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(SECOND SESSION)

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REPORT OF THE 139<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-  
PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS  
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
14<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2018

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 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 06 DEC 2018	DAY: THURSDAY
TABLED BY:	Hon. Wangwe Emmanuel (Leader of Delegation)
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Moses Lemungu

Clerks Chambers  
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**NAIROBI**

November, 2018

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PREFACE .....	3
A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE IPU.....	7
B. AGENDA OF THE 139 <sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY .....	9
C. GENERAL DEBATE : <i>PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE</i> .....	10
D. CHOICE AND DEBATE OF THE EMERGENCY ITEM .....	14
E. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 139 <sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY .....	17
i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.....	17
ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.....	17
iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights .....	18
iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.....	19
F. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL .....	20
G. THE 280 <sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....	23
H. FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS.....	25
I. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL .....	26
J. OTHER SIDE MEETINGS .....	31
K. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 138 <sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS .....	39
L. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE KENYAN DELEGATION.....	53
M. PHOTOS OF THE 139 <sup>th</sup> KENYAN DELEGATION.....	54



## PREFACE

### Hon. Speaker,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. The Assembly is made up of 178 member parliaments. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with growing international agenda relevant to their duties.
2. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
3. The 139<sup>th</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings took place from 14 to 18 October, 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of this year's general debate was '**Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change**'.
4. The 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly was opened on Monday 15 October 2018 at the Centre International des Conférences de Genève (CICG). The Assembly was chaired by the IPU President, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (Mexico). She was assisted by several Vice-Presidents: Mr. K. Molatlhegi, Deputy Speaker (Botswana), Mr. J. Epola, Leader of the delegation (Congo), Ms. J.F. Luveni, Speaker of Parliament (Fiji), Mr. R. del Picchia, Senator (France), Mr. P.F. Casini, Leader of the delegation (Italy) and Honorary IPU President, Mr. W. Simina, Speaker of Parliament (Federated States of Micronesia), Ms. A. Tolley, Leader of the delegation (New Zealand) and Mr. N. Prea, Speaker of Parliament (Seychelles).
5. In her remarks, the President urged Parliaments to embrace change and innovation, science and technology and to ensure these facets are incorporated in all policies developed and laws enacted. The President also emphasised the development in innovation against the backdrop of human

development. She therefore urged parliamentarians to establish legal frameworks to ensure a balance between advancement in technology and human advancement in term of jobs and employment.

6. The Assembly also benefited from a video message by the United National Secretary General, Mr. A. Guterres who cited the advancement of technology as key to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He however cautioned on the need to “nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial to all” and as such urged Parliamentarians to utilize their unique positions to ensure everyone is on board.
7. The High Level Segment was enriched by remarks and presentations from Ms. F. Gianotti, Director of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), who lauded the collaboration between CERN and the IPU. She observed the need for joint efforts to ensure the involvement of women and women-responsive strategies in technological processes.
8. The Assembly also benefited from a presentation from a special guest Mr. Henk Rogers, Founder and CEO of the *Blue Planet Foundation (Hawaii)* who shared with the delegates the findings of the report published by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Mr. Rogers therefore called upon all parliamentarians to join the struggle to ensure a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations.
9. Several delegates shared country experiences regarding the need to promote peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change with the Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka (*Speaker of the Senate and member of the Executive Committee of the IPU*) noting the key role played by science, technology and innovation in social, economic development of society. Similar sentiments were shared by Sen. Susan Kihika (*Senator and the current President of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians*) who observed that innovation in science and technology brings both immense potential and great challenges to the society. As such urged Parliaments to seize the opportunities to ensure that women are involved in contributing to these advancement.
10. Hon Osuru (*from Uganda and the current President of the Forum For Youth Parliamentarians*) called on Parliaments to set standards and best practices with a youth perspective as regards technology and scientific advancement.



**Hon Speaker,**

11. During the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, 145 Member Parliaments were represented including participation from seven associate members among them East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and other observers. Further, of the 1,545 delegates, 737 were Members of Parliaments (MPs), including 51 Presiding Officers and 50 Deputy Presiding Officers. In terms of gender and youth representation, of the 737 Members, 233 were women (33 percent) and 138 ( 19.3 percent) were young MPs.
12. During the three days of deliberations, 126 delegates from 107 Member Parliaments – including 38 Presiding Officers, as well as delegates from nine partner organizations (both Associate Members and Permanent Observers), contributed to the General Debate.
13. A major achievement for Kenya during the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly was the ascending to the Presidency of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians by **Senator Susan Kihika**. This was after the incumbent President, Hon. Ulrika Karlsson (Sweden) lost her seat in the 349 member Riksdag (Parliament) during the September 2018 elections. Notably, during the 138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly Senator Kihika was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Bureau of the Forum.

**Hon Speaker,**

14. The Kenyan delegation to the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following-
  - i) Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, EGH, MP, Speaker of the Senate and Leader of delegation (*Member of the Executive Committee*)
  - ii) Sen. Susan Kihika, MP, Senator (*President of the Forum Women Parliamentarians*)
  - iii) Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, MP
  - iv) Sen. Samwel Poghiso, MP
  - v) Hon. Joyce Akai Emanikor, MP
  - vi) Hon. David Kangogo Bowen, MP
  - vii) Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, MP
  - viii) Hon. Charles Njagua Kanyi, MP
  - ix) Hon. Lydia Haika Mnene, MP
  - x) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS, Clerk of Senate/ Member ASGP



- xi) Mrs. Serah Kioko, Senior Deputy Clerk, National Assembly/ Member ASGP
- xii) Mr. Njenga Ruge, Ag. Director, Speakers Office
- xiii) Mr. Sheriffsam Mwendwa, Deputy Director, Litigation and Compliance
- xiv) Ms. Caroline Kinyua, Senior Clerk Assistant – Secretary to the Delegation (Senate)
- xv) Ms. Marale Sande, Senior Research Officer
- xvi) Ms. Judy Ndegwa, Legal Counsel II
- xvii) Mr. Mainah Wanjiku, First Clerk Assistant – Secretary to the Delegation (National Assembly)
- xviii) Mr. Billow Aden, Public communication Officer
- xix) Mr. Frankline Mutulu, Media Relations Officer
- xx) Mr. David Agwenyi, Clerk Assistant III – Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

15. During the Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenyan delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**Hon. Speaker,**

16. Article 7 of the IPU Statutes mandates Members of the IPU to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained.

17. In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings, declaration and resolutions of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings to Parliament for noting and necessary action.



.....  
**SEN. SUSAN KIHKA, M.P.**  
**MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION**  
**DATED.....4/12/2018.....**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ON 14th – 18th OCTOBER, 2018**

**A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE IPU**

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It exists to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue and concrete action. The current membership is 178 parliaments and 12 associate members. The IPU works closely with the United Nations and other partner organizations with similar ideals. To this end, the IPU aims at -
  - i) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
  - ii) Considering questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
  - iii) 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; and
  - iv) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
2. The IPU's main areas of activity are representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.
3. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
4. The organs of the IPU are the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. IPU also works through

committees, working groups and other *ad hoc* bodies. The following bodies are currently in place:

- i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;
- ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;
- iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights;
- iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs;
- v) Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- vi) Committee on Middle East Questions;
- vii) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus;
- viii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- ix) Advisory Group on Health;
- x) Gender Partnership Group;
- xi) Forum of Women Parliamentarians; and
- xii) Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

5. The current President of the IPU is Sen. Gabriela Cuevas Barron from Mexico. The Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, the Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, and Senator Susan Kihika serve as Members of the Executive Committee and President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (FWP) respectively.



## **B. AGENDA OF THE 139<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

6. The following outlines the Agenda of the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly -

- i) Election of the president of the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly.
- ii) Consideration of the request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.
- iii) General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*.
- iv) *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
- v) Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United National Affairs
- vi) Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and appointment of the rapporteurs
- vii) Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
- viii) Climate change – Let us not cross the line

**C. GENERAL DEBATE: PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE**

7. The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly commenced on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 11a.m at the Centre International des Conférences de Genève (CICG). Delegates from 145 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly including participation from seven associate members among them East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and other observers. Further, of the 1,545 delegates, 737 were Members of Parliaments, including 51 Presiding Officers and 50 Deputy Presiding Officers. In terms of gender and youth representation, of the 737 Members, 233 were women ( 33 percent) and 138 ( 19.3 percent) were young MPs.
8. The Assembly was chaired by the IPU President, Ms Gabriela Cuevas Barron ( Mexico) assisted by several Vice Presidents.
9. In her remarks on the theme *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*, she encouraged Parliaments to embrace change and innovation, science and technology and to ensure they are incorporated in all policies developed and laws enacted. The President also emphasised the development in innovation against the backdrop of human development. She therefore urged Parliamentarians to establish legal frameworks that guarantee a balance between advancement in technology and human advancement in terms of jobs and employment.
10. The IPU President also cautioned participants of the pros and cons of globalization of news and information, urging Parliamentarians to leverage on the current youth explosion in advancing ICT. She acknowledged the need for IPU Assemblies to adopt greener strategies and be more interactive. She reminded Parliamentarians on the importance of focusing on the constituents needs.
11. The Assembly also benefited from a video message by the United National Secretary General, Mr. A. Guterres who welcomed the IPU focus on promoting peace and development in the age of rapid technological advancement. He cited the advancement of technology as key to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also cautioned on the need to “nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial to all”



and as such urged Parliamentarians to utilize their unique positions to ensure everyone is on board.

12. During the High Level Segment and in a bid to enrich the Assembly, Ms. F. Gianotti, Director of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), made a presentation on the organization and its contribution to the advancement of humanity. She indicated that CERN is the largest particle physics laboratory in the world with its founding motto in 1954 “ Science for Peace” finding relevance during the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly. She lauded collaborations between CERN and the IPU on the *Science for Peace Schools* programme whose objective is to realize the vision of unity by establishing networks likely to serve as platforms for dialogue between Parliamentarians. She observed the need for joint efforts to ensure the involvement of women and women-responsive strategies in technological processes.
13. The Assembly also benefited from a presentation from a special guest Mr. Henk Rogers, Founder and CEO of the *Blue Planet Foundation (Hawaii)* who shared with the delegates the findings of the report published by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He alluded that limiting global warming to 1.5°C as proposed by the report required urgent and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, including change in lifestyle habits; enactment of legislation to end the use of carbon-based fuel and to ensure a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.
14. Mr. Rogers therefore called upon all parliamentarians to join the struggle to ensure a sustainable and healthy planet for future generations.
15. While contributing to the General Debate during the Assembly, Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka (*Speaker of the Senate and member of the Executive Committee of the IPU*) noted that science, technology and innovation are vital components for the social and economic development of society as they contribute to shaping sound policies, improving the welfare of people, building capacity in developing economies, and fostering international cooperation between nations. He further observed that science and technology have a pivotal role in the implementation of the development agenda of States including the achievement of the SDGs.
16. The Rt. Hon. Speaker noted that Parliamentarians have a role to play in mainstreaming technology and innovation to enhance peace and development. Additionally, Hon. Lusaka noted Kenya's efforts in this regard



through policy and legislation and urged the establishment of lasting bridges between Parliaments and the scientific, technology and innovation communities for optimal efficiency in their mandates.

17. The youth and women perspectives were also incorporated in to the general debate with statements from representatives of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians and Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The former was represented by Sen. Susan Kihika (*from Kenya and the the current President of the FWP*) who observed that innovation in science and technology brings both immense potential and great challenges to the society. Further that technological innovation can be a strong source of human development, social inclusion and empowerment especially for women. She therefore urged Parliaments to seize the opportunities to ensure no one is left behind.
18. The President of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians further noted the widening economic gap between men and women around the world. She called on the need for gender-conscious design, monitoring and evaluation of public policy as relates to innovation and technological change. She also urged policy makers to facilitate women and girls to drive and thrive in the technology sector as creators, developers and decision-makers. She called on Parliamentarians to ensure that technology serves girls' and women's empowerment.
19. Hon Osuru (*from Uganda and the current President of the Forum of Youth Parliamentarians*) noted the need to enact laws that are responsive to the new technological advancement in the world. She therefore urged Parliamentarians to be aware of these advancements and respond appropriately through legislation. She also called on Parliaments to set standards and best practices with regards to technology and scientific advancement, cognizant of the fact that future users of these outcomes are likely to be the youth.
20. During the three days of deliberations, 126 delegates from 107 Member Parliaments – including 38 Presiding Officers, as well as delegates from nine partner organizations (both Associate Members and Permanent Observers), contributed to the general debate. The emerging recommendations is reflected in the outcome document. **(See full text of the outcome document in Part K (1) of the report.)**

21. The general debate was accompanied by a Knowledge Fair for Innovation and Technology, which featured exhibitions from CERN, the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Geneva Water Hub and Waterlex. The Fair provided a valuable opportunity for delegates to interact with members of the scientific community. Daily guided tours were also organized for interested MPs to visit the CERN laboratories on the Swiss border with France.
22. The Special segment to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was commemorated with a special tribute to the legacy of Nelson Mandela. During this session, Mr. M. Limon, Director of the Universal Rights Group, moderated a panel discussion with the IPU President, Ms. F. Koofi (MP, Afghanistan; member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians), Ms. P. Hicks (Director, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Mr. T. Mendel (Executive Director, Centre for Law and Democracy).
23. The panellists shared personal experiences and views on bridging the implementation gap of the declaration to ensure that international human rights standards led to concrete and tangible change. The panel agreed that the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration was an opportunity for MPs from all over the world to celebrate human rights, and the considerable progress made in the past seven decade. It was however acknowledged that more ought to be done, including the fact that MPs, in their roles as legislators, representatives and role models, needed to be at the forefront of that continuing endeavour.
24. Ms. A. Clwyd, Member of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and former President of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, introduced by video recording the IPU Declaration: *70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and invited her fellow parliamentarians to recommit to the values and fundamental principles set forth in the Universal Declaration.
25. At the end of the special segment, the Assembly endorsed the IPU Declaration. **(See full text of the declaration in Part K (2) of the report.)**



#### **D. CHOICE AND DEBATE OF THE EMERGENCY ITEM**

26. On the 15 October, the IPU President informed the Assembly of the five request for inclusion as emergency item proposals. Prior to this, Uruguay withdrew its proposal entitled '*Redoubling efforts to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons: the role of Parliaments*'. Additionally, the delegations from Jordan and Kuwait, merged their submission as shown below –
- i) *Restoring peace and security in the Sahel: The role of parliaments* (Burkina Faso);
  - ii) *Cutting off aid to UNRWA — A humanitarian blockade and violation of international law: Addressing the issue of stopping aid to UNRWA and assessing the impact of this decision on Palestinian refugees and the Palestinian issue as a whole* (Jordan and Kuwait);
  - iii) *Climate change – Let us not cross the line* [Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of)];
  - iv) *The urgent need to resolve the humanitarian crisis caused by the deterioration of parliamentary democracy in Venezuela* (Netherlands and United Kingdom);
  - v) *Democracy in Venezuela* (Netherlands and the United Kingdom); and
  - vi) *Addressing the issue of missing persons: The role of parliaments* (Israel).
27. Following brief presentations before the vote, the joint proposal of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and the proposal submitted by Israel were withdrawn.
28. The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining items. All proposals received the required two-thirds majority of the vote. The joint proposal by the Seychelles, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Micronesia (Federated States of), received the highest number of positive votes. It was therefore adopted and added to the agenda as Item h.
29. The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of Tuesday, 16 October with Ms. M.R Mokitim ( Lesotho), Speaker of the Senate chairing the session.
30. Twelve speakers made presentations on the emergency item: Cape Verde, Chad, China, Cuba, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Micronesia ( Federation States of), South Africa and Uganda. This followed an appeal from Mr. W. William ( Seychelles, co –authour of the proposal) to support the proposal. During the debate the following was noted –



- i) Climate change is a global issue that requires greater global action and togetherness;
- ii) Political divisions were counter productive in the fight against global warming;
- iii) The United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was unfortunate;
- iv) The need for IPU members to comply with their commitments under the international agreement;
- v) The need for additional financial and technical support for renewable energy and desalination of sea waters;
- vi) The important role Parliament and parliamentarians ought to play in tackling climate change at both national and international levels.

31. The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee comprising of representatives of the following countries: Chad, Ethiopia, Iran, Mexico Mongolia, New Zealand, Seychelles, South Africa, Tonga and Uruguay. The resolution on the emergency item was unanimously adopted in the plenary sitting of the Assembly on 17 October 2018. ***(See full text of the resolution in Park K (3) of the report).***

32. Notably, during the vote on the emergency item, the Assembly also voted on a procedural motion on the relations between the Assembly and the Standing Committees. This was a pending agenda from the 138th IPU Assembly. Specifically, the question was proposed that: *“Do you agree that the Assembly can change the work plan and agenda of the Standing Committees”?* The Assembly was expected to vote either YES or NO with no abstention.

33. The Kenyan delegation was of the view that since committees are sub-components of the Assembly, the Assembly ought to be able to change their work plans and agenda. In this regard, the delegation voted YES. Following the vote count, the Assembly had agreed to allow the change of agenda and work plan of Standing Committees by the Assembly. As a result of the YES vote, the Assembly, on October 17, 2017 voted on a consequential question on the agenda of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The motion under consideration was:

*“Do you agree that at the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights holds a panel debate that will not lead to a*

*resolution, entitled – “The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons?”*

The vote resulted in a NO resolution. The Kenya delegation voted against the proposal.



## **E. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 139<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

### **i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**

34. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on the 15 and 17 October, all sessions were chaired by the President, Mr. J.I Echaniz (Spain). The Committee discussed two agenda items through back to back panels on '*Comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation*' and '*Combating sexual violence in UN peace keeping operations and beyond*'. The panels were moderated by Mr. D. Plesch, Director of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, London and the Ms U. Karlsson (Sweden), a former Parliamentarian.
35. The Committee also had an opportunity to watch a video message from the the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee on resolution 1540, His Excellency Sacha Sergio Llorentty Soliz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations.
36. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Committee held an expert hearing on '*Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*', a topic whose resolution is expected for adoption during the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly.

### **ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**

37. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on the 15 and 17 October with the first sitting being chaired by the Ms. S. Dimica (Romania), a member of the Bureau while the second was chaired by the Committee Vice President, Ms. W. Bani Mustafa (Jordan). The Committee held a debate on '*the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*'. At the end of the debate, participants were invited to send written inputs for inclusion in the draft resolution.
38. The Committee also discussed the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary meeting at the UN Climate Change Conference to be held on the 9 December in Krakow( Poland). Following contributions on the outcome document, participants were invited to send amendments in writing with the draft outcome document expected on the IPU website at the end of November, 2018.

39. The panel discussion on *'taking forward the IPU resolution entitled Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy'* benefited from the expert contributions of Ms. Lozo and Ms. M. de Blonay both of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Mr. T. Pringle, MP (Ireland) and Ms. B. Hoehn, MP (Germany).

### **iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**

40. The Committee held sittings on 15 and 16 October with its President, Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana) chairing the session. At its first sitting, the Committee held a preparatory debate on the theme of the next resolution: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.*

41. The debate was introduced by two co-facilitators of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Ambassador J. Lauber (Switzerland) and Ambassador J. Gomez Camacho (Mexico), followed by three rapporteurs. Delegates raised a number of issues including the need to address the root causes of migration and to combat discrimination and xenophobia in the context of migration.

42. At its second sitting, the Committee gave Members the opportunity to ventilate on the issues of international migration. The Committee was informed that the United Nations (UN) estimates that in 2013 some 232 million people were living outside their country of birth or citizenship for more than one year. While the number of international migrants has grown steadily, that three per cent proportion of world population has remained stable over the past 40 years. It was further noted that migration today is motivated by a range of economic, political and social factors. In most cases migrants leave their country of origin because of conflict, widespread violations of human rights or other reasons threatening life or safety. It was noted in the meeting that many are compelled by the absence of decent work to seek employment elsewhere.

43. The rapporteurs outlined some basic figures on international migration, including in the world of work that;

- a) International migrants in 2013, estimated at 232 million, represent 3.2 per cent of the global population;



- b) Economically active migrants (including refugees) numbered about 105 million in 2010;
  - c) South – South and South – North migration have increased from about 60 million in 2000 to about 82 million in 2013 accounting for 40 per cent of the overall growth in foreign- born populations;
  - d) Women make up 48 per cent of international migrants.
44. During the discussions. Kenya was represented by Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani who alluded the role of UNHCR in co-ordinating international action to protect refugees and the primary responsibility of governments in the protection of refugees and migrants. This is because governments are party to international treaties and conventions. The committee took note of the fact that as at 2018, Kenya was host to upto 486,460 refugees and asylum seekers at both Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps. Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani therefore strongly advocated for the protection of the rights of migrants especially the children and women. She acknowledged Kenyas efforts in actualizing these through the Global Compact on Migration.
45. The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, especially on the amendments to the draft resolution: *“On Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.*

#### **iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

46. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held two panel discussions. The first on *‘whether a UN intergovernmental tax body can help resolve outstanding issues of corporate tax evasion?’*. The panel comprised of Ms. S. Blankenburg, Head of Debt and development Finance Branch, UNCTAD; Ms. T.M Ryding, Policy and Advocay Mananger for Tax Justice, EURODAD and Mr. D. Pacheco, MP (Portugal). The second panel on *The ‘scope of cooperation between Parliaments and the WHO as the leading UN Agency for global health’* consisited of presenters: Ms. M. Boccoz, Assistant Director – General for External Relations, WHO; Dr. H. Millat, MP ( Banglasesh and President of the IPU Advisory Group on Health).
47. During the second panel discussion, the role of Parliament in legislation and budget oversight in abid to expand provision of health services was emphasized with MPs participation in World Health Assembly lauded and welcomed.

## **F. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

48. The 203<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Governing Council held its meetings on 25 and 28 March.

### **i) Membership of the IPU**

49. As at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the Governing Council noted that there had been no formal requests for affiliations, reaffiliations or observer status with membership standing at 178 national Parliaments.

### **ii) Financial Situation**

50. The Governing Council received a report of the financial situation of the IPU as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in addition to a list of unpaid contributions. The Council noted that as at 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, four members (Dominican Republic, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania ) and one Associate Member (Inter-parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union) were in arrears of two full years hence subject to sanctions. Further, that two members (Honduras and Papua New Guinea ) were subject to suspension due to three or more years in arrears pending amendments on the statutes to be adopted by the 139<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.

### **iii) Cooperation with the United Nations system**

51. The Council took note of several meeting and publication produced by the IPU in collaboration with the UN and further noted the resolution adopted in May 2018 on '*interactions between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU*' which proclaimed 30<sup>th</sup> June as the International Day of Parliamentarism. This commences in 2018.

### **iv) Implementation of the IPU strategy for 2017-2021**

52. The Council took note of a comprehensive interim report by the Secretary General on progress made on implementation of the eight strategic objectives, as well as concrete actions that Members could take to accelerate their realization, including the hosting of future IPU events.

### **v) Recent specialized meetings**

53. The Governing Council took note of the results of the following – The 12<sup>th</sup> Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament; the Regional Seminar on



Parliamentary Cooperation for Sustainable Development: Combating Poverty and Promoting Health Care; the Technical Briefing on the role of parliamentarians in achieving universal health coverage and global health security as two sides of the same coin; the Third South Asian Speaker's Summit on IPU on achieving the SDGs; the Parliamentary Side Event at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Others were, the Third Interregional Seminar on Parliamentary Capacity-Building and Further Implementation of the SDGs: Implementing the SDGs through South-South Parliamentary Cooperation; and the Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals and Gender Equality for Parliaments of the Middle East and North Africa.

54. The Council also took note of initial preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament scheduled for 2020 and thereby approved the composition of the Preparatory Committee based on the nominations received from the geopolitical groups.

**vi) Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees**

55. At its sitting on 18 October, the Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Advisory Group on Health, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU and the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG).
56. The Council also endorsed the amended Terms of Reference of the HLAG. This was aimed at making the Group more inclusive and balanced, and decided to allow the Group in its current composition to pursue its work until the next Assembly, by which time nominations from the geopolitical groups would have been received. The expanded composition of 21 members would be based on the formula used for the composition of the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, i.e. Executive Committee, Geopolitical Groups allocation plus one per group.
57. The Council also approved 19 decisions submitted by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, noting the reservations from Cambodia, the Philippines, Turkey and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of, ruling party) concerning the cases in their respective countries and by Bolivia

(Plurinational Republic of), Cuba, Nicaragua and Serbia concerning the case of Venezuela

**vii) Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**

58. The Governing Council gave its provisional approval to hold the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Doha (Qatar) in March 2019 and the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly in Belgrade (Serbia) in October 2019 provided that the following three requirements were fulfilled –

- a) a favourable technical mission report conducted by the Secretariat on the availability of conference and related facilities;
- b) the confirmation by the Parliament of Qatar to absorb all additional costs related to the holding of a second Assembly abroad in 2019; and
- c) the provision of guarantees by the authorities of the host countries to provide entry visas to all delegates invited to participate in the Assembly.

59. The Council also approved the list of future meetings and other activities to be funded by the IPU's regular budget and by external sources.

**viii) Amendments to the Statutes and Rules**

60. In terms of the amendments to the statutes and rules, the Governing Council approved a package of amendments to the Statutes and Rules proposed by the Executive Committee.



## **G. THE 280<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

61. The Executive Committee held its 280<sup>th</sup> session on 12,13 and 17 October. The President of the IPU chaired the meeting. The Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka (*a member of the Executive committee*) alongside other members also attended the meetings.
62. At its sitting on 12 October, the IPU President provided an overview of her many outreach efforts to Members and non-Members as contained in her vision. Further the Committee noted the efforts by both the IPU President and the Secretary General in reaching out to non-Members, especially those in the Pacific and the Caribbean and further encouraging the inactive IPU Members in the region - Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago to re-engage with the Organization.
63. She informed the meeting that the IPU achieved a milestone by having 30<sup>th</sup> June, the date on which the IPU was founded, proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Day of Parliamentarism. She encouraged members to put forward proposals on how to celebrate the day both at the IPU Headquarters and in their parliaments.
64. The Executive Committee examined the unfinished business of the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly, namely the prerogatives of the Assembly and its Standing Committees. It was therefore decided that a vote be held in the Assembly to clarify the matter without reopening the topic of the debate.
65. As mandated by the Governing Council at its 202<sup>nd</sup> session, the Executive Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). With regards to the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021, a comprehensive report from the Secretary General was shared with the Committee endorsing, two memorandum of understanding (MoUs) to be signed with the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the WHO.
66. The Executive Committee also examined the situation of certain Parliaments namely: Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. It made recommendations on each case to the Governing Council, including missions to Turkey and Venezuela. The Secretary General shared with the

committee on the findings of his recent missions to Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Turkmenistan in late May/early June, to Hawaii in mid-July and to Burundi in late July/early August.

67. The Executive Committee also discussed the hosting of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU and the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU in March and October 2019 respectively and the inability for Argentina to take up the responsibility for hosting the March, 2019 meeting. On the final day of the sitting, the Executive Committee received a report from the President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) on cooperation between the IPU and the ASGP and further endorsed a Presidential Statement on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and the draft Outcome Document of the General Debate.
68. On questions relating to the Secretariat of the IPU the Executive Committee discussed staff developments including promotions and further in the absence of the Secretary General reviewed the contract of the office holder for the second year term. Through a vote by secret ballot, the members decided that the office holder of the position of Secretary General should be remunerated at the level of UN Under-Secretary-General, that is according to the salary scale of the International Civil Service Commission.



## H. FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

69. The 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 14 October. It brought together 195 participants, including 151 parliamentarians from 70 countries and representatives from various international organizations. There were 123 women and 28 men among the parliamentarians. In keeping with the Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the First Vice-President, Senator Susan Kihika (Kenya), took over the presidency until the end of the term in April 2020. As such, she chaired the proceedings.
70. The Forum expressed its gratitude to Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden), former President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, who had lost her seat in the most recent parliamentary elections. Following remarks from the IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, participants considered the draft resolution before the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly on '*Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*' from a gender perspective. Discussions were held in two groups with participants underscoring the multiple discrimination facing migrant women. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolution, which were incorporated by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.
71. Participants also discussed the measures needed to eliminate the barriers and discrimination that impeded women from realizing their potential in science and new technologies. As such, the importance of inclusive and gender-sensitive teaching was emphasized with support to women researchers and professors identified as drivers of change.

## **I. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **i) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

72. The 157<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee was held on the 13 to 17 October 2018 and was chaired by Ms. D. Solórzano (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Vice-President. During the session, the Committee held 10 hearings and informal meetings with delegations and complainants with at least 23 cases concerning the situation of 328 members of Parliament in 15 countries in its agenda. The Committee submitted 19 decisions to the Governing Council concerning the following countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Palestine, Palestine/Israel, Philippines, Senegal, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

### **ii) Committee on Middle East Questions**

73. The Committee held two sittings, on 14 and 16 October 2018 chaired by the President, Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada). The Committee examined the current situation in the region, particularly the announcement by the US Administration to end all funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the passing of a law by the Israeli Knesset defining the State of Israel as the nation of the Jewish people. The Committee also heard brief presentations by the Yemeni delegation and Mr. N. Gouda, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, on the situations in their respective countries.

74. With the forgoing, the members recognized the complexities underpinning the different situations while reaffirming their commitment to open dialogue and concrete projects. The Committee members further agreed to undertake a visit to the Middle East in early 2019 and highlighted their wish to visit refugee camps in Jordan.

### **iii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

75. The Committee met on Monday 16 October. As there was no quorum, no formal decisions were taken, however, the Committee members held a hearing with the delegation of Myanmar, as part of the follow-up to the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly emergency item resolution on the Rohingya crisis. The resolution called on the Committee *"to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to address the situation of the Rohingya people and provide a peaceful and*



*sustainable solution to the crisis".* The Committee members were therefore very keen to pursue dialogue and expressed their wish to carry out a mission to Myanmar to ascertain the role IPU can play in supporting Parliament in its efforts to secure a positive outcome to the humanitarian crisis.

76. As part of the agenda of the committee also held an open briefing session on Ending Statelessness by 2024 - Pledges, Action and Results.

#### **iv) Gender Partnership Group**

77. The Gender Partnership Group, where the Rt.Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka (*speaker of the Senate, Kenya*) is a member alongside Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway), Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. A. Albasti (United Arab Emirates), met on 17 October and was chaired by Ms. Haukeland Liadal. The Group reviewed figures regarding the composition of delegations present at the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. The Group noted that as at 17 October, 32.9 per cent of delegates registered at the Assembly were women, the highest percentage ever achieved at an IPU Assembly. The Committee also noted that of the 145 delegations present, 140 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 17 were composed exclusively of men (12.1%) and four were composed only of women. The 21 single-sex delegations were from the parliaments of the following States: Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Denmark, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Haiti, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen.
78. Also, worth noting, there were nine single member delegations of which five were made up of a male delegate and four of a female delegate. The Group members therefore agreed on a raft of measures among them –

- a) follow up on the issue at the geopolitical groups level for discussion and action;
- b) remedy the situation, by strengthening existing sanctions as follows: with regards to the Governing Council, single-sex delegations be limited to one vote instead of two while the Assembly, that parliaments represented by singlesex delegations after two (not three) consecutive sessions be sanctioned with a reduction in their voting entitlements and number of delegates; and

c) seek proposals for amendments on the foregoing sactions.

79. The Group therefore agreed to monitor the composition of delegations attending IPU Assemblies to ensure gender-balanced delegations. As such the group agreed to work on developing a code of conduct that would apply for Assemblies and other IPU meetings. To support the progress of women MPs worldwide, the Group also decided to engage with Parliaments that had no women members in addition to Parliaments where women accounted for less than 5 per cent of the membership through an exchange of views at the next session. The Group lauded the new IPU study on '*Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe*' conducted in partnership with PACE.

#### **v) Advisory Group on Health**

80. The Advisory Group on Health met on 16 October, with six out of eight members in attendance alongside WHO and Global Fund (AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (*the Groups' technical partners*)). The Group unanimously approved the second one-year mandate for its Chairperson, Dr. H. Millat (Bangladesh), and Vice-Chairperson, Ms. P. Bayr (Austria) . Further, the group discussed the report from the IPU Secretariat about the health-related activities carried out since the Group's last meeting. Of particular interest to the group was the conclusion of cooperation agreements between the IPU and the WHO, and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), which provided a solid framework for future global parliamentary action on health.

81. The Group also took note of and approved the activities planned by the IPU and its partners in order to implement existing cooperation agreements. They agreed to serve as the review board for the future IPU handbook for parliamentarians on women's, children's and adolescents' health.

#### **vi) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus**

82. The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 14 October. The meeting was attended by Mr. J. de Matos Rosa (Portugal), a facilitator, four members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus and three representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot political parties. The parties expressed their readiness to engage, dialogue and exchange of views and stressed the need to recommence negotiations under the auspices of the



United Nations. They underlined that a functional and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the values and principles of the European Union, would benefit all Cypriots

#### **vii) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU**

83. The Forum met on 15 October chaired by the President of the Board, Ms. M. Oloru (Uganda). The meeting was attended by 64 young parliamentarians, 32 of whom were women. The Forum discussed recent national efforts to enhance youth participation. It also reviewed youth participation at the IPU with a view to monitoring the implementation of the newly introduced measures of enhancing youth participation at IPU Assemblies. It noted that young parliamentarians made up 20 per cent of participants at the 139th Assembly. To increase the numbers, the forum set the minimum standards to be achieved by 2035. Three targets were identified based on the proportion of young people in the population according to three age groups.
84. The Board members also agreed on the theme of the Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians due to take place in Baku (Azerbaijan) in December 2018.

#### **viii) Meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)**

85. The ASGP brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the different services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the its President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The ASGP assists IPU at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. The Clerks and Senior Deputy Clerks of both Houses of the Kenya Parliament are members of the ASGP.
86. During the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU meeting, the ASGP held meetings on 15, 16 and 17 October. Kenya was represented by the Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission, Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye together with Senior Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Ms Serah Kioko. The ASGP held discussion around four thematic areas as follows-

- a) *Communication* topics related to the use of media technology. It was therefore observed that Parliaments rely on technology to disseminate information to the public and to enhance transparency on the workings of Parliament.
- b) *Parliament and government*: the general debate with informal discussion groups were held on the requirement for government to consult Parliament before carrying out certain acts on certain decisions like going to war, public appointments, constitutional changes and responses to national emergencies.
- c) *Renewal*: the discussions covered the following sub-themes, welcoming new MPs (measures for the day of their arrival in parliament; the circulation of written information, and tours of the estate; training of new MPS (in legislative procedure, IT; the distribution of key posts (the election of a Speaker and deputies, and of Committee chairs; and Logistics (pay, transport, communications).



## **J. OTHER SIDE MEETINGS**

### **i) Open briefing session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on Ending statelessness by 2024 – Pledges, Action and Results**

87. The briefing was organized by the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and held on the 17 October 2018. The session highlighted nationality as a right and a guarantee to basic human rights, such as, the right to education, access to health or work hence the urgent need to "humanize" the statelessness.

88. The session reviewed the various causes of statelessness, which include conflict of laws, transfer of territory, gaps in civil registration laws, discrimination in nationality laws or administrative practices, and lack of birth registration. Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani shared Kenya's experiences on statelessness and how government intervention and existing legal framework gave the Makonde Community, the right to Kenyan citizenship.

### **ii) Panel discussion on Where do Parliaments stand in the fight against Sexism and Harassment?**

89. The regional study conducted jointly by the IPU and PACE on '*Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe*' was launched at the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. While presenting the findings of the study, an interactive discussion, entitled '*Where do parliaments stand in the fight against sexism and harassment?*' was organized. The discussion was chaired by the IPU President and Ms. L. Maury Pasquier, President of PACE. Other speakers that took part included: Ms. M. Rempel, MP (Canada), Mr. L. Córdova, President of the National Electoral Institute (INE) of Mexico, and Ms. M. Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Organization (ILO).

90. The session began with a theatrical performance in which 12 women parliamentarians read out the anonymous testimonies of women gathered as part of the regional study. These testimonies gave voice to the human experience behind the figures in the new study. Sen. Susan Kihika from Kenya and President of the Forum of Women parliamentarians participated in the theatrical performance

91. The session provided an opportunity for participants to both share personal experiences of harassment and violence against women in parliaments and

to give concrete examples of solutions already being implemented within their parliaments and other institutions. Participants agreed that the extent and nature of sexism and gender-based violence against women in parliaments was of great concern and required urgent attention and action by all. They called on national Parliaments to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against sexist attitudes and gender-based violence, to put in place complaint and investigation mechanisms that were confidential and sensitive to victims' needs, and to provide training for all those working in Parliament on issues of respect at work and combating sexism and harassment.

92. Participants also highlighted the need to change the cultural norms that contributed to sexism and gender-based violence in order to bring about a lasting change in mind-sets and behaviours. They called on the IPU to keep exploring the issue further by carrying out studies in other regions. Also IPU was urged to actively involve men. The proposal was put forward to make the issue an emergency item, the subject item of a Committee resolution or the theme of an Assembly general debate. They also recommended that the IPU and PACE develop a framework for preventing sexism and harassment in international forums.

### **iii) Panel discussion on the Role of Parliaments in combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism**

93. The panel discussion was opened by the IPU Secretary General and organized as part of the activities of the IPU-UN Joint Programme on countering terrorism and violent extremism. This took place following a recommendation from the High-Level Advisory Group on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism to give more visibility to the work of the Group and to the roles of parliamentarians in that field. The event sought to bring the global parliamentary community closer to the realities on the ground through the testimonies of victims.
94. Kenya alongside Bahrain, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Qatar, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) shared experiences on the topic. They agreed to fight the scourge collectively. They reiterated that terrorism had no borders and that no country was immune to it. Lastly, the participants welcomed the testimonies of the victims and highlighted the importance of giving them a platform to share their stories. They also welcomed the progressive speech delivered by Mr. Al Ahzari, which highlighted tolerance and co-existence.



**iv) Side event on legislating on food and nutrition: Lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities for parliamentary action**

95. The session was moderated by Ms. G. Verburg, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the SUN Movement. Dr. H. Millat, MP, Chairperson of the IPU Advisory Group on Health. Dr. F. Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO, shared on the importance of legislative action to improve nutrition, highlighting that nutrition could help drive the achievement of several SDGs. Delegates from various countries among them Chile, Pakistan, Kenya ( represented by Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe) and Malawi including youth representatives shared best practices in advancing nutrition in different national contexts..
96. In his remarks and contributions, the Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe noted that Kenya passed the Breast Milk Substitutes Regulation and Control Act in October 2012 which establishes a National Committee on Infant and Young Child Feeding. It also provides rules for the advertisement, promotion and labelling of designated or complementary food products for infants and young children. He further observed that breastfeeding is recognized as one of the most effective ways of preventing child mortality globally. He further observed that Kenya has put in place a number of interventions toward improving child nutrition. These include a supportive legal and policy environment, strong leadership and coordination in the nutrition sector, donor support, and improvement in underlying determinants of malnutrition, among others.
97. Specifically, he outlined the following as key ingredients in legislating on food and nutrition –
- a) Strong political will and commitment: Kenya successfully passed the Breastmilk Substitutes (Regulation and Control) Act 2012 despite strong opposition from the pharmaceutical industry and formula manufacturers.
  - b) Supportive Legal, Regulatory and Policy Environment: Kenya has adopted several laws, policies and regulations that support optimization of nutrition.
  - c) Strong Government Leadership, Framework, and Coordination: Kenya has well-coordinated structures for the implementation of nutrition actions, with clear roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders. All actions, including maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN)

actions, are coordinated by the *Nutrition Inter-agency Coordinating Committee*, which is chaired by the head of the Nutrition and Dietetics Unit in the Ministry of Health. The committee also includes representatives from Kenya's Nutrition and Dietetic Services, the Kenya Bureau of Standards, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, the Nursing Council of Kenya, the Kenya Paediatric Association, national hospitals and NGOs.

- d) Capacity development: The government and other implementing partners have increasingly enhanced the capacity of healthcare staff to support nutrition counseling through training on high-impact nutrition interventions (HINI).

98. Following the discussions, Parliamentarians stressed on the need for multisectoral approaches to nutrition, including health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation. Also, the importance of building partnerships with all relevant stakeholders including local governments at the community level to create an enabling environment for nutrition with the participation of citizens, mothers and young people.

**v) Panel discussion on Building Bridges between Parliamentary and Scientific Communities**

99. The panel discussion on building bridges between parliamentary and scientific communities was held on 16 October in cooperation with CERN and moderated by Mr. P.F. Casini, honorary IPU President. The panel was composed of Ms. S. Ataullahjan, Canadian Senator and President of the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, Mr. P. Lomas, creator and trustee of Raspberry PI, and Mr. F. Quevedo, Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). The panellists agreed that continuing scientific and technological progress and new challenges facing society called for increased cooperation between the worlds of science and politics.

100. Parliamentarians were urged to monitor the application of science by regulating innovation. Further Parliamentarians were encouraged to understand the specifics of basic scientific research and to ensure allocation of resources through public funds. Even then, participants recognized the existing barriers on both the parliamentary and scientific sides to facilitate evidence-based policies with either side requiring the support of the other. Nevertheless, IPU was seen as a platform for bringing science and parliaments closer. The debate led to a unanimous recommendation for the IPU to establish a body on science and education as a more regular part of



its work, particularly during the Assemblies. With that, parliaments would have a permanent interface with the rapidly evolving world of science, technology and innovation, gaining insight into all its implications for policy-making.

**vi) Panel discussion on What can MPs do to sort Fact from Fiction in the Age of Fake News**

101. The Panel discussion on what MPs can do to sort out fact from fiction was organised by the IPU Communications Division on 16 October and was moderated by Ms. H. Aly, Director of IRIN News. The panel comprised of Ms. A. Leander, Faculty member of the Albert Hirschman Centre on Democracy and Professor of International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva; Mr. C. Matheson, MP, United Kingdom; and Mr. T. Fakude, Head of Research Relations at the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.
102. Some of the questions that were discussed were whether fake news was new phenomenon or has been enhanced owing to the advanced technology; whether the phenomenon undermines democracy; the role of parliament in regulating misinformation without compromising free speech; how the media quality-control the information they disseminated; and alleged malpractice or malign intentions by State actors and data companies such as Cambridge Analytica in the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom, as well as elections in the Caribbean and Catalonia. While panellists disagreed on whether fake news and misinformation should be regulated they were in consensus that citizens, particularly young people, should be encouraged to critique such information.

**vii) Parity debate on ensuring that Children enjoy their Rights and grow up protected from Violence**

103. The parity debate was organised by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to promote parity representation and participation of men and women by inviting them to voice their concerns on gender equality during the discussion. The debate was moderated by Sen. Susan Kihika (The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians). The following speakers graced the debate: Ms. J.A. Gakuba, Vice-President of the Senate of Rwanda and member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; Mr. O. James, Global Campaign Director, the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation; Ms. A. Gass, Girls Advocacy Alliance Officer at Plan International, UNOG; and Dr. H. Millat, MP from Bangladesh. The parity debate focused on violence

against children and the concrete solutions and measures needed to eliminate it.

104. The delegates noted the social norms related to age and sex including sexual violence, forced and early marriage, genital mutilation, homicide and forced labour that exposed boys and girls to different forms of violence. As such, it was recommended that age, specific needs of girls and boys, be taken into consideration in laws and public policies development. Further that, children be involved in decision making on issues affecting them including being informed on gender equality issues through awareness and education campaigns. Participants also requested that children's rights be incorporated more often in IPU debates, including in the exchange of good practices between parliamentarians.

#### **viii) Meeting of the Presidents of the Geopolitical Groups**

105. The IPU President met with the Presidents of the geopolitical groups on the 14 October to discuss the organization of work during and beyond IPU Assemblies. This was in addition to efforts to increase IPU visibility while meeting its key objectives of fostering greater parliamentary understanding and solidarity. The Presidents of the geopolitical groups gave a summary of their activities since the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly. While presenting an overview of future IPU activities in line with the IPU Strategy and vision, the IPU president encouraged the Presidents of the groups to reach out to their members with a view to identifying future hosts for IPU events. It was also noted that the 2018 reporting exercise by Members on follow-up to IPU resolutions and decisions including the active engagement of the Group Presidents had seen an increase in the overall response rate (currently at 67%).
106. The need to enhance dialogue and cooperation with the regional and other parliamentary organizations as a key objective of the IPU was emphasized. This was seen as an opportunity to reduce duplication, build synergies and better take advantage of the comparative advantages of each partner organization.

#### **ix) Meeting of the Presidents of the Standing Committees**

107. The meeting between the IPU President and the Presidents of the Standing Committees was held on 14 October with the latter providing an overview of



their work at the current Assembly and possible outstanding issues. One of the emerging issue was the prerogatives of the Standing Committees in terms of setting their agendas and whether their programmes of work, could be changed by the Assembly. The IPU membership was therefore called upon to decide on the matter the following day with expected amendments in the IPU Statutes and Rules.

108. Additionally the Presidents of the Standing Committees underscored the improvement with time in the participation and the quality of discussions in the Committee. It was however indicated that more needed to be done to ensure communication and cooperation beyond the Assemblies. It was therefore agreed that possible ways of fostering exchanges including through sports and culture in the context of various IPU activities be mooted.

109. The Bureaus were also called upon to play an important role in representing the IPU at various international conferences like the Geneva Peace Week, the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, and the Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations among others.

**x) Joint IPU – ASGP Workshop on: How good is Parliament at holding Government to Account? How well am I performing my Oversight Role?**

The joint IPU-ASGP workshop was held on 18 October and moderated by Ms. A. Tolley, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Zealand. It brought together MPs, Secretaries General of Parliaments and senior parliamentary staff. The panelists comprised of Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina); Mr. J.M. Araújo, Secretary General of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal; and Mr. B. Bwalya, Adviser, National Assembly of Zambia. During the meeting Mr. A. Richardson (IPU Secretariat) presented the recommendations of the 2017 Global Parliamentary Report on parliamentary oversight, and the draft self-assessment toolkit currently being developed by the IPU. The toolkit, which drew directly on the recommendations of the Report, was intended to assist Parliaments in assessing their capacity for effective oversight in a bid to identify strengths, weaknesses and priorities for reform.

The participants acknowledged that Parliaments often faced common challenges in holding governments to account, albeit in varying extent depending on each country. The session deliberated on the creative

solutions that Parliaments were adopting to address the challenges. It also highlighted the importance of Parliament's administrative capacity to provide quality support for oversight to MPs, as well as interparliamentary cooperation.

Participants also discussed how to make good use of parliament's oversight powers, based on some of the self-assessment questions with several Countries among them Sierra Leone, Ukraine and Ecuador sharing their views. Some of the examples shared included: (a) parliamentary committees in Sierra Leone that withheld approval of departmental budgets until the relevant Minister had provided an appropriate response to recommendations made by parliament; (b) a "protest" mechanism in the Parliament of Ukraine, where extra time in plenary was allocated for addressing questions that were unsatisfactorily answered; (c) The creation of a new department for evaluation of the impact of laws in Ecuador; (d) the introduction of gender-impact assessments in Portugal, and (e) the publication of pre- and post-legislative regulatory impact assessments in Georgia.



## **K. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 138<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS**

### **1) Outcome document of the General Debate on Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change**

Endorsed by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18 October 2018)

The collective body of scientific knowledge of the world we live in is greater today than at any time in history. Scientific research continues to push back the boundaries of our known universe. This knowledge fuels rapid innovation and technological change, which in turn can enhance human wellbeing and stimulate economic growth, among a wealth of other potential benefits. Over the years, advancements in the natural and social sciences, including the development of incredibly effective drugs and medical procedures, have resulted in a better quality of life for everyone.

The associated technological developments have generated, among many other things, extraordinary improvements in connectivity and communication. Digitalization and big data offer new ways of creating innovative solutions, such as early warning systems to prevent violence, and empower young people and women to solve social issues through technology. They also present a great opportunity to make substantial progress in the areas of biology, renewable energy, financial technology, as well as towards Industry 4.0, commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution.

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the key role that science and technological innovation play in sustainable development, emphasizing their importance not only for economic growth and prosperity but also for environmental protection, development and social inclusion. However, we recognize that scientific discovery and technological change do not automatically lead to positive developments for society. The manipulation of the human genome, autonomous killer robots, cybercrime and the implications of the use of artificial intelligence are just some of the ethical and societal challenges of our time. Shying away from these difficult questions is not an option.

In an ever-changing world, we must be at the forefront of deliberations on new issues that can have a major impact on our societies. We must approach our task with humility, recognizing our own limitations, encouraging dialogue and avoiding ideological responses. As parliamentarians, we are responsible for fostering an environment where science, technology and innovation make a positive contribution to peace, development and human well-being, while simultaneously limiting or mitigating the associated risks and protecting the



planet. We do not take these responsibilities lightly. Our debate has identified several avenues for parliamentary action to promote peace and development through science and technological innovation:

### **Strengthen legal frameworks that are conducive to technological and scientific innovation for peace and development**

As lawmakers, we have the means to create a legal framework that is conducive to innovation, as well as a regulatory environment that enables businesses to flourish while guaranteeing respect for the environment and international law, particularly international human rights law. Our role is to safeguard the interests of society and people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Promote education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and, in particular, encourage the participation of women and girls, with the aim of achieving gender equality and reducing the gender imbalance in STEM education and in scientific careers;
- Promote universal digital literacy, especially among young people, in view of the transformation of work skills required for a future labour market built on a digital and knowledge-based economy, making sure to leave no one behind;
- Adopt timely and effective national and international legislation in favour of technological innovation that promotes peace, security, sustainable development and social inclusion and that defines common ethical boundaries; Ensure, by using our legislative and oversight prerogatives, that no development driven by science and technology impedes or violates human rights or results in the irrational use of natural resources; and
- Guarantee respect for the international human rights framework as the beacon that guides our decisions on how to address difficult ethical issues.

### **Make parliaments drivers of technological innovation in the interest of transparency and inclusion**

Science and technological innovation are radically transforming every aspect of human existence, including the way parliaments work. The use of modern technology can make parliaments more efficient and effective. We want to assume parliamentary leadership in technological innovation not only through our legislative function, but also by transforming our parliamentary processes and promoting a culture of engagement with our people. Therefore, we decide to:

- Increase the level of transparency, accountability and responsiveness to our constituencies through the use of modern information and communications technologies, such as live video streaming of parliamentary sessions and improved online information access;



- Make use of the available technological tools and instruments to improve the design and monitoring of our policies and legislations;
- Take steps to ensure that our parliaments are open and transparent institutions; that they are willing to consider innovative working methods, such as the establishment of parliamentary committees on the future; and that parliamentary research services are appropriately funded and resourced so that they can provide parliamentarians with timely, non-partisan analyses;
- Reduce the carbon footprint of parliaments and work towards the realization of e-parliaments; and
- Strengthen inter-parliamentary collaboration in the fields of science and technology and share best practices and lessons learned.

### **Establish strong connections with the scientific community**

It is our duty to facilitate and promote regular and systematic interaction between parliaments and the scientific community. Access to the best available expertise is essential for us to make informed choices. The rational, scientific approach to making sense of the world needs to be encouraged and supported by everyone, including politicians and the media. Therefore, we decide to:

- Recognize that scientific research plays a fundamental role in developing knowledge and technologies that can allow parliaments to formulate evidence-based policies aimed at tackling societal challenges;
- Support mechanisms and budgetary measures that guarantee science-based policymaking to ensure the sustainable well-being of future generations;
- Reaffirm that non-partisan funding for scientific research is an investment in our future;
- Underline the importance of scientific methods for elucidating facts that can be checked, verified and accepted by society, especially at this current time when factual information is increasingly being called into question in political discourse, and when scientific consensus is no longer valued by all sectors of society; and
- Promote and value the presence in parliaments of scientists, engineers, innovators and STEM educators.

### **Support international scientific cooperation in favour of peace and development**

Science and technology provide a neutral umbrella under which parliamentarians with different political opinions can come together and address global challenges related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Science can be used to build bridges and to bring countries in conflict together through scientific cooperation that benefits their respective populations. Therefore, we decide to:

- Support models of peaceful scientific cooperation, such as the ones developed by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the International Centre for Synchrotron Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME);
- Support the initiative by the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to establish, in cooperation with CERN, an IPU Science for Peace Schools programme aimed at bridging the worlds of science and politics and creating inter-parliamentary networks to address common challenges;
- Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge-sharing as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda;
- Call for open access to scientific publications as a way of reducing the unequal distribution of scientific knowledge and technological innovation and of increasing the ability of people to contribute more effectively to society;
- Support the technology transfer process in developing countries by conducting effective capacity-building activities in the receiving country, with a view to ensuring that technological innovation does not further increase global inequalities; and
- Include scientific knowledge in the parliamentary oversight of the 2030 Agenda implementation process.

The future is, by definition, uncertain. Scientific discovery, innovation and technological change bring great opportunities, but also risks that we must control. Parliaments have a critical role to play in that regard. We can greatly contribute to this process by raising parliamentary awareness of the importance of science, technology, innovation and STEM education for society; by making sure that science is systematically brought into public debates and decision-making; by considering the implementation of appropriate regulations to foster technological innovation; and by promoting cross-border initiatives based on scientific cooperation. In our role as representatives of the people, we pledge to engage the scientific community in an ongoing dialogue on the ways in which we can enhance peace and development, improve human well-being and safeguard the interests of all members of our society.

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## **2) Declaration on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**Endorsed by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Geneva, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018)**

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a historic instrument drafted in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War by representatives from around the world with different legal and cultural backgrounds.

The fundamental rights in the Declaration have served, first and foremost, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human beings and to contribute to the peace, security and prosperity of all nations.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Declaration, we also remember and honour Nelson Mandela, who would have turned 100 years old this year. He personified the ideals of the Declaration and, in his own words, strove to uphold "the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities".

Over the course of his lifetime, the rights enshrined in the Declaration were universally recognized, with States now bound in law to ensure their citizens benefit from these rights and can access appropriate remedies and redress when the rights are violated.

Yet these rights are still far from being a reality for many. Against the backdrop of growing authoritarianism, internal conflict, war, poverty and large-scale migration, we, as parliamentarians, feel compelled to reaffirm our commitment to the Declaration and its underlying principles in the following way:

- As legislators, we commit to guaranteeing that the domestic legal framework complies with international and national human rights obligations and creates an enabling environment for inclusive participatory politics, a vibrant civil society and the rule of law.
- As people's representatives, we will do everything in our power to ensure that parliamentary discourse, proceedings, and outreach are rooted in, and promote, equality, liberty and justice.
- We will do more to raise greater awareness of the Declaration among our constituents and help them to access their rights thereunder.

- As role models, we commit ourselves to inspire and energize our societies, particularly by championing the rights of those who are marginalized and persecuted, such as women, children, minorities, and others who are disenfranchised.
- We commit to the Declaration by acting in solidarity with parliamentary colleagues worldwide whose fundamental rights are being violated and by raising their cases at the appropriate forums and with the relevant interlocutors, as well as by supporting the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.
- We will do everything in our power to support human rights defenders, the often "invisible Mandelas" who risk their freedom and lives to uphold the rights of others and who merit the recognition and support of parliaments, especially in light of the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

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### 3) Climate Change – Let us not cross the line

#### **Resolution adopted unanimously by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Geneva, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018)**

The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that the Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016,

*Acknowledging* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development draws a clear link between climate change and other critical areas of today's society, such as food security, the ocean, and other water resources,

*Recalling that*, as part of the Paris Agreement, the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,

*Noting* that the IPCC recently released its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,

*Also noting* the following projections of major concern in the IPCC report:

- a) Climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between the present day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°C. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).
- b) By 2100, global mean sea level rise is projected to be around 0.1 metre lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (medium confidence). A slower rate of sea level rise enables greater opportunities for adaptation in the human and ecological systems of small islands, low-lying coastal areas and deltas (medium confidence).
- c) On land, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including species loss and extinction, are projected to be lower at 1.5°C of global warming compared to 2°C.
- d) Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C is projected to reduce increases in ocean temperature as well as associated increases in ocean acidity and decreases in ocean oxygen levels (high confidence). Consequently, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is projected to reduce risks

to marine biodiversity, fisheries, and ecosystems, and their functions and services to humans, as illustrated by recent changes to the Arctic sea ice and warm water coral reef ecosystems (high confidence).

- e) Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C and increase further with 2°C,

*Acknowledging* that the Report establishes that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible despite being at the most ambitious end of the Paris Agreement pledge to keep temperatures between 1.5°C and 2°C,

*Recognizing* that the small island developing States (SIDS) acknowledged that "climate change presents the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of Pacific people"; and further recognized the importance placed on an "expanded concept of security inclusive of human security, humanitarian assistance, prioritizing environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change, including through regional cooperation and support",

*Acknowledging* that many countries near sea level are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, notably droughts, floods and storms, due to high rates of poverty, financial and technological constraints as well as a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture, despite many of these countries not being significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

*Recognizing* the importance of immediate urgent action to combat climate change, and committed to sustained, high-level representation and collaboration in the lead up to, and at, the 24th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP24),

*Cognizant* of the profound impact of climate change on the ocean and the fact that the global community cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without considering the other, and while recognizing that ocean acidification has a specific target under Sustainable Development Goal 14.3, and that it must not lose sight of the fundamental climate change-related issues such as ocean warming, deoxygenation, coral bleaching and sea level rise which present a new set of challenges for the ocean,

*Recalling* the relevant IPU resolutions on climate change and the Parliamentary action plan on climate change, endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session in Zambia in 2016, which identifies key areas of action for legislators and makes recommendations about their delivery,

*Also recalling* the SIDS parliamentary outcome document of their meeting held on 14 October 2017 in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the



137th IPU Assembly, which was subsequently made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn (COP23),

*Therefore calls on the IPU Members to:*

- (a) Recognize and decisively act on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C;
- (b) Support and lead the development of the Rule Book and Guidelines for implementing the Paris Agreement, including resource mobilization and simplifying procedures for accessing climate change funding, in order to build on the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP24;
- (c) Take a leadership role in combating climate change and strengthening their partnership with all countries so as to meet their ambitions as set out in their nationally determined contributions;
- (d) Encourage their governments to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy targets; and
- (e) Strengthen oversight of national and international commitments, including government implementation of national legislation and enhance transparency, accountability and reporting of climate change.

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#### **4) Strengthening Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation and Migration and Migration Governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

##### **Resolution adopted by consensus<sup>1</sup> by the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Geneva, 18 October 2018)**

The 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that migration has been a feature of human civilization from time immemorial and that, when governed humanely and fairly, migration contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in both origin and destination countries and strengthens the bonds of human solidarity,

*Also recalling* all the relevant international instruments, particularly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),

*Affirming* that people on the move, irrespective of their legal status, as all human beings, are entitled to the full enjoyment of the human rights set out in the relevant international treaties and covenants,

*Conscious* of the burden shouldered by the countries of destination that can come from large, unpredictable movements of persons, and the potential impact on countries of origin of the large-scale migration of skilled workers,

*Noting* that the international approach to migration governance is still largely ad hoc, and that no equivalent exists for migrants to the clearly-defined status and rights of refugees in international law,

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<sup>1</sup> -The delegation of Lebanon expressed reservations on operative paragraph 9  
-The delegations of Ethiopia and Ukraine expressed reservations on operative paragraph 16.  
- The delegation of Kuwait expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 9 and 16.  
- The delegation of Jordan expressed reservations on all references to international agreements to which Jordan is not a signatory.  
- The delegation of Poland expressed its reservation on the resolution as a whole.



*Welcoming* the September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the subsequent efforts to improve international cooperation and solidarity, and to share equitably the burden and responsibility for migration governance through the preparation of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

*Recalling* the commitment of the international parliamentary community to strengthen cooperation on migration governance, with a strong focus on the human rights of migrants, as outlined in the declarations and resolutions on migration adopted by the 130th, 133rd and 138th IPU Assemblies and other IPU documents,

*Underscoring* that migration should be a choice not a necessity, and that, through international legal obligations and commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, States have a shared responsibility and have undertaken to address all the root causes of migration such as violence and conflict, poverty, inequality, unemployment and economic exclusion, lack of economic opportunity, especially for women and youth, social inequalities, disregard of rule of law and transparency, violations of human rights, natural disasters and climate change,

*Affirming* the need to uphold common standards for the protection of the human rights of migrants and migration governance, and to ensure a gender- and disability-responsive and child-sensitive approach at all stages of migration,

*Recognizing* the multiple discriminations and forms of violence that migrant women face in countries of origin, transit and destination, particularly those engaged as domestic workers, and reaffirming the need to urge host countries to accept their responsibility in this area,

*Also recognizing* that women constitute the majority of victims of human trafficking, including sexual exploitation and forced labour in domestic work,

*Reaffirming* the sovereign right of States to determine, in accordance with international law, their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, and also recognizing the right of States to distinguish between a regular and irregular migration status in their legislative and policy measures on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, while taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work,

1. *Welcomes* the process leading to the draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration that should be adopted on 10 December 2018, and urges States and their respective parliaments to make full use of this new instrument for improving international cooperation and migration governance;



2. *Calls upon* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to ratify and implement relevant international human rights laws and key ILO conventions<sup>2</sup> as well as other relevant international and regional instruments protecting the rights of migrants, women, children and persons in vulnerable situations;
3. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that decisions of sovereign States on migration policies and related legislation, including bilateral and regional agreements, are consistent with their States' international human rights obligations and the rule of law;
4. *Urges* parliamentarians to lead efforts to develop evidence-informed narratives on migration that avoid stereotyping but, instead, enhance integration and social cohesion, and to take vigorous action to combat xenophobia, racism, intolerance and other forms of discrimination;
5. *Calls on* parliaments to promote people's access to comprehensive and up-to-date information on the opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration, thus enabling would-be migrants to make informed choices;
6. *Encourages* "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches to migration based on partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the private sector, and calls for regular consultation with migrants and diaspora groups in the policy-making process where appropriate, and also calls for gender-sensitive training on migration for all professionals and officials that are in contact with migrants;
7. *Urges* parliaments in cooperation with their governments to expand the legal pathways for migration to facilitate labour mobility and skills training, family reunification, and migration for reasons such as armed conflict, gender-based violence, natural disasters and climate change;
8. *Calls on* governments to take measures to promote mutual understanding and respect between migrants and the host society, and, recalling that integration is a two-way task that implies the migrants' respect for the national laws of their destination country, to facilitate migrants' integration in society, inter alia, by way of language courses, vocational training, recognition of educational and professional credentials, information about economic opportunities, protection against discrimination and, in accordance with national legislation, pathways to citizenship for permanent residents;
9. *Recalls* that social protection and labour rights apply to all persons, including migrants, and that regular migrants should have equitable access to social security coverage and portability of contributions and entitlements in accordance with national legislation;
10. *Urges* States to adopt gender-responsive labour policies and legislation, grounded in international labour and human rights standards, with a view to ensuring that all women migrant workers, including domestic and care workers, are protected against all forms of abuse and exploitation, including the confiscation of travel documents;



11. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and discrimination against migrant women, particularly domestic workers as a vulnerable group in the host countries, and urges States to take legislative, executive and judiciary measures to combat this form of violence and discrimination;
12. *Calls on* state authorities at their respective levels of competency to ensure all persons, including migrants, have proof of legal identity and nationality and adequate documentation, and effective access to education, health care, and other basic services, regardless of their migration status;
13. *Insists on* due process and access to justice for all migrants and calls for enhanced cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination in order to ensure the safe and dignified return for migrants who do not have the legal right to stay on a state's territory, to use forced return only as a last resort to seek alternatives to the detention of migrants, and to work seriously towards the elimination of detention of children on migratory grounds;
14. *Calls for* the establishment of an international standard of practice for dealing with, and protecting, migrants in vulnerable situations, including stateless persons and unaccompanied children, and insists on the concept of the "best interest of the child" in migration policy;
15. *Calls upon* States, particularly countries of origin, to address situations where a child would otherwise be stateless by strengthening measures to reduce statelessness, including ensuring that women and men can equally confer their nationality to their children;
16. *Invites* governments to support the contribution of diasporas to their country of origin by facilitating mobility and investment and by studying the adoption in national legislation of measures to enhance political participation such as the right to vote, dual citizenship and the representation of diasporas in parliament;
17. *Encourages* the development of comprehensive approaches for the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants in the countries of origin, by combining reintegration support targeting individuals and the communities to which migrants return with measures to enhance the governance of migration, livelihood opportunities and the protection of human rights, in general;
18. *Calls on* States to take meaningful and coordinated action, including enacting legislation, to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks and end impunity for trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, to protect migrants, particularly women and children, from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to assist migrants who have become victims of trafficking; and also encourages States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and combat such acts and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities;
19. *Urges* governments to make full use of the existing data sources on migration, such as the Global Migration Data Portal developed by the



International Organization for Migration, and to strengthen country level collection and the sharing of data on migration, disaggregated by age, gender, migration status and other relevant criteria, with a view to informing debates, policy-making and legislation, while protecting personal data;

20. *Affirms* the necessity to exchange information and data on the number of migrants, their countries of origin, the circumstances and causes of their migration, their needs and the efforts needed to assist them;
21. *Calls* on parliaments to require government to report periodically on progress in the implementation of national migration policies, and to use parliamentary tools such as questions to ministers, public hearings and committee enquiries to hold government to account for the results achieved;
22. *Urges* parliaments to actively participate in and support regional integration processes and transnational efforts to coordinate migration policy, and to domesticate relevant regional instruments in national legislation;
23. *Calls* on parliaments to actively engage in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a means to optimize migration governance and address the major drivers of forced and irregular migration—particularly extreme poverty, climate change and natural disasters, and urges parliaments to promote measures aimed at raising awareness of and maximizing the development benefits of safe, orderly and regular migration;
24. *Invites* all parliaments to participate in the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018 in Marrakesh (Morocco);
25. *Also invites* parliaments to play an active role in follow-up and implementation of the Global Compact and parliamentarians to join national delegations to the International Migration Review Forum, which will meet every four years, beginning in 2022, as the main global mechanism to review the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration;
26. *Calls* on the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its Member Parliaments, with the support of the International Organization for Migration, to develop a "Parliamentary plan of action on migration" by the end of 2019, that operationalizes the commitments in this resolution, the Global Compact for Migration and State obligations under international human rights law, and to report to the IPU on progress in 2021;
27. *Recommends* that parliaments avail of parliamentary exchanges and inter-parliamentary conferences, such as the IPU Assemblies, as platforms for constructive dialogue on migration policy and the protection of migrants.

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## **L. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE KENYAN DELEGATION**

The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 139<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, urges the two Houses of Parliament to-

1. Note this Report; and
2. Follow up on the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions of the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings.

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## M. PHOTOS OF THE 139<sup>th</sup> KENYAN DELEGATION



Photo 1 showing the Rt.Hon.Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, Speaker of the Senate, calling on the Secretary- General of the IPU, Martin Chungong where they underscored the the critical role of Parliaments and MPs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





*Photo2 showing the Kenya delegation ( from left, Sen.(Dr.) Agnes Zani; Hon. Lydia Haika; Sen. Susan Kihika, Sen. Kangogo Bowen, Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe ) at the African geopolitical group where the 'African position' on various issues under discussion at the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU were agreed to.*



Photo 3 showing the Kenyan delegation to the 139th IPU in Geneva at the General Debate whose theme was *'Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change'*





Photo 4 showing the Sen. Susan Kihika (President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians) attending the Side event 'Where do Parliaments stand in the fight against sexism and harassment?' She was among 11 other delegates who enacted the voices of women Parliamentarians interviewed during a study on violence against women Parliamentarians in Europe.



Photo 5 showing Senator ( Dr.) Agnes Zani presenting Kenyas position on statelessness with particular reference to the Makonde Community. This was during the open briefing session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on Ending Statelessness by 2024





Photo 6 showing Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye (Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the PSC) together with Mrs. Serah Kioko (Senior Deputy Clerk, National Assembly), among other delegates at the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) meetings. The meetings addressed modernization of Parliaments and how well is Parliament is holding government to account among other issues.



Photo 6 showing the Rt. Hon. Kenneth Lusaka ( Speaker of the Senate) and the Sen.Susan Kihika ( President, the FWP) at the Gender Partnership Group (GPG). The Speaker represents the African Geopolitical Group in the Executive Committee and hence his nomination to the GPG while the latter represents the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians by virtue of her Presidency.





Photo 7 showing Senator Susan Kihika (President of the FWP) offering her insights following her ascension to the Presidency till April 2022. The FWP is a unique entity that has led the IPU political work to redress the gender imbalance in political representation in national Parliaments for the last 30 years.



Photo 8 showing Hon. Joyce Emanikor giving her contributions during the Side event on Legislating on Food and Nutrition. Others are Sen.Susan Kihika; Hon. Haika Mizighi; Hon. Kangogo Bowen and Hon.Charles Njagua. Hon. Emmnauel Wangwe represented Kenya's position on legislating on food and nutrition.