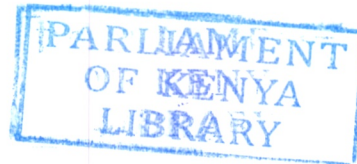


Laid on the Table by Hon. Dr  
Oburu Odinga



~~14/5/19~~ 14/5/19

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**



**REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY TO THE 140<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY  
HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019 IN DOHA, QATAR**

**APRIL 2019**

# REPORT OF THE DELEGATION OF EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE 140<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 IN DOHA, QATAR

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the inter parliamentary union was held in Qatar from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 under the theme “**Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and rule of law**” The meeting was attended by 162 Countries, 2271 Parliamentarians, including 80 Speakers of Parliaments and 40 Vice Speakers . Overall 68 sessions took place during the event where various issues of international concern such as development, education, peace,•confli resolution, terrorism, promotion of human rights and investment in renewable energy were discussed.

The Qatar - Shura Council hosted the delegates, of which 30 per cent were women and 19 per cent were young MPs under 45. It is worthwhile to note that Qatar joined the IPU in 2006 and was hosting its first IPU Assembly.

The IPU also took one step closer to achieving universal membership with the participation in Doha of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which joined as the 179<sup>th</sup> Member Parliament of the IPU. Suffice to note, was the attendance of Several Small Island Developing States, who were not yet members of the IPU. They participated as observers.

***The following key topics were discussed at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly;***

### ***Education***

MPs explored the relationship between education, peace and democracy in the general debate on *'Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law'*. The outcome of the debate helped to inform the parliamentary contributions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN in July 2019, which would consider the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 4 (quality education) and 16 (peaceful societies, rule of law, strong and effective institutions at all levels).

Special guests in Doha who gave key note address on this topic included Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, and Dr Rafael Yuste, from the Brain Initiative, Columbia University, USA. Other Speakers included Mr Rajiv Uttamchandani, President of the HER Academy (Humanity Education Rights).

### ***Gender equality***

The IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians met during the Assembly to consider ways to encourage more women to enter politics. As reported recently by the IPU in its annual Women in Parliament analysis, the share of women in the Parliaments of the Middle East and North Africa region stood at 18 per cent compared with 4 per cent in 1995. A report was presented highlighting a number of positive steps gained recently in gender equality aspect: notable ones include: Qatar appointed its first women MPs; the Speaker of the United Arab Emirates Parliament became the first Woman Speaker of a National Parliament in the Arab world and a Presidential decree would implement 50% gender equality in elections later this year; Bahrain also has its first woman Speaker. Egypt is currently

debating a constitutional amendment to increase the quota of women in its House of Representatives.

### ***Counter-terrorism***

Global parliamentary coordination to counter terrorism and extremism conducive to violence was a prominent theme at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Delegates considered what action Parliaments could take to disrupt and mitigate the effects of terrorist activity.

MPs received a presentation from Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General from the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. They also had the opportunity to hear the testimonial of Ms Falmata Bunu, a Community Leader from a displacement camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria, who escaped after being abducted by Boko Haram.

### ***Human rights***

The IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights considered the key role Parliaments play in allocating resources and legislating to ensure universal health coverage by 2030. The Committee also examined parliamentary responses to attacks on freedom of expression and the right to information particularly in a changing media landscape where privacy and individual freedoms are under threat.

The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians met to consider the cases of 183 persecuted MPs from a dozen countries.

## ***Energy and poverty***

At a panel discussion at the Assembly, parliamentarians evaluated policies to reduce poverty by mobilizing more investment in renewable energies. It was noted that today, over one billion people still live without electricity; nearly three billion people cook or heat their homes with polluting fuels such as wood, resulting in air pollution that causes adverse health consequences.

The new IPU-UN Environment publication ‘Shades of green: an introduction to the green economy for parliamentarians’ was launched. Its deliberations also fed into IPU preparations for the Sustainable Development Goal Summit and other high level meetings on climate change at the UN in September 2019. It was announced that the 141st IPU Assembly would take place in Belgrade, Serbia, from 13-17 October 2019.

### **2.0 COMPOSITION OF THE EALA DELEGATION**

The delegation of the East African Legislative Assembly was composed of following:

1. Hon. Oburu Odinga Leader of delegation Representing the Speaker of EALA
2. Hon. Akol Rose Akullo Member
3. Hon. Garang Alaak Member
4. Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier Member
5. Hon. Maassay Pamela Simon Member
6. Mr. Manzi Victor Secretary to the delegation.

### **3.0 MEETINGS ATTENDED**

#### **(a) Session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

*The meeting was informed of the following issues arising from the Bureau of Parliamentarians;*

The Bureau had continued to promote IPU's work to address sexism, harassment and violence against women in Parliaments and decided to engage the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians in its efforts. The bureau further expressed support to the work of the Gender Partnership Group to promote gender parity at IPU Assemblies, in particular by further strengthening sanctions for single sex delegations, creating incentives for gender- balanced delegations and promoting a working environment that is gender responsive.

It was noted that 18 delegations of the IPU were all- male delegations, 32 delegations were gender balanced which represents more than one in five delegations. The delegations were encouraged to ensure gender parity.

*The following issues were highlighted;*

- Women were encouraged to be active and seek remedies to improve on their status and representation in Parliaments.
- Women were urged to lobby for provision of easily acceptable credit facilities by governments to ensure gender parity and participation.
- Women were challenged to identify gender gaps and ensure that gender responsive policies are in place to address the women related gender challenges.
- Education for girls and women is a top priority
- The need to give opportunity and affirmative action to vulnerable groups of women cannot be overemphasized.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION**

The panel discussion focused on sharing good practices, strategies, policies, legislation and measures to achieve gender equality, dignity, security and health at work as well as value of and sharing responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. It also addressed sexual harassment and violence at the workplace, the

ensuring of equitable social protection for all and the elimination of exploitation of all forms.

### **EQUALITY AT WORK**

The Forum noted that the global labour force is made up of only half of the women in the world and about 76 percent of the men in the world. The gap widens based on ethnicity as well as for migrant women and mothers.

Women workers are overrepresented in the informal economy, and in low- paid and low- skilled or unregulated jobs. They often face gender- based discrimination, violence and harassment in the workplace. Women also bear the burden of domestic work and tend to earn less than men for work of the same value of work.

The Forum further noted that women are the victims of the unacceptable scourge of modern slavery.

On the other hand, the forum noted that women's equal participation in the global labour force have contributed to approximately USD 12 trillion to the global economy. Gender equality has also had a multiplier effect for development, human rights and gender equality as women who are economically empowered are more likely to invest in nutrition, education and health, with great benefits for their children, families, communities and society as a whole.

***The forum thus undertook to ensure that Women parliamentarians have a duty to teach other women about equality at work and formulate the necessary laws to encourage girls to undertake non- conventional jobs.***

**b) MEETING ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE IPU, WHO AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH**

The meeting was organized on the sidelines of the 140th IPU. It highlighted the importance of Parliaments playing a crucial role to on Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) issues within the broader context of the health sector and the overall national development agenda. The meeting noted the following five core actions that Parliamentarians could take in positioning, promoting and protecting the health of women and children were:

- Representing the voice of women and children
- Advocating for SDGs 3, nationally and internationally
- Legislating to ensure universal access to essential care
- Budgeting for maternal, newborn and child health
- Holding the government to account for implementing policies

**c) GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS**

1. The Governing Council was informed of the demise of Hon. Dr Jiko Luveni, Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2018. A moment of silence was held in honour of the deceased.
2. The summary report for the 203<sup>rd</sup> session of the Governing Council was presented and adopted.

**4. REPORTS PRESENTED**

**a) *The Financial report of the IPU***

The IPU financial report was presented and it noted that the IPU financial statements were in compliance with the standard public order accounting



standards. The report further noted that the audit exercise performed yielded a good overall result and the Swiss office produced a report without any reservations. There were no operational problems attributed to the IPU Secretariat, and the Council applauded the IPU team on their impeccable work.

***Parliament of Rwanda agreed to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly and requested for financial support. It was noted that Cuba and Burkina Faso had benefitted from this arrangement before. The proposal was agreed to and the delegates informed that this would be part of the budget to be discussed at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU in Belgrade.***

***The Governing Council approved the financial report.***

#### **b) Report of the President**

*Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, the IPU president reported on her activities since the 203<sup>rd</sup> meeting.*

*She further noted that;*

- The IPU was due to celebrate its 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and urged Parliaments to celebrate and mark this event. Discussed the proposal to celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPU from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- She pledged to spend more time in Africa and Latin America in the next few months interacting with African Parliaments.

*Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron further noted as follows;*

- i. The Governing Council agreed to the proposals for the celebrations commemorating the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IPU as proposed by the Executive Committee and adopted the proposed communication strategy of

- the IPU.
- ii. The Executive Committee had no amendments to the rules however, she informed Members that Parliaments that send delegations of a single sex composition to the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU would have their voting rights curtailed.
  - iii. She informed the meeting that Rwanda had agreed to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU in 2020 and Austria to host the Fifth World Conference of Speakers in September 2020.
  - iv. She reported that the Executive Committee had agreed that the Fifth World Conference of Speakers be held in Vienna, Austria in September 2020.

**c) Annual report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU in 2018**

*Mr. Martin Chungong, the IPU Secretary General reported that;*

- The IPU website established in 2013 would be made more interactive this year.
- Reported a number of challenges especially the increase in the number of violation of the human rights of Parliaments around the world and the spread of violence and sexism against women. Urged the global Parliamentary community to tackle these issues in a more robust way.
- Noted that following the IPU has launched of the Centre of Innovation in Parliaments which will facilitate the MPS to have discussions regarding their affairs online. He reported that several countries had already volunteered to host regional centers of innovation.
- Institutional capacity of Parliaments had been built in 11 countries with emphasis on peer- to- peer support in order to identify areas of efficiency and;
- Further noted that the IPU was organizing several activities at regional levels and the Countries that had done self-assessment were on the increase.

C ) Address by Dr Oburu Leader of the East African Legislative Assembly.

In his address to the Assembly, the leader of delegation highlighted the following;

- Parliaments play a central role in upholding the rule of law and can further scrutinize by holding Governments to account and by ensuring proposed legislation does not offend principles of rule of law. He urged the IPU to ensure that promotes **legislation and enhance oversight on policies for sustainable peace**, access to education, **redress historical and contemporary injustices and** respect for diversity.
- He urged the IPU to ensure that it avails opportunities aimed at educating the masses on the importance of peace and adherence to the rule of law.
- Noted that, Parliamentarians should promote cohesiveness and educate humanity across the spectrum to seek peaceful ways of solving conflicts.
- He further emphasized that Leaders and citizens should respect national laws and attendant constitutions as Governments and security forces protect fundamental human and democratic rights, freedom of assembly and association.
- He reported that within the East African Community, the Treaty for the Establishment of the Community has placed emphasis on “peace and security as pre-requisites to social and economic development”. He informed the Assembly that EALA has passed the EAC Human and Peoples’ Rights Bill, 2012 and about 12 Resolutions on the subject matter. The Assembly is working closely EAC Secretariat and other institutions in promoting research, building pertinent partnerships and peace initiatives as measures to curtail forms of conflicts.

## 5) **SITUATION OF CERTAIN PARLIAMENT**

*The Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong presented the situation of certain parliaments as discussed in the Executive Committee and the positions agreed to*

*by the Governing Council as follows:*

### **Eritrea**

Noted that although Eritrea was not a member of the IPU, the Executive Committee had over time followed up on the issues in the country. He further noted that the whereabouts of 11 Members of the Parliament of Eritrea were not known until now. The Executive Committee would however continue to monitor this situation as well as the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

He reported that elections had recently taken place in September 2018 and March 2019 for the Members of Parliament and the country leadership. Urged the IPU to continue engaging with the Parliament and offer the necessary support.

### **Guinea Bissau**

Noted that this was a new Parliament and encouraged the IPU to continue its effort to support capacity building.

### **Libya**

Reported that elections took place in 2014 however there had been various strands of legislative authority exercised in the country. He noted that there was instability and insecurity in Tripoli and that the Executive Committee would make follow up action on the situation.

### **Thailand**

Reported that following a military takeover, there was an effort to return to constitutional rule. An election was held in March 2019 and by May 2019 a Parliament would be in place. He noted that the situation was now returning to normal.

## **Yemen**

The last time elections were held in Parliament was 2003, however the constitutional provision of Yemen allowed for sitting members to remain in Parliament until the next elections. Humanitarian assistance was still required for the people of Yemen and the IPU Executive Committee undertook to follow up on this.

## **Burundi**

The Secretary General reported on a follow up of his mission undertaken in Burundi in 2018 and the decisions made which were adopted by the IPU. He urged the IPU to continue providing technical assistance to the Parliament of Burundi so that the road map in place leads to free and fair elections in 2020.

## **Cambodia**

He noted that there was continuous concern about political freedoms in the country however elections were held in 2018 where the ruling party did not participate. He further noted that all seats in the Parliament were held by the ruling party and that a law on operation of political parties was being formulated.

A discussion was to be held with the Cambodian officials resolving outstanding political issues especially the participation of members of Parliament as mandated by the Constitution.

The Cambodian delegation however noted that they had a new mandate and this case should be dropped.

The delegation was informed that the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians would make a follow up of this matter and report to the Governing Council.

## **Maldives**

He reported progress on the political issues regarding the rights of Members of Parliament. Noted that elections were held in the Maldives and a President was elected. The MPs who had gone to exile were now back and their mandate revived. The IPU would however continue providing technical assistance to the newly elected Parliament.

## **Nicaragua**

The political situation had been of concern as expressed by a number of political actors. The Parliament had been tasked to take a more robust role regarding the crisis in Nicaragua and an update would be made in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

## **Sri Lanka**

The Parliament did not agree to the election of the newly appointed Prime Minister and the Speaker of Sri Lanka had expressed worry about the failure of the Executive to recognize the authority of Parliament.

The President moved to dissolve Parliament but the Constitutional Court rejected this position.

The Parliament was functioning though under difficult circumstances and there was concern about how some opposition parties were being treated in Parliament. Noted that all parties represented in Parliament should be allowed to contribute to Parliamentary proceedings.

## **Turkey**

The Committee took a decision to make a fact-finding Mission to Turkey and this had been a subject of discussion with the Turkish authorities. The mission had not taken place because the country was having elections at the time. This

Mission would soon be organized and a report made back to the Council.

## 6) **REPORTS ON RECENT IPU SPECIALIZED MEETINGS**

*The following reports were presented;*

### • **Activities of Committees and other bodies**

*Activities of committees and other bodies were presented as follows:*

- a) **Forum of Women Parliamentarians**, Hon. Susan Kihika President of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians, presented a report. In her report she noted the need to take a number of different measures; to strengthen the education of girls in culture, economics and trade, to strengthen equality at work and the need for men to play their paternal role to enable women to participate equitably. There was need to fight against sexism and work with the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to ensure equality between men and women.

She informed the Governing Council that the Bureau of the Forum of women Parliamentarians held a joint meeting with the Bureau of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians with an objective to fight sexism and ensure equality between the men and women of the IPU.

b) **Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

*The Committee President presented the report noting as follows:*

In 2018, 24% of the cases against the human rights of Parliamentarians were from Africa, 9% from Asia, 84 % concerned opposition members. Of the 145 cases in total, 64 were from Venezuela and 61 from Turkey.

She presented reports on action taken on human rights issues of Parliamentarians of the following countries; *Democratic Republic of Congo*

(DRC), Niger, Ecuador, Venezuela, Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia, Phillipines and Turkey.

- ***The Turkish delegation disagreed with the report presented by the committee noting that it had politically motivated innuendos and requested for an opportunity to be heard as Members of Parliament.***

***The IPU President reiterated the need for transparency and good will and the plan by the IPU to undertake a fact - finding visit in June 2019, including members of the Executive Committee and the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians.***

- ***The draft decisions of the Committee were adopted.***

**(c) The Committee on Middle East Questions**

Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada) was unanimously re-elected as the President of the Committee. She informed delegates that the committee held discussions on the security situation in several countries in the Middle East with a view to working towards lasting peace.

**(d) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU**

***Hon. Osoru Maureen, President of the Young Parliamentarians of the IPU presented the report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. In her report, she noted that*** the Forum met on with 61 young parliamentarians taking part. 35% of those attending were young women MPs. She noted that 21% of the MPs were young MPs, however there is need to reach the target of 25% of young MPs at IPU assemblies, further noting that in national parliaments, the youth were still vastly underrepresented. Only 2.2% of the world's MPs are under 30.



She called upon Parliaments to end discrimination based on age by lowering the requirements to run for office. She further reiterated the need to take strong measures to ensure that youth participation in Parliaments matches the youth in society. Quotas for youth and other measures are needed everywhere. There is need to apply the targets for youth participation that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians adopted in 2018 in Geneva.

During the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly, a new Board of the Forum was elected, with one young man and one young woman from each geopolitical group  
Noted that there was a position available for a young woman to join the Board from the Asia-Pacific Group.

#### **e) Gender Partnership Group**

The Gender Partnership Group reported that the percentage of women attending the Doha IPU was 30%, the lowest percentage attained in a number of years. It was further noted that 35 delegations out of 107 delegations constituted 40% to 60% women, the said delegations were applauded by the Council.

Notice was made that amendments would be made to the rules statutes to curtail the voting rights of single sex delegations. The amendments would be forwarded to member Parliaments in a May 2019.

### **7) ASSEMBLY**

#### **a) Address by the IPU President**

In her Address to the Assembly, the IPU President, *Ms. Gabriella Cuevas Barron* emphasized the importance of promoting education as means of empowering the citizens across the world. She further highlighted the need for education to promote legislation for all, to promote democracy and equality between men and women and an enhanced budget for education.

She noted that there was need to strive and live in a more inclusive world without any obstacles for development and emphasized the need to create a better

environment for the new generation ensuring sustainability of the planet.

**b) Message from the UN Secretary General**

In the message from Mr. Antonio Guterras, UN Secretary General, emphasized that multilateralism is the only way to address the challenges that global Parliaments face. The message further recognized the work of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and Young Parliamentarians and noted that there is still a lot of work to be done for the nations around the world.

**c) General debate of the Assembly on the theme;**

*The Assembly held a general debate on the theme; **“Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and rule of law”**. The following salient issues were highlighted;*

Peace, security and rule of law were enduring objectives of the international community, yet despite tremendous efforts, including the development of robust international institutions and mechanisms, these goals remained elusive.

The Assembly noted that education is a human right, enshrined in international conventions and the state has a responsibility to provide accessible, quality education to all its citizens. The Assembly further noted that education is a public good that serves state interests. Investing in education offers a strong return on investment for more peaceful, happier and prosperous societies.

The Assembly noted that SDG 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the link between education and peace. Target 7 of SDG 4 calls on governments to ensure education for human rights, gender quality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and cultural diversity. It reinforces the idea that education is more than about having smarter people and transferring skills, it is about shaping more peaceful global citizens. It helps people to better understand the world, participate in public life, and lead more meaningful and

peaceful lives.

Gender discrimination in education was a destabilizing factor for society. Girls' unequal access to education due to pregnancy, poverty and early marriage leads to inequalities in society that fuel intolerance and violence, hamper development and make women and girls vulnerable to abuse. Ensuring equal access of girls and women to all sectors of education is therefore a pillar for peaceful, safe, resilient and prosperous societies.

Education must be a life-long opportunity involving continuous training for people of all ages in a quickly evolving job market. Education holds the key to moving away from a future of unemployment to one of redeployment.

## **8. RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION**

*The Assembly adopted the following resolutions and other documentation attached herewith;*

- 1) The Doha Declaration on Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law;
- 2) The resolution on the appeal for urgent support to Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe affected by cyclone Idai – proposed by the Netherlands;
- 3) The resolution on non- admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security, the territorial integrity of States and violating human rights;
- 4) The resolution on the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic quality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation;
- 5) The Report by the Standing committee on Peace and International Security;
- 6) The Report by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and;
- 7) The Report by the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

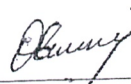
**The venue for the 141<sup>ST</sup> IPU Assembly was agreed to as Belgrade, Serbia from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU as Kigali, Rwanda in 2020.**

## **9. CONCLUSION**

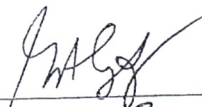
The delegation actively participated in the meetings and side events of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU. The delegation further noted the issues that will be addressed by the East African Legislative Assembly for the effective delivery of its mandate to the people of East Africa. The delegation would also wish to extend special thanks to the Rt. Hon. Speaker for granting it an opportunity to travel to Doha to attend 140 IPU meetings. The delegation would further like to recommend that the Assembly pursues engaging the IPU such that Regional Parliaments are given full memberships of the IPU.

**EALA DELEGATION TO THE 140<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY – APRIL 2019**

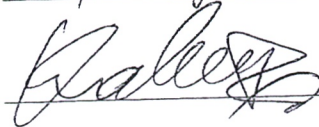
1. Hon. Dr. Oburu Oginga, Leader of delegation



2. Hon. Gabriel Garang Alaak, Member



3. Hon. Kalinda Francois Xavier, Member



4. Hon. Pamela Maassay, Member

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5. Hon. Akol Rose Okullu, Member

