



Assembly
Item 4

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15 October 2008

REPORT OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

Rapporteur: Ms. N. Madlala-Routledge (South Africa)

1. The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs took stock of the United Nations Secretary-General's 2008 Report on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (General Assembly document A/63/228, Security Council document S/2008/531) and welcomed the strong and growing partnership between the two organizations.
2. The Committee endorsed the recommendations formulated by the United Nations Secretary-General and encouraged parliaments to secure the fullest possible support from their foreign ministries for a strong General Assembly resolution based on his conclusions (proposed draft Resolution in Annex).
3. The Committee received a draft Survey on parliaments' interaction with the United Nations. It made several suggestions to improve the draft Survey, as a useful tool for mapping such interaction more accurately. The Survey proposes to determine the manner in which parliaments relate to the UN system, to the special meetings and major negotiating processes under way at the United Nations, as well as to the UN country offices. All parliaments are urged to submit their responses by the set deadline of 30 November 2008. The Survey conclusions, including good practices and recommendations for future action, will be discussed at the 120th IPU Assembly.
4. The Committee received the report of its Advisory Group Meeting of 18 July 2008, and expressed strong support for the work of the Group. The Committee encouraged the Advisory Group to continue to give priority to the questions falling within its mandate, such as United Nations reform at the country level, which were conducive to practical activities through which the IPU and national parliaments could make a real difference in terms of the realities on the ground.
5. The Committee welcomed the report on its Advisory Group's field mission to Tanzania to evaluate the One UN reform and gauge parliament's part in the process. It endorsed the report's conclusions calling for parliament to play a more dynamic role in the conception, implementation and oversight of national development, which implies increased involvement in the upstream planning of the national budget.
6. The Committee is convinced that the One UN reform in Tanzania will lead to more efficient delivery of development aid. It therefore urged parliaments to encourage a more coherent approach to aid delivery at the country level, where appropriate, along the lines of the One UN principles, and actively to promote greater effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN operations at the national level.

7. The Committee welcomed the results of the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the ensuing Accra Agenda for Action. It was particularly pleased at the Forum's acknowledgement that successful implementation of the Agenda will require national parliaments to play an enhanced role and bear greater responsibility in the preparation of national development plans, the integration of international development assistance into national budgets and the monitoring of development policies, strategies and performance. It urged all national parliaments to follow this process closely.
8. The Committee urged members of parliament, while duly respecting the principle of the separation of powers, to more systematically join national delegations to major international events and conferences, particularly those relating to development cooperation and other major global issues.
9. As national parliaments and the IPU expand their work in the area of development cooperation, the Committee called for the IPU to engage in more structured dialogue with international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
10. The Committee heard presentations from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, on the very topical issue of the food crisis and its health implications. It engaged in a substantive discussion on the topic, and identified possible avenues for action and cooperation by national parliaments.

**DRAFT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)**

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 8 August 2008,¹ which attests to the broad and substantive cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) over the past two years,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and circulated in the General Assembly and the many activities undertaken by the organization in support of the United Nations,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations as joint UN-IPU events during the General Assembly, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations in the context of major United Nations conferences and events,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,² which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations, including the effective implementation of United Nations reform,

Also recalling its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, as well as resolutions 57/47 of 21 November 2002, 59/19 of 8 November 2004, and 61/6 of 20 October 2005,

Welcoming the growing practice among member States of including legislators as members of national delegations to important United Nations meetings and events,

Welcoming the close cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in fostering political dialogue and building national capacities for good governance,

Welcoming the contribution of the IPU in shaping the agenda and work of the new Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of ECOSOC,

¹ A/63/228 – S/2008/531 of 8 August 2008.

² A/51/402, annex.

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations;
2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to cooperate closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, economic and social development, international law, human rights, and democracy and gender issues, bearing in mind the significant benefits of cooperation between the two organizations, to which the report of the Secretary-General attests;
3. *Encourages* the IPU to strengthen further its contribution to the work of the United Nations General Assembly, including its revitalization, and in relation to the process of United Nations reform and system-wide coherence;
4. *Invites* the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission to continue to work closely with the IPU in engaging national parliaments in the countries under consideration by the Commission in efforts to promote democratic governance, national dialogue and reconciliation;
5. *Encourages* the IPU to continue to work closely with the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum and bring a robust parliamentary contribution to the DCF process and the broader development cooperation agenda;
6. *Urges* member States to include members of parliament in national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events more systematically;
7. *Calls* for the further development of the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations as a joint UN-IPU event and for the circulation of its report as an official United Nations document;
8. *Welcomes* the proposal for a regular annual exchange between the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the senior leadership of the IPU, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations and maximizing parliamentary support for the United Nations;
9. *Decides*, in recognition of the unique role of national parliaments in support of the work of the United Nations, to include "Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" as a separate item on the agenda of the 65th session of the General Assembly.