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Amir 995

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REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
TENTH PARLIAMENT - FOURTH SESSION**

**REPORT OF THE IPU, KENYA DELEGATION TO THE 123<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY  
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
4 - 6 OCTOBER 2010**

Clerk's Chambers  
National Assembly  
Parliament Building

November 2010

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## 1.0 FOREWARD

This report summarizes the proceedings and resolutions of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland from Monday, 4 October 2010 to Wednesday, 6 October 2010.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In line with Article 10(1) of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, you nominated the following members to comprise the Kenyan delegation to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly:

- (i) The Hon. Farah Maalim, EGH, MP – Deputy Speaker and Leader of the Delegation
- (ii) The Hon. (Dr.) Joyce Laboso, MP
- (iii) The Hon. Ntoitha M'Mithiaru, MP
- (iv) The Hon. Thomas Mwadeghu, MP

The Members were accompanied by:

- 
- (i) Mr. Michael R. Sialai – Principal Clerk Assistant and Secretary to the Delegation
  - (ii) Ms. Anne A. Musandu – Third Clerk Assistant and Secretary to the Delegation
  - (iii) Mr. Hassan A. Odhwa – Personal Assistant to the Deputy Speaker and Leader of the Delegation

I wish to thank you for the opportunity and onus granted to the Members to represent the Kenyan Parliament at this important forum of parliaments of sovereign states. The meeting accorded parliamentarians the occasion to deliberate on key global issues.

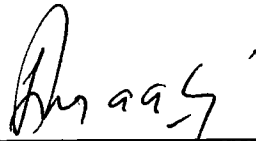
Further, the parliaments represented had the opportunity to celebrate the successes of the efforts of the Union in finding solutions to problems facing the nations of the world.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Members of the delegation, I wish to submit the report and resolutions of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings in accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU that state that:

*"it is the duty of the Members of the Union to submit the resolutions of the Union within their respective Parliaments in the most appropriate form to communicate them to the Government, to stimulate their implementation and to inform the Secretariat of the Union as often and as fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, as to the steps taken and the results obtained."*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir

**SIGNED**



**The Hon. Farah Maalim, EGH, MP**  
**LEADER OF THE KENYA DELEGATION**

**DATED**

22<sup>ND</sup> NOV. 2010



## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organization of Parliaments of sovereign States established in 1889.

The IPU supports efforts of the United Nations whose objectives it shares, and with which it works in close cooperation. It also cooperates with regional interparliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations that are motivated by the same ideals. The IPU meets twice a year to study international problems of current concern. It also convenes symposia and special conferences. The congregation of parliamentarians provides fora for deliberation on pertinent and contemporary issues affecting humanity. The IPU's main areas of activity include representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.

The IPU is a centre for dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy among legislators representing every political system and all the main political leanings in the world.

To this end, its objectives are:

- fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- considering questions of international interest and expressing its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
- contributing to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

### **3.0 PARTICIPATION**

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union opened its proceedings at the Geneva International Conference Centre on the morning of Monday, 4 October, 2010. The President of the IPU, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, welcomed the participants, and declared the Assembly officially open. He was subsequently elected President of the Assembly and the Vice-Presidents of the IPU Vice-Presidents of the Assembly as follows:

***African Group:*** Mrs. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria)

***Group of Latin America and the Caribbean:*** Mr. A. Alonso Díaz –Caneja (Mexico)

***Arab Group:*** Mr. R. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates)

***Asia-Pacific Group:*** Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan (Viet Nam)

***Twelve Plus Group:*** Mr. R. del Picchia (France)

***Eurasia Group:*** Mr. M. Vardanyan (Armenia)

The 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the IPU was attended by 1,023 delegates, 460 were members of parliament. The parliamentarians included 22 Speakers, 39 Deputy Speakers and 148 women parliamentarians (32%).

Delegations from the following 118 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda,

Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Observers included among others representatives of: United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); League of Arab States, African Parliamentary Union (APU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Koffi Annan Foundation.

#### **4.0 CONFERENCE TOPICS**

Three major topics were discussed at the Conference:

- (i) Preventing electoral violence and ensuring the smooth transition of power (*First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)
- (ii) Management of natural resources, agricultural production and demographic change (*Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
- (iii) Transparency and accountability in political party funding (*Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)

#### **Choice of an Emergency Item**

The Assembly had before it two requests for the inclusion of an emergency item: one submitted by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, entitled *The importance of international inter-parliamentary cooperation for natural disaster response, in particular with regard to relief aid in flood-stricken Pakistan*, and another, presented by the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled *The urgent need for immediate action by the IPU and its Member Parliaments to encourage international relief efforts in flood-stricken Pakistan*.

Considering that both proposals referred to the same situation, at the President's suggestion, the Assembly decided to combine both proposals under the title

***Immediate action to support international relief efforts in response to natural disasters, in particular with regard to flood-stricken Pakistan.*** The proposal was adopted by acclamation and added to the agenda as Item 6.

## **5.0 REPORT OF THE 258<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee held its 258<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva on Thursday, 30 September and Friday, 1, Saturday 2 and Tuesday, 5 October 2010. The President chaired the meetings.

The Executive Committee elected by acclamation Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria) as its Vice President.

Below is a summary of the key issues discussed:

- (i) The Committee was informed of efforts to increase the membership of the IPU. A meeting held in Auckland with leaders of Pacific parliaments had provided an opportunity to discuss steps that could be taken to facilitate their participation in the work of IPU.
- (ii) Since majority of observer organizations had declared their interest in continuing to participate in IPU events, the Committee recommended that the status of all current permanent observers be maintained. At the same time, it noted a worrying increase in the size of observer delegations to the IPU and requested the Secretary General to ensure that rules on the participation of observer organizations be respected at all times.
- (iii) The Committee had a preliminary exchange of views on a first draft strategy for the IPU's future development.
- (iv) The Committee discussed the functioning of Standing Committees and decided to revert to the issue in the context of future consideration of the strategy for IPU's development. It decided that the issue of a possible convention for the IPU and a new agreement on cooperation with the United Nations would be considered at a later stage in light of the outcome of the initial exercise.
- (v) The Committee debated extensively the financial situation of the IPU and the programme and budget for 2011 and beyond
- (vi) The Committee exchanged views on an action plan to strengthen the management, structure, functions and work processes of the IPU Secretariat.
- (vii) It also endorsed proposals for a new communication policy for the IPU which would shift in focus towards parliaments and how the IPU could be more relevant to their needs.

## **6.0 THE 187<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **1. Membership of the IPU**

At its sitting on Monday, 4 October 2010, the Governing Council took note that the Secretary General had been in contact over recent months with parliaments that were not members of that Organization. He informed the Council that, at the initiative of the Parliaments of Australia and New Zealand, a meeting had taken place with the parliaments from the Pacific Islands, and it was hoped that a mechanism would be devised to allow them to become members in the near future.

At the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly, the Governing Council granted observer status to:

- *the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA); and,*
- *the Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD).*

### **2. Reports on activities of IPU Members**

The Governing Council took note of the reports submitted by 58 IPU Members on how their Parliaments had followed up and implemented recommendations contained in the three resolutions adopted by the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament issues, climate change and renewable energies, and freedom of expression and the right to information.

### **3. Financial situation of the IPU**

The Council was presented with a comprehensive report on the financial situation of the IPU as at 30 June 2010, and an updated list of unpaid contributions as at 30 September 2010.

The Council further took note of the Secretary General's projected operating surplus of CHF 227,714 notwithstanding some new activities and higher than expected expenditure on others due to lower than foreseen expenses for interpretation, translation/editing, publishing and institutional gifts for the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, and other savings achieved under External Relations and Programmes Divisions.

#### **4. Programme and budget for 2011**

The Council received the budget proposal for 2011 and a summary of planned activities and requirements for 2011-2013.

During the debate, one Member proposed that the Secretariat continue its efforts to reduce costs, as some parliaments had not been able to send delegations to the Assembly due to financial constraints.

Following the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Governing Council approved the new scale of contributions and the revised 2011 budget. It approved gross operating expenses of CHF18,086,540 and capital expenditures of CHF125,000.

#### **5. Cooperation with the United Nations system**

The Governing Council took stock of recent developments in IPU-UN cooperation, and was informed of a variety of activities carried out in collaboration with or in support of the United Nations.

The Council noted in particular the many activities, including in-depth studies and reports, carried out by the IPU in support of parliamentary action to achieve the MDGs, as well as the input provided by the IPU to the 2010 high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the MDGs. The Council adopted a statement on the MDGs, in which the IPU pledged to continue to mobilize parliaments in their efforts to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The Governing Council welcomed the biennial Report of the UN Secretary-General on Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU, and in particular its conclusions and recommendations for further action.

The Council endorsed a draft resolution in which it recommended that States adopt at the UN General Assembly when debating the cooperation item on its agenda. All Member Parliaments were encouraged to work closely with their foreign ministries to garner strong support for the UN General Assembly resolution.

## **6. Consolidation of the reform of the IPU**

The Governing Council received a first draft of a strategic plan for the IPU. The document described IPU today, how it was depicted in its Statutes and Rules and the internal and external environment in which it operated. It highlighted some of the challenges facing the organization, its strengths and comparative advantages.

Several delegates expressed support for the exercise. They pleaded for sufficient time to carry out the process so that all Members could participate and commit themselves to the outcome. They underscored that the strategy would have to take account of the current financial difficulties facing parliaments in all parts of the world.

The President announced that the Executive Committee would *hold a three-day extraordinary session in February 2011 to convert the draft strategy into a concise document expressing a clear vision for the IPU and its strategic development over the coming years*. The document would be circulated to all Members in time for them to consider it at the 124<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

## **7. Recent specialized conferences and meetings**

The Council noted the occasion and results of the following specialized conferences and meetings:

- (i) the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments;
- (ii) the Sixth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament;
- (iii) the Regional Seminar for Latin American Parliaments on Violence against Women;
- (iv) the Third Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society;
- (v) a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference;
- (vi) a Regional Conference "Towards enhanced parliamentary action to combat the trafficking of children for purposes of labour exploitation in West and Central Africa";
- (vii) a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 2010 Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations;
- (viii) a Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the XVII International AIDS Conference;
- (ix) a Regional Workshop for Arab Parliaments on implementing CEDAW and ending violence against women; and,



- (x) a Regional Seminar on parliamentary oversight in the area of security in West Africa.<sup>†</sup>

## **8. Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees**

At its sitting on Wednesday, 6 October, the Council heard the reports of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions and the Gender Partnership Group.

## **9. Future inter-parliamentary meetings**

The Governing Council took note of the dates for the next four Assemblies, which would be held in Panama, Bern, Kampala and Quebec City respectively.

## **10. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules**

The Governing Council approved amendments to Rules 8 and 9 of the Rules of Standing Committees and Rule 3 of the Rules of the Secretariat (*Appendix II*).

## DEBATES AND DECISIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

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### 7.0 DEBATE ON THE EMERGENCY ITEM

***Immediate action to support international relief efforts in response to natural disasters, in particular with regard to flood-stricken Pakistan (Item 6)***

The debate on the emergency item took place in the afternoon of Monday, 4 October. It was chaired by Mr. A. Alonso Díaz-Caneja (Mexico), Vice-President of the Assembly. A total of 41 speakers from 38 parliamentary delegations and one observer took part.

During the debate, speakers expressed their deep concern over the situation in flood-stricken Pakistan and other countries recently affected by natural disasters, and expressed their sympathy with the victims and their families. They urged all parliamentarians to seize that opportunity to promote international inter-parliamentary cooperation aimed at mitigating human suffering and accelerating rehabilitation and reconstruction by providing food, shelter and technical assistance to re-establish the agro industry, infrastructure and health and sanitation facilities.

Several speakers also underscored the need to ensure that assistance reached the victims in Pakistan and to keep the world's attention focused on the post-flood situation until such time as the flood-affected areas were fully reconstructed, a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Many speakers also underscored the need to immediately and effectively deal with the issue of climate change and improve parliamentary oversight of that issue with a view to mitigating the impact of future natural disasters. They urged all nations to comply with international commitments such as the Kyoto Protocol. They issued an urgent appeal to establish a global fund able to tackle unanticipated disasters and phenomena immediately, and urged the IPU to establish a committee to follow that important issue and promote and monitor the creation of such a fund.

Hon. Farah Maalim, MP, who lead and represented the Kenya delegation during the debate stated that in spite of Kenya's numerous economic and social challenges, joined the international community in reacting to international call for help. He informed the plenary that the Government and the people of Kenya led by His Excellency, President Mwai Kibaki, CGH, MP donated over 100 tonnes of food aid comprising rice, tea, powder milk and canned beef to flood victims in Pakistan.

He observed that leadership shown by parliaments and parliamentarians was required to mitigate the effects of such disasters through ratification of treaties related to climate change as this was a major cause of frequent natural disasters.

He further observed that parliamentarians through parliamentary diplomacy could promote international cooperation in the fields of early warning interventions, disaster mitigation recovery and reconstruction.

He urged parliaments to support all disaster prevention measures, humanitarian aid and long-term reconstruction assistance implemented by governments, international organizations and others.

The broad range of concerns expressed during the debates were reflected in the draft resolution, which was prepared by a drafting committee composed of representatives of the parliaments of: Bahrain, Benin, Cambodia, Canada, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey and Uganda. It appointed Mr. H. Khan (Pakistan) as its president and Mr. B. Rae (Canada) as its rapporteur.

The draft resolution was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on Wednesday, 6 October.

***See Appendix I for resolutions***



## **8.0 FIRST STANDING COMMITTEE SUBJECT ITEM AT THE 124<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY (PANEL DISCUSSION)**

***Providing a sound legislative framework aimed at preventing electoral violence, improving election monitoring and ensuring the smooth transition of power (Item 3(a))***

The panel discussion took place in the morning of Tuesday, 5 October. It was chaired by Mr. T. Boa (Côte d'Ivoire), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. Mr. W. Madzimore (Zimbabwe) presented the draft report by the co-Rapporteurs in the absence of Mr. J. D. Seelam (India).

Participants also heard keynote presentations from Mr. N. Kaczorowski, Head, Election Department, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Mr. A. Bradley, Director of Global Programmes, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). They stated that a sound legal framework for free and fair elections encompassed a wide range of elements, ranging from the choice of electoral system to the creation of appropriate dispute-settlement mechanisms.

As many as 44 legislators from many parliaments took part in the ensuing debate. They noted that at election time, when the stakes were particularly high, the struggle for power sometimes took violent forms. Electoral violence was a reflection of the ability of the political system to manage the tension between the competing interests of society.

A number of factors were identified that could contribute to, or mitigate, the risk of electoral violence, not least voter education. Citizens needed to understand the political process in order to be able to participate effectively. Greater knowledge of the purpose of elections, the place of parliament and the role of political parties in a democratic system of governance contributed to a healthy political environment. The ultimate test of an election was whether or not the results were acceptable to citizens. The perception of an uneven playing field or manipulated election results heightened the risk of violence.

The independence of the national electoral commission, which managed the entire electoral process, was seen by several participants as a sine qua non for a free and fair

election. The impartiality of the judiciary and the security forces was also crucial. The State administration, at all levels, must respect strict neutrality throughout the electoral process.

Political parties and individual candidates were largely responsible for fostering a climate of political tolerance. In many countries, parties were required to sign a code of conduct for the electoral period. Respect for political opponents and intra-party democracy helped lower the risk of violence.

Election observation by national and international observers could play a significant role in building confidence in the electoral process. To be effective, observation must take place over the entire electoral cycle, not just on polling day. More work was required to develop standards for observation of the post-election violence phase, including the announcement of election results and the management of legal challenges thereto.

Hon. Thomas Mwaideghu, MP and Hon. (Dr.) Joyce Laboso, MP who represented Kenya in the Committee pointed out that the penultimate challenge for democracy was how to creatively manage political competition in such a way that it does not trigger national disintegration, exclusion, fragmentation and polarization, eventually leading to violent civil conflicts.

One of the long-term and sustainable measures is to establish legal and constitutional reforms that establish strong governance institutions that act as checks and balances to avoid excess of each other. Continuous civic education, respect for the rule of law is critical as is a free and responsible media.

## 9.0 SECOND STANDING COMMITTEE SUBJECT ITEM AT THE 124<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY (PANEL DISCUSSION)

***The role of parliaments in ensuring sustainable development through the management of natural resources, agricultural production and demographic change (Item 3 (b))***

The panel discussion took place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 5 October with Mr. P. Martin Lalande (France), President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair. One of the two co-Rapporteurs appointed by the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly, Mr. A. Cherrar (Algeria), was in attendance. The other, Ms. K. G. Ferrier (Netherlands), had been prevented from attending. She was replaced at the session by her parliamentary colleague, Mr. K. Putters, who complemented Mr. Cherrar's presentation of the draft report that had been prepared jointly by both co-Rapporteurs.

Given the exceptionally broad scope of the subject, Mr. U. Hoffmann, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was invited to provide a comprehensive scientific overview of the problem of managing the earth's resources. He focused on why agriculture was so important for both development and developing countries and what policy changes were required in the light of global warming.

A total of 36 delegates took the floor in the exchange of views that took place. It is noteworthy that one third of these were women.

The delegates agreed that there was good reason to feel concerned over the question of how to feed the planet's growing population, provide it with sustainable living conditions and manage its natural resources in a responsible way. It was vital to adopt an integrated and proactive approach. The discussion focused on a number of interrelated policy areas identified in the draft report as being of primary importance for achieving that objective.

Both the draft report and the panel discussion served as reminders that, together with governments, management agencies and private stakeholders, legislators were largely responsible for putting in place and implementing sustainable development policies.



## **10.0 THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE SUBJECT ITEM AT THE 124<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY (PANEL DISCUSSION)**

### ***Transparency and accountability in political party funding (Item 3(c))***

The panel discussion took place in the afternoon of Tuesday, 5 October with Mr. J. C. Mahía (Uruguay), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, in the chair. Mr. P. Moriau (Belgium) and Ms. M. Kubayi (South Africa), presented their draft reports. They said they intended to present a unified report following the panel discussion and asked participants to make contributions that would enrich the report and the future draft resolution.

The participants heard a presentation by Mr. A. Bradley, Director of Global Programmes, International IDEA. A total of 32 delegates took the floor during the debate.

Political parties played an important role in the political process. They helped articulate the wishes of the people and transform them into policies and actions that responded to those wishes. As key instruments in the democratic sphere, therefore, they needed resources to function properly. Those resources could come from both public and private sources.

Participants provided examples of how political parties were funded in their countries and mechanisms that had been put in place to ensure their responsible use. It was clear from the discussions that many countries provided for public funding of political parties. Such funding could be direct in the form of subsidies allocated by the state, most often taking into account the representativeness of the parties based on their electoral weight. Indirect funding included the allocation of airtime on State-owned media to parties to express their views. Other mechanisms included tax deductions.

Participants recognized the importance of private funding for political parties. However, many delegates expressed concern that a part of such funding could come from dubious sources. Discussions also focused on the negative role of some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and large corporate entities could play in unduly influencing the political process and decision-making through generous funding of political parties. There was also broad agreement that where funding from foreign sources is allowed,



measures should be taken to ensure that it was not used to unduly influence or subvert political and other outcomes in the countries of the recipient parties.

Participants underscored the importance of setting guidelines to foster transparency and accountability, key precepts of democracy. Reference was made to limiting the amount of funding that could be received from various sources, the need for parties to disclose the sources and extent of funding they received and to report on how those funds were utilized, in particular when the funding came from public sources.

As for mechanisms for sanctioning violations of funding regulations, participants were divided between instituting stringent punitive measures for defaulting parties and establishing self-regulatory mechanisms, including codes of conduct and integrity of political parties.

The resolution to be adopted at the 124<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Panama should reflect those concerns and identify mechanisms that the IPU could institute to help parliaments ensure transparency and accountability. Such mechanisms should take into account the prevailing realities in the different countries rather than seek a one-size-fits-all approach.

## **11.0 REPORT OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS**

The Committee met from 4 to 6 October 2010. It was briefed by the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on the outcome of the recent UN Summit on the MDGs. He focused in particular on the section, "The Way Forward", which identified the steps that still needed to be taken to achieve all the MDGs. It was considered that gender equality had the largest multiplier effect and was an area where the IPU could make a significant contribution.

The IPU comparative study on how parliaments worked in support of the MDGs was also presented to the Committee. The study, which reviewed parliamentary mechanisms for the MDGs in seven countries (India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa), was commented on by Hon. Ntoitha M'Mithiaru, MP of Kenya (panelist) and others that were exploring similar mechanisms. Parliamentarians from both developed and developing countries stated their commitment to continue to work towards achieving MDGs by the target date of 2015.

The Committee devoted its second session to the Brussels Programme of Action and preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC IV) scheduled for 2011.

- In the ensuing round table discussion, participants and presenters underscored the importance of parliamentary involvement in the design, implementation and review of the programme of action for LDCs.

The Committee reviewed the cooperation between the IPU and the UN system over the past five years. It heard the 2010 report of the UN Secretary-General on Cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU, and welcomed the growing, more substantive partnership between the two organizations.

The Committee discussed political challenges facing the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Cancún, Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

- Legislators were encouraged to join their national delegations to the Climate Change Conference in December.

At its last sitting, the Committee was briefed on the results of the Beijing +15 review on gender equality. It was noted that while some progress had been made, important challenges remained, which required the active participation of parliaments. Issues of particular relevance included the need to:

- Improve enforcement of the existing legislative framework and oversight on gender policies;
- Review and amend discriminatory legislation and practices;
- Base policies on sex-disaggregated data and analysis; and,
- Mainstream gender into the work of parliaments.

The Committee urged all Member Parliaments to discuss follow up of the Beijing commitments and monitor progress.

The Committee heard a presentation on the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *UN WOMEN*. It welcomed the establishment of that body and called for parliaments to support it and follow its work.

## 12.0 COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians met on Sunday, 3 October 2010. The session was chaired by Mrs. S. Greiss (Egypt), President of the Committee, followed up on the previous Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and laid ground work for its next session. In addition, the Coordinating Committee discussed the contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to the 123<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly.

- (i) The Committee heard a report on follow up by the members of the Coordinating Committee of the Fifteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, held in Bangkok, which had been dedicated to human trafficking and violence against women in places of detention and prisons, and discussed its contribution to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Assembly.
- (ii) The Committee took stock of the preparations under way for the Sixteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.
- (iii) It decided after a vote to examine the items on the agenda of 124<sup>th</sup> Assembly attributed to the First and Third Committee.
- (iv) It also decided to hold a discussion on the conclusion of the study on gender-sensitive parliaments.
- (v) Following a presentation made by a UNICEF Representative, the Committee decided to organize a panel discussion, *Narrowing the gaps: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with equity for children*, at the 124<sup>th</sup> Assembly.
- (vi) The Committee exchanged views on how to enhance the work of the Meeting and Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and ensure the full participation of women MPs at IPU Assemblies.
- (vii) It stressed the importance of giving greater visibility to the work of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and its Coordinating Committee, both within and outside the IPU.

In addition,

- (i) To attract the media and the wider public, the Committee suggested establishing an international award to popularize the work of parliamentarian and/or institutions that made a significant contribution to gender equality.
- (ii) Regarding the participation of women MPs at the IPU meetings, the Committee suggested examining new measures to enhance women's participation in delegations to IPU Assemblies or other meetings.

- (iii) Concerning gender mainstreaming at all levels of the IPU, the Committee discussed ways of ensuring that the Rapporteurs of the three Standing Committees took into account the gender perspective from the moment they started preparing the draft report.
- (iv) Lastly, following an address by the Secretary General, the Committee decided to participate in the preparation of the organization's Strategic Plan, currently underway.

### **13.0 COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Ms. Z. Benarous (Algeria), Ms. S. Carstairs (Canada), Ms. R. Green (Mexico), Mr. K. Jalali (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium) participated in the Committee's 131<sup>st</sup> session, which took place from 2 to 5 October 2010.

The Committee examined the individual situation of 306 sitting and former parliamentarians from 35 countries. It held seven meetings with official delegations and also met with the parliamentarians concerned or their representatives in four of the cases. The Committee conducted 13 hearings in relation to cases it was studying. The resolutions submitted for approval to the Governing Council concerned cases in 21 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Ecuador, Eritrea, Iraq, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Palestine/Israel, Philippines, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Zimbabwe. One case was presented for the first time

### **14.0 IPU FUTURE MEETINGS**

	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>1.</b>	124 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings ( <i>Agenda attached – Appendix III</i> )	Panama City, PANAMA	15 – 20 April 2011
<b>2.</b>	125 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings	Bern, SWITZERLAND	16 – 19 October 2011
<b>3.</b>	126 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings	Kampala, UGANDA	31 March – 5 April 2012
<b>4.</b>	127 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings	Quebec City, CANADA	21 – 26 October 2012



## **Appendix I**

### **IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO FLOOD-STRICKEN PAKISTAN *Resolution adopted unanimously by the 123rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, 6 October 2010)***

The 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the resolution on the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile adopted by the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, 2010), which acknowledges that the growing frequency, intensity and impact of disasters pose a significant threat to people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

*Also recalling* the resolution on natural disasters adopted by the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005), which proposes that nations further strengthen their cooperation on disaster-prevention efforts,

*Further recalling* previous United Nations General Assembly resolutions on enhancing humanitarian aid in natural disasters, in particular resolution 64/294 of 24 August 2010, which urges the international community, in particular donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to extend full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of the floods and to meet the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs,

*Noting* the international framework for action provided by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015; which were the main outcomes of the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

*Also noting* the decisions of the Forty-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the establishment of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF) as a mechanism for ensuring that funds go where they are most needed and that there is a rapid and coordinated response by the international community to natural disasters,

*Underscoring* the importance of international inter-parliamentary cooperation in natural disaster mitigation, given the growing role played by international and regional inter-parliamentary organizations in related social and humanitarian areas,

*Deeply concerned* about the suffering endured by the victims of natural disasters - loss of life, refugee flows, collective displacement of populations, and physical and financial destruction - and *considering* that this should serve to promote international inter-parliamentary cooperation aimed at mitigating human suffering and accelerating rehabilitation and reconstruction,

*Considering* that over 2,000 lives were lost in the floods in Pakistan, 2 million people were displaced and the physical damage and resulting economic losses were huge; *also considering* that, according to Pakistani Government figures, more than 20 million people have been left homeless, over 1.8 million houses damaged, 3,000 people injured, 40 bridges damaged, 2 million hectares of cultivated land fouled, 1.3 million hectares of standing crops destroyed, 1.2 million heads of livestock drowned, 3.5 million jobs lost, and 1,300 schools and 5,000 health facilities damaged,

*Noting* that the massive scale of destruction and loss of life caused by the unprecedented flooding, which was itself triggered by torrential rainfall in an otherwise arid region, reflects the adverse impact of climate change and the growing vulnerability of countries to such change,

*Also noting* the growing number and complexity of human catastrophes and natural disasters, the impact of which exceeds the disaster-response capacity of many affected countries, in particular their ability to provide food, medicine, shelter and health care to disaster victims,

*Expressing* its sincere sympathy and solidarity with the people and communities affected by disasters, particularly those in flood-stricken Pakistan, in the wake of the extensive damage and loss of life and property and the collective suffering that they have endured,

*Praising* the efforts made by the Government of Pakistan to reverse the negative impact of the recent disaster on people's daily lives,

1. *Urges* the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society to extend their full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan and to mitigate the adverse impact of the floods by taking swift measures such as writing off and/or rescheduling Pakistan's debt, providing market access to revive Pakistan's economy and investing in medium and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction projects;
2. *Appeals* to international and regional parliamentary organizations, UN agencies and relevant regional and international organizations to redouble their efforts and develop programmes to heighten awareness of the damages caused by and potential risks of the flood in Pakistan and of the need for Pakistan to overcome this disaster;
3. *Underscores* the importance of a rapid response by the international community, in particular the United Nations, to meet the needs of people affected by natural hazards that may become disasters, especially the people of Pakistan, who have sustained heavy losses as a result of the recent devastating floods, and *urges* all potential stakeholders to extend humanitarian aid to all those affected by such a disaster;



4. *Requests* the relevant UN bodies to take into account the needs identified by the authorities of Pakistan and *calls upon* international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and governments to further contribute to the efforts aimed at meeting the needs of the people in the flood-stricken areas of Pakistan, and *encourages* the Government of Pakistan to continue its own efforts to introduce the financial and economic reform required for successful reconstruction;
5. *Appeals* to that the international community to respond rapidly and appropriately by contributing to the Pakistan Emergency Fund established by the United Nations and increasing the budget allocated to UN CERF, and *calls upon* donor countries to secure reliable and diverse donations for this Fund;
6. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their governments to prioritize compliance with international commitments such as the Kyoto Protocol and other agreements dealing with climate change;
7. *Also calls upon* governments to provide adequate and accessible resources to UN agencies involved in funding and providing disaster assistance, and *appeals* to the IPU to support UN efforts in this area by developing a parliamentary programme on disaster-risk reduction that encompasses mitigation, prevention and preparedness;
8. *Encourages* all governments to further coordinate their international relief, reconstruction and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian agencies, and to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of the need for disaster-risk reduction through public awareness, education and training;
9. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their governments - through their legislative and oversight roles - the United Nations and its specialized agencies and all relevant regional and international organizations to develop disaster-risk-reduction strategies, facilitate the exchange of relevant technology, establish early warning systems, and develop rapid response mechanisms, in particular under the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) launched by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP and UNISDR;
10. *Appeals* to the United Nations to hold an international conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas in Pakistan, on the understanding that one day of the proceedings will be devoted to an IPU-sponsored parliamentary meeting, and *calls upon* the UN Secretary-General to take the necessary action to that end;
11. *Issues* an urgent call for all nations, acting within the framework of a strategy to manage

unforeseen events, and in view of the need to ensure global security, to establish a global fundable to tackle unanticipated disasters and phenomena immediately, and *urges* the IPU to establish a committee to follow this important issue and to promote and monitor the creation of such a fund;

12. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to report on implementation of this resolution at the 124th IPU Assembly.

## *Appendix II*

### **Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 187th session  
(Geneva, 6 October 2010)*

#### **RULES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

Rule 38.1 of the Rules of the Standing Committees states that "*the Governing Council shall adopt and amend the Standing Committee's Rules*". Furthermore Rule 38.2 indicates that "*Proposals for amending the Standing Committees' Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the Secretariat of the Union at least three months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Members of the Union. It shall communicate any proposal for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council*".

In accordance with the Rules, the proposed amendments are as follows:

#### **Rule 8**

1. A Committee officer shall not be eligible for re-election to the same post, **either as titular or substitute**, after four years in office.
2. When a Committee officer has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the post held previously.

#### **Rule 9**

1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President, **or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8)**.
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as President or Vice-President of a Standing Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.8 and Standing Committees, Rule 10.2).
3. There shall be no candidates for the post of President of a Standing Committee from a Member of the Union represented on the Executive Committee.

## RULES OF THE SECRETARIAT

### Rule 3

1. In accordance with the recruitment procedure appended to these Rules, the Secretary General shall be **elected or re-elected** by the Governing Council on the proposal of the Executive Committee **for a four-year term, renewable twice** (cf. Statutes Art. 21(l), 24.2(h) and 26.1). The terms of the Secretary General's appointment shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee may propose to the Governing Council that it waive the procedure set out in paragraph (1) above and vote on the re-appointment of the incumbent Secretary General.

\* \* \* \*

### PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

#### **Vacancy announcement**

The selection process for the post of Secretary General will commence ten months before the expiry of the current term of the Secretary General.

A vacancy announcement containing a description of the functions of the Secretary General and the skills and qualifications required of candidates will at that time be circulated to all Member Parliaments of the IPU.

The announcement will also be placed on IPU's website and shared with the United Nations system. All parliaments will be invited to publicize the announcement in the manner they deem fit.

At the same time as it finalizes the vacancy announcement, the Executive Committee will agree on a set of minimum requirements that have to be met by candidates in order to be retained during the initial selection process.

#### **Presentation of candidatures**

Candidatures can be submitted by the candidates themselves or by one or more Members of the IPU.

Candidatures shall be submitted within a period of four months from the date of the official vacancy announcement.



Each candidature shall be submitted in one of the two working languages of the IPU – English and French –and shall consist of a letter of motivation accompanied by a curriculum vitae. Each application will be received in confidence and recorded by the Director of Support Services, who will act as registrar and will also respond to enquiries from candidates.

### **Shortlisting of candidates**

At the end of the period for presenting candidatures, the President of the IPU, assisted by the registrar, will examine all candidatures to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements for the post contained in the vacancy announcement. Any candidate who does not meet these requirements will be eliminated from the process.

The complete documentation submitted by all candidates who meet the minimum requirements will be reviewed by the President of the IPU and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee who will together draw up an initial shortlist consisting of the twenty best qualified candidates.

The complete documentation of these candidates will be shared with each member of the IPU Executive Committee together with a report from the President on the conduct and outcome of the pre-selection procedure.

After studying the candidatures, each member of the Committee will indicate up to a maximum of five candidates which he or she proposes to maintain on the shortlist.

The Committee members will communicate their preferences to the Secretariat through a confidential procedure within a month of receiving the documentation.

The five candidates who receive the largest number of preferences will be shortlisted.

### **Interviews of selected candidates**

The five shortlisted candidates will be invited to the Assembly where the final selection will take place.

The Executive Committee will devote one extra day during that Assembly to interviewing the candidates.

Each candidate will be interviewed for an equal length of time. They will be invited to present their candidature for ten minutes and will then take questions from the members.

Before starting the interviews, the Executive Committee will have agreed upon a set of questions which will be addressed to all candidates. Members of the Executive Committee will also be able to

address follow up questions to the candidates as well as questions relating to the candidate's individual presentations.

After the interviews the members of the Executive Committee will exchange views on the candidatures. They will seek to determine if one or more of the candidates can be excluded at this stage of the procedure on the grounds that they either clearly do not meet the requirements of the post or fail to muster sufficiently wide support. To this end the Executive Committee may resort to straw polls or similar techniques.

At the end of its deliberations the Executive Committee will forward two or more candidatures for consideration by the IPU membership present at the Assembly.

### **Presentation of candidatures during the Assembly**

Each candidate retained by the Executive Committee will have equal opportunities to present his/her candidature to each of the geopolitical groups, in accordance with procedures set by them. The candidates will also be heard by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, in accordance with a procedure determined by its Coordinating Committee.

The candidates will present their candidature during the last sitting of the Governing Council. They will each be given five minutes for this purpose.

### **Election**

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The Governing Council will elect the Secretary General by secret ballot.

For the purpose of identifying the candidate most capable of securing a broad if not all-inclusive consensus among the Members, the Governing Council will elect the Secretary-General with an absolute majority of the votes cast, as per Council Rule 35.1(b).

If there are more than two candidates and none receives the required majority in the first round of voting, the candidate who received the least support will be eliminated and a new round of voting held.

This procedure will be repeated until such time as one candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes cast.

The winning candidate will be appointed by the Governing Council for a four year.

***Appendix III***

**AGENDA OF THE 124th ASSEMBLY**

**(Panama City, Panama, 15-20 April 2011)**

***Approved by the 123rd IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 6 October 2010)***

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 124th Assembly
2. Consideration of possible requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *Parliamentary accountability: Living up to people's expectations*

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4. Providing a sound legislative framework aimed at preventing electoral violence, improving election monitoring and ensuring the smooth transition of power (*Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)
5. The role of parliaments in ensuring sustainable development through the management of natural resources, agricultural production and demographic change (*Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
6. Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
7. Approval of the subject items for the 126th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs