

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TENTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION, 2009

REPORT OF THE IPU, KENYA DELEGATION
ON THE 121ST ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
19 – 21 OCTOBER 2009

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

NOVEMBER 2009

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1.0 FOREWORD

This report is a summary of proceedings and resolutions of the 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland from Monday, 19th to Wednesday, 21st October 2009.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In accordance with article 11(1) of the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Kenya National Assembly Group nominated the following Members to represent our parliament during the 121st IPU Assembly held at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland from Monday, 19th to Wednesday, 21st October 2009.

As is our tradition, these Members were drawn from various political parties represented in the Kenya National Assembly. The nomination was also from both genders. The delegation comprised of the following Members:-

- i. The Hon. Abdi Nuh Nassir, MP – Leader of the delegation
- ii. The Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP
- iii. The Hon. Ntoitha M'Mithiaru, MP
- iv. The Hon. Peris Chepchumba, MP
- v. The Hon. Shakeel Shabir, MP
- vi. Mr. Peter C. O. Owino – ASGP Member
- vii. Mr. James N. Mwangi – Assistant Deputy Clerk & Deputy Director, Legislative Services – Secretary to the Delegation
- viii. Ms. Rachel N. Kairu – Clerk Assistant and Secretary to the Delegation

On behalf of the delegation, I wish to thank you Sir, for according us the opportunity to, represent the National Assembly at this important meeting and also join fellow Parliamentarians from all over the world in exchanging views and experiences in an effort to seek solutions to problems that continue to threaten the survival of many nations.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the delegation is particularly grateful for the exposure and invaluable experience gained during the conference.

Mr. Speaker Sir, on behalf of the Members of the delegation, I wish to submit the report of the 121st IPU and related meetings together with the attached resolutions (Appendix) in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the IPU statutes which states:-

“It is the duty of a National group to submit the resolution of the Union to its respective Parliament, 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 fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports as to the steps taken and the results obtained.”

Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir.

Signed



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Danson Mungatana', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP
MEMBER OF THE KENYA DELEGATION

Dated

10th Dec. 2009

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the sole international organization that represents the legislative branch of government on a global scale. Established in 1889, currently, the IPU has a membership of over 152 National Parliaments; in addition, eight International Parliamentary Assemblies and Organizations are Associate Members.

The Union is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and its main mission is to strive for peace and cooperation among peoples of the world and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. The IPU is funded by its Members through annual subscriptions.

The 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its related meetings, which took place between 19th and 21st October, 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland was organized and hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Assembly, which officially opened its proceedings in the morning of Monday, 19th October 2009 at the Geneva International Conference Centre was officially inaugurated by the President of the IPU, Mr. Theo-Ben Gurirab. He was subsequently elected President of the Assembly, and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Ms. Elissavet Papademetriou (Greece), was elected Vice-President.

At its last sitting, the Assembly endorsed two statements: one on the H1N1 virus and another on the situation in Honduras.

The conference was attended by 1,154 (one thousand, one hundred and fifty four) delegates, Associate Members, observers' representatives of various organs of the United Nations system including the United Nations, UNCTAD, ILO, FAO, UNICEF and WHO. Other observers were the World Bank, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and World Trade Organization (WTO), African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) among others.

3.0 PARTICIPATION

The Assembly was attended by delegations of the following 123 Member Parliaments:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia,

Finland, France, Gabon, 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, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The main objective of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote the globalization of democracy and assist Parliamentarians to exercise their shared responsibility for the world in which we live in. The IPU has also become an organization of Parliamentarians who wish to foster, through permanent dialogue, not only universal establishment of human rights and democracy, but also the joint global elimination of undesirable developments, organized crime and international terrorism which national governments are no longer able to counter on their own.

Other objectives of IPU includes among others:-

- i) To foster contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries.
- ii) To contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development.
- iii) To contribute to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
- iv) To consider issues of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by National parliaments and parliamentarians.

The IPU Assembly also has over the years served to provide the backdrop for parliamentary diplomacy and on numerous occasions, when relations between the executive branches of government have reached a stalemate, parliamentarians have managed to negotiate a way out of the impasse.

The IPU supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose objectives it shares, and works in close co-operation with it. It also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which are motivated by the same ideals.

To achieve the above goals, the IPU organizes conferences at which parliamentarians discuss political, economic, social and cultural issues the results of which are included in resolutions and recommendations for implementation by member parliaments.

5.0 CONFERENCE TOPICS

There were three major topics for discussion during the conference and one emergency item which was discussed after resolutions in the Governing Council.

- i) Cooperation and share responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism. (*First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Subject item at 122nd Assembly*)
- ii) The role of parliaments in developing South-South and Triangular Cooperation with a view to accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. (*Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Subject item at 122nd Assembly*)
- iii) Youth Participation in the democratic process. (*Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Subject Item at 122nd Assembly*)

The Emergency Item:

- i) Parliamentary action to ensure global food security

6.0 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee held its 225th session in Geneva on Friday, 16th, Saturday, 17th and Tuesday, 20th October 2009. The meetings were chaired by the President.

The Executive Committee discussed and made recommendations on agenda items to be addressed by the Governing Council. The other matters considered by the Committee are summarized herein below;

- i) The Executive Committee discussed the current status of the IPU and the direction it needed to take to improve the status. The Committee considered a proposal to give the IPU amore lasting legal foundation in international law not only to strengthen the organization, but also to set its relationship with the United Nations on firmer footing. The Committee fully endorsed the thrust of the proposal while acknowledging that its fulfilment would take considerable time and effort. It instructed the Secretary General to set out a more widely researched proposal based on the opinions of legal experts.
- ii) The Committee heard a report on the fiscal situation of certain staff members residing in France. It noted that negotiations on the problem continued. It was

informed of changes in the Secretariat, including the requirement of a new Director of Support Services and a Development Officer.

- iii) The Committee was informed of the imminent signing with the Swiss authorities, after protracted negotiations, of a lease for the land on which the IPU Headquarters stood, which would serve as a model for other organizations in Geneva. It established a small working group, which studied and endorsed the document.

7.0 THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

i) **Membership of the IPU**

At its sitting on Monday, 19th October 2009, the Governing Council suspended the Parliament of Niger. It condemned the unconstitutional dissolution of the Parliament, deplored the persecution and arrest of its members and requested the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to examine their situation.

At its sitting on Wednesday, 21st October 2009, the Council decided that unless payments were received before the end of the year, the membership of Papua New Guinea and Somalia would be automatically suspended effective 1 January 2010, for the accumulation of arrears in contributions. There were no requests for affiliation and the IPU thus currently comprised 152 Member Parliaments.

At its second sitting, the Governing Council, seeking to dispel uncertainties about the representation at the Assembly of the Parliament of Palestine, endorsed a statement by the President that pending any major developments in the Occupied Territories, the Palestine National Council would be treated on a par with any other IPU Member in all matters relating to its status as representative of Palestine at the IPU.

The Governing Council agreed that the Secretariat should write to all those observers which had rarely or never participated in IPU meetings to gauge their interests in remaining observers.

ii. **Financial Situation of the IPU**

The Governing Council was presented with a comprehensive written report on the financial situation of the IPU and a list of unpaid contributions as at 30 June 2009. Four Members had significant arrears and were subject to sanctions. The Secretary General projected an operating surplus of CHF 432,000, mostly due to vacant posts, savings in the areas of transportation, translation, editing and publishing for the 120th Assembly, as well as to a favourable exchange rate with the US dollar.

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Council agreed that the following activities be carried out within the approved budget ceiling for a total amount of CHF 150,000:

- (a) for the Human Right Programme, the organization of a seminar in Bogotá, Colombia, to contribute to solving the conflict between the Colombia Congress and other State powers and a mission to Madagascar to help solve the cases of certain parliamentarians;
- (b) for the Gender Equality in Politics and Children's Rights programmes, the organization of a regional seminar on violence against women and migration in Europe, a national seminar in Rwanda on CEDAW, the production of a document contributing to the Beijing +15 appraisal to take place early in 2010, the assistance of a senior Canadian judge for the gender equality programme for a period of three months, and the organization of a meeting on violence against children.

iii. Cooperation with the United Nations System

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

The Council received a presentation on the work and objectives of a recent UN initiative, the Alliance of Civilizations, which aimed to improve understanding across cultures and religions and help counter polarization and extremism. The Council approved the proposal for the IPU to strengthen its cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations, which *inter alia* invited legislators to attend the 2010 Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Brazil (28-29 May 2010) and convene a parliamentary session during the Forum.

The Council was informed of the status of the IPU Questionnaire on how parliaments organized their work vis-à-vis the United Nations. All Member Parliaments were urged to submit their responses as soon as possible so that a comprehensive report could be presented to the 3rd World Conference of Speaker of Parliament and the 2010 debate at the United Nations on cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU.

All Member Parliaments were encouraged to attend the 2009 Joint Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, to be held on 19 and 20 November at UN Headquarters in New York, under the chairmanship of the President of the IPU and the President of the UN General Assembly. The Hearing would examine the topic *The Way Forward- Building political support and implementing effective responses to the global economic crisis*.

The Council was also informed of forthcoming parliamentary meetings, held in cooperation with the United Nations or in the context of major UN events: the World e-parliament Conference (Washington, D.C., 3-5 November), the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Copenhagen, 16 December).

iv. Consolidation of the reform of the IPU

The Governing Council heard reports from the geopolitical groups on their deliberations regarding the reforms carried out at the IPU. Several suggestions were made on improving the second Assembly of the year. Members also proposed measures to make the discussions more interactive.

Several of the members commented on the Committee on United Nations Affairs. While some felt that it was too soon to draw any conclusions, others suggested that the work of the Committee could be carried out better by its Advisory Group. The full set of recommendations submitted during the discussions would be considered by the Executive Committee, which would report back to the Governing Council at its next session.

v. Preparation of the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The Governing Council was informed that the President of the IPU had established a Preparatory Committee of some twenty Speakers of Parliament to assist in organizing the 3rd world Conference of Speaker of Parliament. The Preparatory Committee had held its meeting at IPU Headquarters in Geneva on 16 and 17 July.

The Preparatory Committee had decided that the 3rd World Conference of Speaker of Parliament would take place at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 19 to 21 July 2010. The theme of the Conference would be *Parliaments in a world of crisis: securing global democratic accountability for the common good*.

The next meeting of the Preparatory Committee was scheduled to take place at UN Headquarters in New York from 16 to 17 November, just prior to the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations.

vi. Recent conference and specialized meetings

The Governing Council took note of the results of the following meetings and conferences: The;

- a) Regional meeting for Twelve Plus parliaments on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- b) Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis;
- c) Fifth Meeting of Women Speakers;
- d) Regional Seminar for Latin American countries on the role of parliaments in confronting violence against children;
- e) Regional Conference on the contribution of parliament to the national reconciliation and institutional reform agenda;
- f) Parliamentary Conference on Democracy in Africa;

- g)) Fourth Conference for members of parliamentary committees on the status of women and other committees dealing with gender equality; and
- h) Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the Annual WTO Public Forum.

vii. Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees

At sitting on Wednesday, 21st October 2009, the Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Gender Partnership Group and the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS.

viii. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the venues for the two Assemblies of 2012, which, in a break with usual practice, would both be held away from Geneva. The April Assembly would be held in Kampala, Uganda, and the October Assembly in Quebec City, Canada.

ix. Election of the Secretary General

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Governing Council decided through a secret ballot to reappoint the incumbent Secretary General, Anders B. Johnsson, for a fourth Mandate from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2014. The votes were 177 in favour, 45 against and six abstentions.

The Governing Council also took note of the proposal of the Executive Committee to prepare an amendment to the Rules spelling out the procedure for electing the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The amendment would be submitted to the Council at its next session.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

8.0 DEBATE ON THE EMERGENCY ITEM

The Hon. Abdi Nuh Nassir, MP – Leader of the delegation
The Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP
The Hon. Ntoitha M'Mithiaru, MP
The Hon. Peris Chepchumba, MP
The Hon. Shakeel Shabir, MP

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ENSURE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

The debate on the emergency item took place in the afternoon of Monday, 20th October 2009. It was chaired by the Vice-President of the Assembly, Ms. E. Papademetriou (Greece). A total of 29 speakers from 28 parliamentary delegations and one observer took part.

During the debate, speakers expressed their concern over the various factors that directly affected food security, underlining the consequences of land degradation resulting from desertification and floods, and environmental degradation caused by climate change. They took note of the importance of the forthcoming Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) and invited parliamentarians to be present at the event organized by the IPU on that occasion.

Many speakers underlined the importance of investment in scientific research to support agriculture in facing the growing food demand. Others drew attention to the danger of distortionary agricultural policies. There was a need to help the rural poor, men and women alike, to acquire technology, and gain access to a fair and open banking system, including micro financing.

In his presentation on the item, the Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP who represented Kenya in the debate observed that an estimated 2 million Kenyans were more or less permanently on famine relief and the number rises rapidly to nearly 5 million in the event of drought. He also observed that according to the 1997 National Welfare Monitoring Survey, absolute poverty levels reached 52% of the rural population and 49% of the urban population.

He added that agriculture accounts for some 25% of the National GDP directly, and an additional 27% indirectly through linkages with manufacturing, distribution and service-related sectors. With an economic multiplier factor of 1.64, it will continue to be the lead sector in the fight against hunger and key to the Kenyan economy in the future.

He called for increased support to local efforts as well as capacity building programmes towards ensuring food security as opposed to prescribed national interventions that may be unsustainable. He underscored the importance of investment in scientific research to support agriculture in facing the growing food demand and called for

support to local agricultural research institutions to enable them undertake systematic and continuous research to support agriculture.

The Hon. Mungatana urged for deliberate programmes to be put in place with a view to replicating success stories in facing the growing food demand in order to ensure global food security.

The broad range of concerns expressed during the debates were reflected in the draft resolution prepared by a drafting committee, composed of members of the delegations of Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Germany, India, Malaysia, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela. The drafting committee appointed Mr. J.P. Winkler (Germany) as its president and Ms. N. Ahmad (Malaysia) as its rapporteur.

Following an amendment moved by the delegation of Venezuela, the draft resolution was adopted by consensus by the Assembly on Wednesday, 21 October. A reservation was entered by the delegation of India.

See Appendix 1 for resolutions (overleaf)

Appendix 1

THE EMERGENCY ITEMPARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ENSURE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 121st IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 21 October 2009)*

The 121st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling that under Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food ...",

Also recalling Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Further recalling the commitment made by parliamentarians under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to establish, under the auspices of the IPU, a parliamentary network on the UNCCD to promote information and interaction aimed at increasing parliamentary involvement and efficiency in combating desertification, soil erosion and land degradation,

Taking into consideration the cooperation agreement of 24 July 1996 (A/51/402) between the United Nations and the IPU, which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations,

Noting, in that regard, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/24 of 22 January 2009 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Welcoming the IPU's contribution to shaping the agenda and work of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), recently established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the resolution adopted by the 96th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Beijing (China) on 20 September 1996 on "Policies and strategies to ensure the right to food in this time of globalization of the economy and trade liberalization",

Also taking note of the 1996 Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, which pledged to reduce the proportion of undernourished people to half their 1996 level by no later than 2015,

Further taking note that under Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1, Target 3 aims to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling Articles 61, 62 and 65 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), which deal with aspects of overfishing,

Recalling the recommendations of the 17th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, adopted in May 2009, on the importance of promoting agriculture and development in a sustainable way,

Welcoming the establishment by the UN Secretary-General of the UN High-Level Taskforce on the Global Food Security Crisis and the Task Force's Comprehensive Framework for Action, released in July 2008,

Bearing in mind the June 2008 Declaration of the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security, which called for greater international efforts to address the challenge of global food security,

Welcoming the G8 Statement on Global Food Security, adopted at the G8 Outreach Session on Food Security in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009, in which the leaders of 40 countries and international organizations emphasized five basic principles to govern cooperation related to food security and agreed to act; *also welcoming* all multilateral and regional commitments to tackle the issue of food security,

Realizing that climate change will affect developing countries the most and will pose a threat to food security,

Recognizing that the world is experiencing various natural and man-made disasters, ranging from drought, famine and floods to locust invasions, which have had either a direct or indirect impact on agricultural productivity and consequently on the macroeconomic status of countries, particularly developing ones, and which have led in the long run to low agricultural productivity, starvation and even death in some cases,

Realizing that severe weather patterns, droughts and floods have become so common globally that they have led inter alia to the loss of life and property and the destruction of farmlands and transport infrastructure,

Reaffirming that although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as they relate to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those that arise out of the relevant UN conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Deeply concerned that despite the progress made by the international community in recent years towards eradicating hunger, the number of malnourished people in developing countries has increased to more than one billion,

Also concerned that the global economic crisis is leading to increased poverty, thereby further reducing the food security of the poor, and is widening the gap between rich and poor,

Further concerned that while food prices have fallen from their recent peaks, they remain volatile, due among other things to speculative trade in the futures markets in food grains, and are expected to remain relatively high in the foreseeable future,

Remaining concerned at situations of armed conflict, which cause a steep decline of socioeconomic conditions, particularly on food security,

Concerned that the international community's capacity to respond to the growing demand for food is constrained by increasing urbanization, water scarcity, the decline in investment in agricultural research and development, distortions in global food markets, increasing energy prices, environmental degradation and climate change,

Recognizing that appropriate, affordable and sustainable investment in research and scientific advancements to boost agricultural productivity and combat drought-induced famine, severe weather patterns and floods can play an important role in helping States alleviate poverty and eradicate hunger,

Noting the importance of sufficient food storage facilities and an adequate transport infrastructure to facilitate both the storage of food and its transportation to markets,

Recognizing that food security and poverty are fundamentally interrelated and must be addressed within a broad framework that encompasses social concerns and economic growth,

Also recognizing the negative effects that distortionary agricultural policies have on agricultural production, investment, trade and food security,

Acknowledging the importance of fair and efficient markets and trade flows in promoting economic growth and food security,

Also acknowledging the importance of sustainable development and real progress in tackling environmental challenges, such as the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, to achieving global food security,

Believing that the fulfillment of the right to food requires the adoption of economic, environmental and social policies aimed at increasing both the availability and the accessibility of food,

Recognizing the importance of global action to address inadequate food security and the need for a timely process for reporting on progress,

Believing that agriculture can be a part of the solution in combating climate change and *calling on* the international community to put agriculture on the agenda at the UN Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009 (COP15),

1. *Calls on* parliaments to take urgent and decisive action to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015;
2. *Stresses* the critical need for increased investment in rural development in developing countries in order to improve food security;
3. *Urges* donor countries to honour their commitments and mobilize additional resources to help achieve global food security;
4. *Urges* States, parliaments and relevant UN agencies to make greater efforts to promote investment in research and scientific progress in order to boost agricultural productivity and combat drought-induced famine, floods, coastal erosion and other natural disasters under fair, transparent and mutually agreed terms;
5. *Calls upon* parliaments to promote investment in research and scientific progress on issues such as tree planting, wetland and dryland conservation, afforestation and deforestation that will reverse the effects of climate change, which in turn affect other interventions in this area;
6. *Urges* all parliaments to make greater efforts to stop the continuous overfishing of many marine species that has occurred in recent years in several regions of the globe, and which affects the food security of many countries;

7. *Calls for* support for national efforts to foster the effective use of local know-how and technology and promote agricultural research and technologies to enable poor rural men and women to increase agricultural productivity and enhance food security;
8. *Encourages* States to make knowledge and know-how in the field of agricultural technology and agricultural innovation systems more accessible, in particular to the poor, subject to appropriate arrangements;
9. *Urges* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to support the efforts of States, in particular developing countries, to take full advantage of new knowledge in agricultural technology, innovation, research and development with a view to achieving the relevant MDGs, in particular the eradication of poverty and hunger;
10. *Recognizes* the important role of the private sector in the development of modern and efficient agricultural and food systems, while *stressing* the need for proper regulations to limit potential abuses by the private sector;
11. *Calls for* the empowerment of farmers' organizations in the decision-making process;
12. *Urges* parliaments, relevant UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and donors to invest in improved transport infrastructure, including road and rail networks, as well as adequate food storage facilities, all of which have an important role to play in bringing available food production to markets and areas of immediate need;
13. *Calls upon* public and private institutions to further develop improved crop varieties that are suitable to various regions, especially those challenged by environmental factors, including climate change, and to develop and manage these crops in a sustainable manner; *calls for* further efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that improved crop varieties are made available and affordable to small farmers, especially those in developing countries, in a manner consistent with national regulations and the relevant international agreements;
14. *Encourages* parliaments to exchange information on technological development and international cooperation in the area of agricultural productivity;
15. *Stresses* the need for greater coordination between parliaments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and farmers' and fishermen's associations in their efforts to improve global food security;
16. *Calls for* the implementation of national and regional agricultural strategies to improve food security through country-led coordination processes, as called for in the Comprehensive Framework for Action developed by the UN High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security;
17. *Encourages* parliaments to expand national social protection systems in order to shield the poor in developing countries from future food price rises and crises and loss of livelihood;
18. *Stresses* the critical need for affected populations to have free access to food and other essentials in areas of armed conflict in order to alleviate the humanitarian situation and improve food security;

19. *Urges* parliaments to take measures, in addition to actions to improve global food security, to adapt to and mitigate climate change as well as strengthen the sustainable management of water, land, soil and other natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity;
20. *Calls on* governments to show renewed commitment to a balanced outcome of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization, and to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2010;
21. *Urges* governments to refrain from erecting barriers to trade and investment in agriculture and to take measures to foster a well-functioning banking system, including microfinance schemes that give access to women and guarantee them a minimum of 50 per cent of available funds;
22. *Encourages* world leaders to agree effective measures to tackle food security at the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security;
23. *Calls on* developed countries to make a renewed commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions during the COP15 meeting so as to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on food supply;
24. *Calls on* all parliaments to submit an annual report to the IPU Secretariat on national progress in addressing the food crisis and *calls on* the IPU to explore the possibility of creating a permanent mechanism to address the subject of food security.

* *The delegation of India expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 21.*

9.0 FIRST STANDING COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The Hon. Nuh Abdi Nassir, MP – Leader of the delegation

The Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP

The Hon. Peris Chechumba, MP

COOPERATION AND SHARE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME; IN PARTICULAR DRUG TRAFFICKING, ILLEGAL ARMS SALES, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM. (FIRST STANDING COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SUBJECT ITEM AT 122ND ASSEMBLY)

The panel discussion took place in the morning of Tuesday, 20th October 2009. It was chaired by Mr. T. Boa (Côte d'Ivoire), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The co-Rapporteurs, Ms. M.T. Ortuño (Mexico) and Mr. A. Wiriyachai (Thailand), presented their draft report, which focused on the current situation of organized crime in the world, the existing and developing international legal framework, the challenges ahead, and the role and responsibility of parliaments and parliamentarians. Participants also heard keynote presentations from Mr. P. Lapaque, Chief of the Organized Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Mr. A. Steen, Chairman of the British All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children.

The panel was opened with a video presentation, which highlighted the sheer magnitude of organized crime around the world and the devastating effect it had on hundreds of thousands of innocent victims. Moving testimonies by victims of human trafficking underscored the extent of their suffering, but also the indifference with which their plight was treated by society at large. As Mr. A. Steen pointed out, hundreds of conferences were being held to discuss human trafficking, but few parliamentarians had actually ever met or talked to a victim of human trafficking. That was indicative of a certain disconnection between the work of public officials and lawmakers and the brutal reality on the ground.

A substantive discussion followed, with some 40 legislators from as many parliaments, as well as the representative of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), taking the floor. Participants presented their national experiences in combating the various forms of organized crime. They recognized the need for more concerted and intense action in dealing with that growing phenomenon in practically all countries. As one participant observed, national legislation and response mechanisms were moving at a snail's pace, compared to the speed with which new and ever more aggressive forms of organized crime were being developed.

Public opinion was all too often unaware of the organized nature of human trafficking, a modern-day form of slavery. One participant drew attention to statistics according to which there were twice as many victims of human trafficking today than there were

slaves in shackles during the 350 years of slavery. New or re-emerging forms of organized crime included piracy, abduction of children, domestic slavery and bartering, such as oil for weapons. The nexus between organized crime and political life also needed to be carefully examined.

Women and children tended to be the choice victims of the various networks of organized crime. With tighter security measures in place, more and more women were being used as shields to defend the real perpetrators of organized crime. They were the ones going to jail instead of the main ringleaders for prostitution, and they were used as pawns to carry out cross-border acts of terrorism and drug trafficking, roles traditionally reserved for men. All of those facts had a devastating impact on the world's most vulnerable sectors of society, as well as on families and communities.

Victims needed to be protected, assisted and rehabilitated and under no circumstances treated as criminals. While in many societies good laws were in place, much more needed to be done in terms of real and effective implementation. The experience of the UK Parliament showed how a small group of legislators could take very effective action, overseeing government response and demanding more robust measures to tackle organized crime. A regional network of parliamentary action groups against human trafficking had been set up as the phenomenon knew no boundaries. The importance of other regional initiatives, such as joint databases and shared information and monitoring systems, could not be underestimated.

In his presentation to the debate, the Hon. Nuh Abdi Nassir, MP who represented Kenya in the Committee observed that organized crime had grown and metamorphosed in tandem with globalization thus broadening and diversifying its activities.

He observed that piracy was also a major form of organized crimes, yet it had not been mentioned under the subject item under debate. He also observed that piracy posed an urgent global threat in terms of economic development of societies worldwide with long-term consequences, if left unchecked.

He added that engaging in developing national legislative frameworks for combating organized crimes by Parliaments was not adequate to deter their growth. He said there was need to strengthen institutions that are charged with implementation of these frameworks to be able to confront all forms of organized crimes at all levels.

The Hon. Nassir called for the cooperation and shared responsibility in development of national legislative frameworks and regulations in confronting piracy similar to those for other forms of organized crimes. He also called upon the international community to assist Kenya deal with effects of piracy off the coast of Somalia. He further called for assistance to the Country to deal with the impact of illegal arms proliferation from neighbouring unstable and highly volatile states fueled by her porous and poorly manned international borders and other crossing points.

Participants agreed that in order to combat organized crime it was necessary to: (1) overcome the widespread indifference towards the victims of organized crime; (2) draw inspiration from the good practices and bold legislation that had been developed by many parliaments; and develop joint action and a strategic approach to the fight against organized crime.

10.0 SECOND STANDING COMMITTEE

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

The Hon. Ntoitha M'Mithiaru, MP
The Hon. Shakeel Shabir, MP

THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN DEVELOPING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION WITH A VIEW TO ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SECOND STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE SUBJECT ITEM AT 122ND ASSEMBLY)

The panel discussion took place in the morning of Tuesday, 20th October 2009, with Mr. P. Martin-Lalande (France), President of the Second Standing Committee, in the Chair. The co-Rapporteurs, Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium) and Mr. G. Lubinda (Zambia) presented a draft report on the item with a view to fostering a more formal debate during the 122nd IPU Assembly in Bangkok. They pointed out that the subject of South-South cooperation was so vast that any attempt to make a comprehensive presentation would necessarily be lengthy.

That opinion was echoed by Mr. V. Yu, Coordinator of the Global Governance for Development Programme at the South Centre, who addressed the panel as an invited expert. The Centre was one of the leading intergovernmental think tanks of developing countries, providing quality technical analysis based on a political message of South-South solidarity and justice-based ideology.

Following the three introductory statements, an exchange of views took place, with a total of 36 delegates taking the floor, nearly one third of whom were women. The delegates agreed that South-South cooperation was an essential ingredient in the new development agenda and that it offered viable opportunities for developing countries to pursue the objective of sustained economic growth. That was all the more true in the context of the global economic crisis, when the South was facing additional constraints and challenges.

Parliaments of both developed and developing countries should be proactive in building support for the innovative North-South development partnership models that had been agreed by the United Nations in Monterrey in 2002 and reaffirmed in Doha in 2008.

Regional integration as a specific form of South-South cooperation was examined. The free movement of goods, services, capital and people stimulated investment, spurred economic growth and increased South-South trade. The right mix of regional competition and measured protection was crucial to smooth integration into the global trading system. It also helped make regional integration an effective vehicle for growth and accelerated poverty reduction. The weaker countries especially encountered

difficulties associated with globalization, which made regional integration a mandatory and unavoidable approach.

Both the draft report and the panel discussion served as reminders that legislative support for South-South cooperation by parliaments was indispensable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular as they related to poverty reduction.

11.0 THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Hon. Abdi Nuh Nassir, MP – Leader of the delegation

The Hon. Danson Mungatana, MP

The Hon. Peris Chepchumba, MP

The Hon. Shakeel Shabir, MP

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. (THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS SUBJECT ITEM AT 122ND ASSEMBLY)

The panel discussion took place in the afternoon of 20th October with Mr. Y. Zhumabayev (Kazakhstan), First Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, in the Chair. The co-Rapporteur, Ms. M. Lugaric (Croatia), presented her draft report and invited participants to make proposals to enrich the final rapport and the draft resolution, which she was currently drafting. The participants also heard presentations by Ms. N. Shepherd, Chief of the United Nations Programme on Youth, Mr. A. Guerrero, Director of Partnerships at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Mr. R. Amalvy, Director of External Communication, World Scout Bureau. During the course of the debate, 37 delegates took the floor.

Young people had a right to participate in decision-making. One quarter of the world population should not be excluded from decision-making processes. The challenge was not only to guarantee youth the right to participate but also to guarantee the effective and efficient enjoyment of that right. Education that fostered participation was important. So were promoting a culture of inclusion from an early age, building capacity, providing youth with the means to take action and youth representation in executive bodies.

Participation by youth in policy and decision-making and in the management of public affairs allowed them to contribute with a fresh perspective and make sure that their needs were taken into account and that laws, policies and programmes met those needs. Contrary to what young people often heard, youth were not only the future, they were also the present. Parliamentary action should centre on both the fight against the exclusion of youth from political life and the apathy that they displayed towards the political process.

While the age group that corresponded to the category "youth" as defined by the United Nations ran from 15 to 24 years, preparations for youth participation should start much earlier and participation extended much longer. Efforts to strengthen youth participation in politics could draw inspiration from the policies and strategies implemented to strengthen women's participation in politics. Young women faced discrimination on two fronts - as youth and as women.

Regarding parliamentary structures, the establishment and proper functioning of parliamentary bodies dealing with youth issues was an important means of ensuring that their needs were taken on board. Parliaments must guarantee the participation of youth in the work of their committees. A sound and modern communication strategy, based on new communication tools, should be adopted by parliaments with a view to informing and consulting youth. Cooperation should also be forged among parliaments, youth parliaments and youth associations.

In his presentation to the debate, the Hon. Shakeel Shabir, MP who represented Kenya in the Committee observed that, according to UNFPA, out of an estimated 6.7 billion global population, about 1.5 billion were youth in the ages 10-25 years. This represented about 45 percent of the world's population with an estimated 90 percent of the youth being in developing countries.

He also observed that the youth constituted about 65% of the active labour force in Kenya. He also observed that this critical human resource needed to be tapped and rallied into mainstreaming development. If this was not done, their exclusion could lead to frustration and despair making them susceptible to the dangers of anti-social behaviours.

He noted that the poll violence that rocked Kenya in 2008 after the disputed presidential elections and which nearly brought the country into near total anarchy served to show what the youth can do if facilitated negatively. Subsequently, there is need for the youth to be provided with opportunities to engage in productive activities and exploit their potential, and to be sensitized on non-violent active participation in democratic process such as elections.

The Hon. Shabir added that the youth continued to face systematic marginalization from national development debates and processes. They are locked out in important decision-making processes including politics where the old generations, especially men, continue to hold tightly onto political leadership. This had created social tensions in the society and was a source of instability and conflict in many countries.

He further added that the youth represented an enormous and valuable human resource that could be mobilized to achieve sustainable development and MDGs in all countries as they have resourcefulness, innovativeness, responsiveness and resilience in helping to address development issues. He noted that youth issues mainly centred on education, employment and sports.

He called for immediate measures to be put in place to ensure that the youth is fully engaged in order to feel their input is valued, and have meaningful opportunities for engagement through constructive dialogue.

He observed that there was need to encourage and establish mechanisms to involve the youth in playing constructive roles in the democratic processes to enable them learn from experiences and gain confidence in leaderships and nation building.

He called for measures to be put in place to ensure greater participation by the youth in parliament such as adoption of quotas to guarantee a minimum number of young people in parliament. He also called for funding of youth activities and establishment of international organization to partner with youths at the local level in their various activities.

The IPU was urged to incorporate youth participation in its activities, along the lines of the measures that had been taken to promote women's participation. It should require parliaments to include youth in their delegations. Moreover, it should set up a mechanism, as had been done for women, that would allow youth parliamentarians to meet and make a contribution to the work of the Organization for example by holding an alternative Assembly of Young Parliamentarians in the wings of statutory IPU Assemblies.

The subject of food security was taken up once again in the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs. The Committee received Mr. J. Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and heard a comprehensive presentation on the current food crisis and preparations for the World Summit on Food Security, scheduled to take place in Rome in November. In the context of the Rome Summit, the IPU and the Italian Parliament would be holding a parliamentary meeting on 13 November, which members were encouraged to attend. The Director-General's presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session, which included suggestions for possible action and cooperation by parliaments.

The Committee began its work by taking stock of the responses received to the IPU Questionnaire on how parliaments organize their work vis-à-vis the United Nations. The Survey, mandated by the Committee following its previous session in October 2008, aimed to determine the manner in which parliaments related to the UN system, special meetings and major negotiating processes at the United Nations, and in UN country offices.

To date, 65 responses had been received, and a preliminary examination had already identified a series of good practices and recommendations that should be shared with the full IPU membership. All IPU Member Parliaments were encouraged to urgently submit their responses so that the review could be finalized and circulated. That evaluation would feed into the preparatory process for the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

The Committee began a discussion about cooperation between regional parliamentary organizations and the United Nations. It was recalled that in the 2005 Declaration of Speakers of Parliaments, the IPU was invited to cooperate more closely with regional parliamentary associations and organizations with a view to enhancing coherence and efficiency in global and interregional parliamentary cooperation. Although there were various activities at the national and regional levels, the Committee believed that there was scope for closer cooperation on policy with both regional and subregional parliamentary organizations.

The Committee heard a presentation on the status of United Nations reform and the report of the mission by its Advisory Group to Viet Nam earlier in the year. Such IPU missions to pilot countries undertaking One UN reform had enhanced the role of parliaments in developing national strategies and had established better mechanisms for parliaments to engage in international assistance and cooperation. The Committee welcomed the report, underscoring the need for a more coherent approach to aid delivery, which in turn should lead to greater effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN operations. The Committee urged its Advisory Group to continue with such field missions and to report on progress.

The Committee heard a briefing from the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat on the

negotiations on climate change which, it was hoped, would lead to a firm agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen. Parliamentarians pledged to engage with the authorities of their country to tackle remaining hurdles and join their national delegations to the COP15. A parliamentary meeting would also be convened by the IPU and the Danish Folketing in Copenhagen on 16 December.

The Committee reviewed the implementation of the IPU's recent resolution *on Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid*, and discussed the IPU's involvement with the Development Cooperation Forum established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. A senior United Nations official and the Director of the International Budget Partnership joined the Committee. The latter presented the results of the recent Study on the role of parliaments in budget transparency and accountability.

The Committee recommended that: parliaments ensure that national budgetary accounts were made public and follow up annual audit reports; strategic partnerships were developed between parliaments, civil society and supreme audit institutions; parliaments should contribute to a gradual change in donor practices, with a view to incorporating international aid in the regular budgetary exercise; and parliaments should be involved in drafting codes of practice for greater budget transparency.

The Committee welcomed recent IPU initiatives in the area of aid effectiveness. Those included the IPU's contribution to a regional initiative in Asia, called the Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness Facility, which aimed to build knowledge and capacities for greater development effectiveness. An expert study commissioned by the IPU to review parliamentary involvement in development policies and programmes in Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania had also yielded promising results.

The IPU should prepare a handbook for parliamentarians on aid effectiveness. It was also suggested that additional case studies, representing wider regional representation, would be useful. Moreover, the IPU should assess the needs of parliament more systematically to measure the training they required in order to better analyse public finances, budgets and development programmes.

As the United Nations was approaching its 65th anniversary, the Committee reiterated its strong support for the mission, principles and objectives of the United Nations, in particular the need for all Member States to ensure full compliance with international law.

13.0 MEETING OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians met on Sunday, 18 October 2009. The sitting was chaired by Ms. P. Cayetano (Philippines), President of the Committee. The meeting served to follow up the previous meeting of Women Parliamentarians and to prepare the work of the forthcoming session. The Coordinating Committee also discussed women's contribution to the work of the 121st IPU Assembly.

The Committee was briefed on the work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group and lauded the fact that almost 32 per cent of delegates at the Assembly were women, the highest proportion ever reached. It also praised the inclusion of information on gender-specific allocations and objectives in the 2010 budget.

A report was presented on follow-up of the Fourteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians held in Addis Ababa relating to climate change, sustainable development and women's economic empowerment. The Committee went on to discuss its contribution to the 121st Assembly. It discussed the draft reports to be debated by each of the Assembly's three Standing Committee panel discussions, highlighting gender-related concerns which the respective Rapporteurs might wish to take into account.

Preparations for the Fifteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians were also discussed. The Committee decided that it would debate the subject item chosen by the First Standing Committee for debate at the 122nd Assembly, *Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism*. It also decided that the Meeting's afternoon dialogue session between men and women MPs would focus on combating violence against women, with a particular focus on women in prisons and immigration detention centres.

Following a presentation by the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Committee proposed that the panel discussion for the 122nd Assembly consider the role of parliaments in implementing Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 years after its adoption.

The Committee was briefed on the IPU's forthcoming activities related to gender issues, including the IPU campaign Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women. The members heard about the different components of the campaign and called on parliaments to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) by organizing activities such as seminars, conferences and parliamentary hearings. The meeting was informed of the new project on gender-sensitive parliaments. The project sought to examine ways in which parliaments could best become gender-sensitive institutions and effectively mainstream gender into their work. Data would be collected through questionnaires, which parliaments and their members were strongly urged to complete.

Activities related to maternal health and Countdown to 2015 were highlighted. They included a conference in Uganda in November 2009 and IPU-Partnership for Maternal and Newborn Health cooperation to document case studies on good parliamentary practices regarding Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. Members were briefed about the imminent launch of the Arabic version of the iKNOWpolitics website, scheduled to take place in Amman on 27 and 28 October 2009 on the theme *The role of the media and information technology in increasing the number and effectiveness of women in politics*. Lastly, members heard about activities to provide technical support to parliaments, in particular a recently completed two-year project for women parliamentarians in Burundi, and assistance to the Jordanian Parliament with a view to eliminating discriminatory provisions in the country's laws.

13.0 IPU CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1. 122nd IPU Assembly and related meetings

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 27th March – 1st April 2010

Topics: i) First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Subject item:-

Cooperation and share responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism.

ii) Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Subject item:-

The role of parliaments in developing South-South and Triangular Cooperation with a view to accelerating achievement of the Millenium Development Goals.

iii) Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights
Subject Item at 122nd Assembly:-

Youth Participation in the democratic process. 123rd IPU Assembly and related meetings.

Venue: Geneva, Switzerland

Date: 4th – 6th October 2010

2. 124th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Venue: Panama City, Panama

Date: 16th - 21st April 2011

3. 125th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Venue: Geneva, Switzerland

Date: October 2011

4. 126th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Venue: Kampala, Uganda

Date: March – April 2012