocacy and Outreach Section / *Section de la sensibilisation et de la promotion*

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)
INSTITUT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA FORMATION ET LA RECHERCHE
 SUELI, Giorgetta (Ms./Mme), Representative / *Représentante*

UN WOMEN
ONU FEMMES
 BALLINGTON, Julie (Ms./Mme), Policy Advisor / *Conseillère politique*
 BALAMACI, Aida (Ms./Mme), iKNOW Politics Coordinator / *Coordinatrice de iKNOW Politics*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

ASKEW, Ian (Mr./M.), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research / *Directeur du Département santé et recherché génésiques*

CRESPO, Mariana (Ms./Mme), External Relations Officer / *Chargée des relations extérieures*

HAYES, Luminita (Ms./Mme), Medical Officer / *Médecin*

BUSTREO, Flavia (Ms./Mme), Assistant Director General for Family, Women's and Children's Health
Directrice générale adjointe, Santé de la famille, de la femme et des enfants

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*

NICOD, Marjolaine (Ms./Mme), Coordinator, International Health Partnership / *Coordinatrice, Partenariat international pour la santé*

BREARLEY, Lara (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer, International Health Partnership / *Administratrice technique, Partenariat international pour la santé*

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)**ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES MIGRATIONS (OIM)**

KLEIN SOLOMON, Michele (Ms./Mme), Senior Policy Adviser to the Director General

Conseillère principale pour les politiques auprès du Directeur général

WORLD BANK**BANQUE MONDIALE**

BATHILY, Nayé (Mrs./Mme), Lead, Global Parliamentary Relations / *Chef des relations parlementaires globales*

AFRICAN UNION**UNION AFRICAINE**

MATLOSA, Khabele (Mr./M.), Director for Political Affairs / *Directeur des questions politiques*

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES**

ABOULENEIN, Sameh (Mr./M.), Representative / *Représentant*

CHAROUIE, Ali (Mr./M.), Expert

TILLIOUANT, Youcef (Mr./M.), First Secretary / *Premier Secrétaire*

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE**

MICHEL, Louis (Mr./M.), Co-President / *Co-Président*

PRIBAZ, Donatella (Ms./Mme), Head, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Unit, European Parliament

Chef de l'Unité Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique, Parlement européen

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*

ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)**UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

NIHAWI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director, Parliamentary Relations / *Directeur des relations parlementaires*

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

ISLAMI, Masoud (Mr./M.), Acting Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général ad intérim*

MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

ASSOCIATION OF SENATE, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD (ASSECAA)**ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU MONDE ARABE**

ALI, Abdulwasie Yusuf (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

BALTIC ASSEMBLY**ASSEMBLEE DES ETATS BALTES**

VUCĀNS, Jānis (Mr./M.), President / *Président*

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)**ASSOCIATION PARLEMENTAIRE DU COMMONWEALTH**

KHAN, Akbar (Mr./M.), Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général*

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP-ICGLR)
FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DES LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)

HIGIRO, Prosper (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MBODI, Jenny (Ms./Mme), Administrative Assistant / *Assistante administrative*

GLOBAL ORGANISATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.), Chair, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament / *Président, Vice-Président du Parlement indonésien*

MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)
PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFERATION NUCLEAIRE ET LE DESARMEMENT

AL DAMEN MASRI, Salwa (Ms./Mme), Co-President, Member of the Jordanian Senate
Co-Présidente, Membre du Sénat jordanien

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator / *Coordinateur global*

NURZHAN, Marzhan (Mr./M.), CIS Countries Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour les pays de la CEI*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE

GOJKOVIC, Maja (Mrs./Mme), President / *Président*

IVANOV, Violeta (Mrs./Mme), Head of the Moldovan Pabsec Delegation / *Chef de la délégation moldave de PABSEC*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE

AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M.), Honorary President / *Président honoraire*

PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PUTMAN-CRAMER, Gerhard (Mr./M.), Permanent Observer, PAM Geneva
Observateur permanent de l'APM à Genève

CARAFÀ, Valerio (Mr./M.), Assistant to the delegation / *Assistant de la délégation*

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

ACKAR, Lana (Ms./Mme), Gender Office / *Bureau pour l'égalité entre les sexes*

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

BORTSOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of Committee / *Vice-Président de commission*

STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

LEYKAUSKAS, Audryus (Mr./M.), Head of Department, Secretary to the delegation
Chef de département, Secrétaire de la délégation

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE

ASANOV, Jandos (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

HASANOV, Emin (Mr./M.), Secretary of Commission / *Secrétaire de commission*

HASANOVA, Fidan (Ms./Mme), Secretary of Commission / *Secrétaire de commission*

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OIC (UPCI)

KILIC, Mahmut Erol (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

WORLD SCOUT PARLIAMENTARY UNION (WSPU)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE MONDIALE DU SCOUTISME (UPMS)**

LEE, Ju Young (Mr./M.), Vice-President, Member of the Koreau Parliament / *Vice-Président, Membre du Parlement coréen*

LEE, Jong Kul (Mr./M.), Member of the Koreau Parliament / *Membre du Parlement coréen*

KIM, Gyu Hwam (Mr./M.), Member of the Koreau Parliament / *Membre du Parlement coréen*

SO, Byung Hoon (Mr./M.), Member of the Koreau Parliament / *Membre du Parlement coréen*

CHO, Yong Tak (Mr./M.), Director, Secretariat / *Directeur du Secrétariat*

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA**LE FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME**

IRBE, Sandra (Ms./Mme), Senior Advisor to the Board Chair / *Conseillère principale du Président du Conseil*

ROBINSON, Svend (Mr./M.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs / *Spécialiste principal, Affaires parlementaires*

TEKLE-HAIMANOT, Shu-Shu (Ms./Mme), Senior Specialist, Advocacy and Partnerships / *Spécialiste principale, Sensibilisation et partenariats*

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL**INTERNATIONALE LIBERALE**

WOODTHORPE BROWNE, Robert MBE (Mr./M.), Vice-President / *Vice-Président*

DANCHEVA, Tamara (Ms./Mme), Head of Human Rights Programme / *Chef du programme des droits de l'homme*

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE**

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Secretariat Coordinator / *Coordinatrice du Secrétariat*

GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)**CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES**

FLURI, Philipp (Mr./M.), Directeur adjoint / *Deputy Director*

BURDZY, Anne-Marie (Ms./Mme), Representative / *Représentante*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

PELLANDINI, Cristina (Ms./Mme), Head, Advisory Services Unit / *Cheffe d'Unité des Services consultatifs*

CHARLIER, Benjamin (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser, Advisory Service on IHL / *Conseiller juridique, Services consultatifs en DIH*

APERCE, Cédric (Mr./M.), Associate Legal Officer, Advisory Service / *Juriste associé, Services consultatifs*

HELLE, Daniel (Mr./M.), Diplomatic Advisor / *Conseiller diplomatique*

PAWLAK, Marta (Ms./Mme), Adviser, Protection Division / *Conseillère à la Division Protection*

BOHL, Johanna (Ms./Mme), Assistant to the delegation / *Assistante de la délégation*

INTERNATIONAL IDEA

KANDAWASVIKA-NUNDU, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme), Senior Programme Manager for Gender / *Responsable principale du Programme pour l'égalité entre les sexes*

**PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW
TO A POSSIBLE AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION
PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS EN VUE D'UNE
AFFILIATION/REAFFILIATION EVENTUELLE**

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

M'BAÏKOUA, Thimoleon (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

**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 DÉJÀ AU TITRE D'UNE
DELEGATION NATIONALE, D'UN OBSERVATEUR OU D'UNE AUTRE ENTITE**

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

MARAKVELIDZE, Zurab (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
BROKISHVILI, Irakli (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Secretary General, Parliament
Secrétaire général, Parlement

Senior Specialist, Department for International
Relations, Parliament
*Spécialiste principal, Département des relations
internationales, Parlement*

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

ALKANDARI, Allam Ali (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
ALANEZI, Meshal (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

ALNESEF, Jasem (Mr./M.)

Head of the International Parliamentary Organizations
Department
Chef du Département des organisations parlementaires
Head of the Office of the Secretary General, National
Assembly
*Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Assemblée
nationale*

ALJAZZAF, Musaed Faisal (Mr./M.)

Secretary, Speaker's Office
Secrétaire du Bureau du Président

ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad Kamal (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

International Parliamentary Organizations Department
Département des organisations parlementaires

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

TSEDEV, Tsolmon (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP
LKHAMSUREN (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the Secretariat, State Great Hural
*Secrétaire général du Secrétariat, Grand Khoural de
l'Etat*
Officer, Secretariat, State Great Hural
Fonctionnaire du Secrétariat, Grand Khoural de l'Etat

MONTENEGRO

MIJANOVIĆ, Irena (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Head of the Secretary General's Office
Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

CAVERO, Manuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

SAWICKI, Wojciech (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General
Secrétaire général

**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 135th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 135^{ème} ASSEMBLEE**

CROATIA – CROATIE

SADARIĆ, Hrvoje (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Office for International and European Affairs,
Croatian Parliament
*Conseiller au Bureau des affaires internationales et
européennes, Parlement croate*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

VERGER, Christine (Mr./M.)

Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments
Direction des relations avec les parlements nationaux

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 135th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION
DE LA 135^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

MØLLER, Michael (Mr./M.), Director-General of the United Nations Office / *Directeur général de l'Office des Nations Unies*

BEERLI, Christine (Mrs./Mme), Vice-President of the ICRC / *Vice-Présidente du CICR*

SASAKAWA, Yohei (Mr./M.), Chairman of the Nippon Foundation / *Président de la Fondation Nippon*

LOEFFEN, Amanda (Ms./Mme), Director General Waterlex / *Directrice générale de Waterlex*

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

ZARBIYEV, Fuad (Mr./M.), Graduate Institute / *Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)*

GUERBER, Thomas (Mr./M.), Director of DCAF / *Directeur de DCAF*

PLESCH, Daniel T. (Mr./M.), SOAS University of London / *Université SOAS de Londres*

KARSKA, Elżbieta (Ms./Mme), Member of the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries / *Membre du Groupe de travail de l'ONU sur l'utilisation des mercenaires*

SENE, Isidor Marcel (Mr./M.), Member of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 / *Membre du Comité 1540 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies*

OBREGON GIESEKEN, Helen Cécilia (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser, ICRC / *Conseillère juridique CICR*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce

TEMBO, Dorothy (Ms./Mme), ITC Deputy Executive Director / *Directrice exécutive adjointe de ITC*

IQBAL, Sarah (Ms./Mme), Manager of Women, Business and the Law Project, World Bank Group

Directrice du Projet "Women, Business and the Law", Banque mondiale

FRASER-MOLEKETI, Geraldine (Ms./Mme), Special Envoy on Gender at the African Development Bank
Envoyée spéciale pour la parité entre les sexes, Banque africaine de développement

FRIED, Jonathan (Mr./M.), Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO

Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent du Canada auprès de l'OMC

STICHELMANS, Tiago (Mr./M.), Policy Analyst EUROADAD / *Analyste des politiques EUROADAD*

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies

ADAMS, Barbara (Ms./Mme), Board Member, Global Policy Forum / *Membre du Directoire, Forum mondial des politiques*

LALLI, Remo (Mr./M.), Secretary, High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), and Chief of the Chief Executives Board (CEB) of the United Nations / *Secrétaire du Comité de haut niveau sur la gestion et Chef du Conseil des chefs de secrétariat (CCS)*

KLAPPE, Bernardus (Mr./M.), Senior Military Advisor, Office Special Coordinator on Improving UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / *Conseiller militaire principal, Coordinateur spécial pour l'amélioration de l'intervention de l'ONU à l'exploitation et aux violences sexuelles*

WHITMAN, Shelly (Ms./Mme), Executive Director, Roméo Dallaire Child Soldier Initiative, Canada
Directrice exécutive, Initiative enfants soldats Roméo Dallaire

Informal panel discussion: "How to reconcile growing military expenditures with the realization of our sustainable development commitments?"

Réunion-débat informelle : "Comment concilier la croissance des dépenses militaires avec la réalisation de nos engagements en matière de développement durable ?"

ARCHER, Colin (Mr./M.), Secretary General International Peace Bureau (IPB) / *Secrétaire général du Bureau international de la paix*

WEZEMAN, Pieter D. (Mr./M.), Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
Chercheur principal, Institut international de recherche sur la paix de Stockholm

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Forum des femmes parlementaires

NACIRI, Mohammad (Mr./M.), UN Women Regional Director, Arab States / *Directeur général de ONU Femmes, Etats arabes*

Side event: "Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Regional Security in the Middle East, North-East Asia and Europe"

Réunion parallèle : "Zones exemptes d'armes nucléaires et sécurité régionale au Moyen-Orient, en Asie du Nord-Est et en Europe"

VAN RIET, Rob (Mr./M.), Director of the Peace and Disarmament Program for the World Future Council
Directeur du Programme de paix et de désarmement du World Future Council

KIM, Maria (Ms./Mme), PNND Assistant Coordinator for North East Asia / *Assistante coordinatrice de PNND pour l'Asie du Nord-Est*

Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on "Refugees, migrants and their hosts – what next?"

Séance publique du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire sur le thème "La situation des réfugiés, des migrants et de leurs pays d'accueil : quelles sont les prochaines étapes ?"

TARAN, Patrick (Mr./M.), President, Global Migration Policy Associates / *Président de Global Migration Policy Associates*