



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Standing Committee on
Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

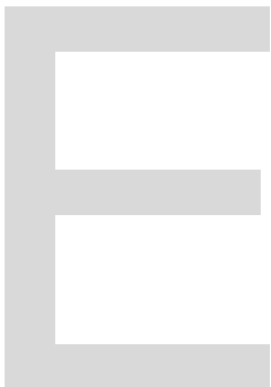
C-II/136/DR
10 January 2017

Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. N.K. Premachandran (India) and Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico)***

The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* that sustainable development refers to the idea of development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,
- (2) *Expressing* satisfaction that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is based on a holistic approach to sustainable development with a reasonably balanced emphasis on economic growth, social development and environmental protection,
- (3) *Accepting* that one challenge of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to make sure that developmental processes are more inclusive and broad-based, allow wide participation from all segments of society, and are equally beneficial to all,
- (4) *Acknowledging* that another challenge of implementing the SDGs is to ensure effective delivery of public services by strict monitoring, regular evaluation and restructuring of public services, all of which will depend on the availability of basic infrastructure support, both in rural and urban areas,
- (5) *Also acknowledging* that eradicating poverty in all its forms is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and that to this end, sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, as well as empowering the poor through education and skills development must all be promoted,
- (6) *Further acknowledging* that women's financial inclusion is an engine of development that fights poverty, reduces inequalities, and improves children's health, nutrition and schooling,
- (7) *Underscoring* that, according to the Global Findex of the World Bank, women are 15 per cent less likely than men to have a bank account, and nearly 50 per cent of women across the world do not have a bank account,
- (8) *Considering* that the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs recognize the importance of financial inclusion as part of eradicating poverty and achieving well-being for all,



#IPU136

(9) *Recalling* that in 2016, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, established the High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment to address the specific economic issues that affect women and to support both the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind,

(10) *Bearing in mind* that the Outcome Document of the General Debate endorsed by the 131st IPU Assembly points out that achieving gender equality and ending violence against women is the responsibility of both men and women, and that effective change requires both a strong institutional framework and national bodies with the power to take action,

(11) *Mindful* that access to formal financing institutions helps to increase the equality of income between men and women, generate employment, reduce people's vulnerability to emergency situations, facilitate entrepreneurship, and foster both medium- and long-term saving and planning activities,

(12) *Reiterating* that mobilizing domestic and international financial resources, as well as capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries on favorable terms will all play a vital role in providing essential services, public goods and low-cost money transfers or remittances,

(13) *Recognizing* that parliaments have a strong obligation to champion international law on the empowerment of women and adapt their national legislation accordingly,

(14) *Underscoring* that the role of parliaments in embracing the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development should be conceived in accordance with international and national laws and with the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Invites* parliaments to promote the development of national and international public policies and strategies that focus on eliminating the legal and cultural barriers which discriminate against women and prevent their full inclusion in the financial systems of each of all countries;
2. *Urges* parliaments to identify the needs and limitations of each region and society by making a complete diagnosis based on disaggregated information, which will allow the root causes of this challenge to be addressed, both according to its particular circumstances and from a gender perspective;
3. *Calls on* parliaments and political parties to adopt legal frameworks and policies that increase financial inclusion in general, the financial inclusion of women in particular, and gender perspectives in all financial policies;
4. *Proposes* the implementation of educational programmes aimed at capitalizing on the knowledge and expertise associated with financial services and new technologies;
5. *Requests* parliaments to promote the inclusion of women in the extensive use of widely accessible information technologies that facilitate women's access to digital financial services, and enable innovative initiatives such as establishing digital payment systems, electronic money and access to accounts via mobile telephony;
6. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage private companies and banks to design a portfolio of attractive financial products that provide incentives for women to develop good savings habits;
7. *Invites* parliaments to develop cooperative links with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, for the implementation of programmes aimed at promoting the financial inclusion of women;
8. *Encourages* parliaments to promote partnerships with governments and civil society so as to accomplish financial and digital inclusion, especially for women;

9. *Urges* parliamentarians to develop a distinct and specific method to facilitate the financial inclusion of poor women, which should ensure that they have access to credit, as well as to financial and business training;
10. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure that women have continued access to formal credit in order to close the gender gap and empower women entrepreneurs worldwide;
11. *Strongly urges* parliaments to encourage reforms that offer women the right to access economic resources and financial services on an unbiased basis;
12. *Calls on* parliamentarians to encourage the private banking sector to reduce the costs of opening and maintaining a savings account and to design financial products tailored to women's specific needs;
13. *Advises* governments and parliaments to assume responsibility for championing the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development.