



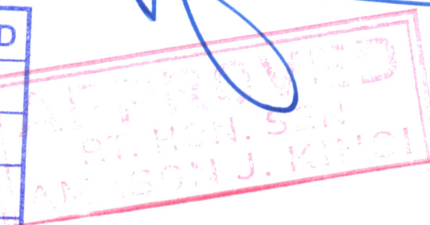
13TH PARLIAMENT
(FIFTH SESSION)

Hon. Speaker
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6/8/26

**REPORT OF THE KENYA DELEGATION TO THE 152ND ASSEMBLY OF
THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED
MEETINGS, ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE, 15TH – 19TH APRIL, 2026**

PAPERS LAID	
DATE	08/09/2026
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Clerks Chambers,
Parliament Buildings,
NAIROBI.

August, 2025

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PREFACE

REPORT OF THE KENYA DELEGATION TO THE 152ND ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS, ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE, 15TH – 19TH APRIL, 2026

Honorable Speaker,

1. The 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its related meetings were held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 15th to 19th April, 2026. The Assembly brought together parliamentarians from across the world to deliberate on global challenges and strengthen parliamentary cooperation through dialogue, diplomacy and exchange of experiences.
2. The Assembly convened the IPU's statutory bodies, including the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, Standing Committees, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.
3. The General Debate was held under the theme “Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations.” The theme provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to examine the role of parliaments in responding to interconnected global challenges, including conflicts, democratic pressures, inequalities, climate change, technological transformation and threats to human rights.

Honorable Speaker,

4. In addressing the Assembly, Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU, highlighted the need for urgent parliamentary action to address challenges affecting societies globally, including insecurity, inequality, declining trust in institutions and the impact of emerging technologies. She emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation, promoting dialogue and ensuring that governance systems remain responsive to the needs of present and future generations.
5. The Assembly reaffirmed the role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting peace, strengthening international cooperation and creating avenues for dialogue in situations of conflict and geopolitical tension. Parliamentarians were encouraged to use their legislative, oversight and representative roles to advance sustainable development, human rights, climate action and inclusive governance.
6. The 152nd IPU Assembly adopted the Istanbul Declaration, “*Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*,” reaffirming the commitment of parliaments to democracy, human rights, international law and multilateral cooperation. The Assembly also adopted resolutions addressing post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding, strengthening a fair and sustainable global economy, and supporting parliamentary action to preserve ceasefires and advance peace.

Honorable Speaker,

7. The Assembly also considered institutional and governance matters, including the election of a new Secretary General of the IPU following the completion of Mr. Martin Chungong's tenure. The Governing Council elected Ms. Anda Filip (Romania) as Secretary General for a four-year term commencing on 1 July 2026. Elections and appointments were also undertaken across various IPU committees, forums and subsidiary bodies.
8. The Assembly further marked significant institutional milestones, including the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. The commemoration recognized the Committee's longstanding contribution to protecting parliamentarians whose rights have been violated and strengthening parliamentary solidarity, democratic governance and respect for the rule of law.
9. During the Assembly, parliamentarians participated in various thematic discussions and activities addressing emerging global priorities, including human rights, artificial intelligence governance, climate change, health financing, peacebuilding, cybersecurity, diversity and inclusion in parliamentary representation.

Honorable Speaker,

10. The Kenyan delegation to the 152nd IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following Members and officials:

i. The Rt. Hon. Amason J. Kingi, EGH, MP	- Speaker and Leader of the Delegation
ii. Sen. Catherine Muyeka Mumma, MP	- Senator
iii. Sen. George Mungai Mbugua MP	- Senator
iv. Hon. John Okwisia Makali, MP	- Member, National Assembly
v. Hon. Millie Grace Akoth Odhiambo, MP	- Member, National Assembly
vi. Hon. Joseph Kipkosgei Tonui, MP	- Member, National Assembly
vii. Hon. Mary Wamaua Njoroge, MP	- Member, National Assembly
viii. Hon. Abdikadir Hussein Mohamed, MP	- Member, National Assembly
ix. Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS	- Clerk of the Senate, Member, ASGP
x. Ms. Eunice Gichangi, MBS	- Deputy Clerk, Member, ASGP
xi. Mr. Benedict Furaha	- Director, Speaker's Office, Senate
xii. Mr. Rana Tiampati	- Deputy Director, National Assembly
xiii. Ms. Veronicah Kibati	- Deputy Director, DSEC, Senate
xiv. Ms. Halima Nyakinyua	- Personal Assistant to Hon. Speaker
xv. Mr. Innocent Mbaya	- Principal Clerk Assistant/ Secretary to the Delegation
xvi. Mr. Osman Abdille	- Principal Research Officer
xvii. Ms. Khadija Haithar	- Protocol Officer
xviii. Ms. Mercy Chumo	- Clerk Assistant III/ Secretary to the Delegation

Honorable Speaker,

11. On behalf of the delegation, I take this opportunity to express appreciation to the Offices of the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, the Parliamentary Service Commission and the staff who supported Kenya's effective participation in the 152nd IPU Assembly and related meetings.

Honorable Speaker,

12. Article 7 of the IPU Statutes requires Member Parliaments to present IPU resolutions in the most appropriate format to their respective parliaments, communicate the resolutions to the Government, encourage their implementation and provide the IPU Secretariat with updates on actions taken and outcomes achieved.
13. It is therefore my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, which highlights the proceedings, declarations, resolutions and key outcomes of the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings, for consideration by Parliament and appropriate follow-up action in accordance with Article 7 of the IPU Statutes.



SEN. *Catherine Munira*

DATE *04.08.2026*

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND

1.1 Overview of the IPU

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the global organization of national parliaments and serves as the principal forum for parliamentary dialogue worldwide. It promotes peace, democracy and sustainable development through parliamentary democracy, dialogue and corporation. The IPU currently compromise 180 national parliaments and 12 associate members.
2. The IPU works to strengthen representative democracy by facilitating cooperation among parliaments and parliamentarians and by promoting collective action on issues of global concerns. It works closely with the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations that share its objectives. In pursuit of its mandate, the IPU seeks to:
 - i. Foster dialogue, cooperation and exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians;
 - ii. Consider issues of international interests and adopt positions aimed at informing parliamentary and governmental action;
 - iii. Promote and protect universal human rights as a cornerstone of democracy and sustainable development; and
 - iv. Enhance understanding of representative institutions and strengthen their effectiveness.
3. The IPU's work focuses on several key thematic areas; including representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and international humanitarian law, gender equality and women's political participation, as well as education, science and culture.
4. The IPU Assembly is the Union's principal statutory body and serves as the main forum for deliberation on international political issues. It convenes parliamentarians from member state to examine global challenges and adopt resolutions and recommendations for parliamentary and government action. The Assembly meets twice annual, with each session hosted by a different member country.
5. The IPU's governance structure compromises the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. In addition, the Union undertakes its work through a number of standing committees, advisory bodies and specialized forums, including;
 - 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 the 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. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism;
- xii. Forum of Women Parliamentarians; and
- xiii. Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

6. The current President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is Tulia Ackson of Tanzania.

CHAPTER TWO: OVERVIEW OF THE 152ND IPU ASSEMBLY

2.1 Overview and Key Agenda Items

7. The 152nd IPU Assembly and its related meetings were held from 15 to 19 April 2026 at the Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel and Conference Centre in Istanbul, Türkiye. The Assembly brought together parliamentarians from across the world to deliberate on shared global challenges, strengthen parliamentary cooperation and advance collective responses through dialogue, diplomacy and multilateral engagement.
8. The Assembly convened the statutory bodies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), including the Governing Council, Standing Committees, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Delegates participated in thematic discussions, committee deliberations and institutional meetings addressing issues of international parliamentary concern.
9. Held under the theme “*Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*,” the Assembly provided a platform for parliamentarians to examine the role of legislatures in addressing contemporary global challenges, including armed conflicts, inequality, climate change, democratic governance, technological transformation and the protection of human rights.
10. The Assembly took place amid a period of heightened global uncertainty, marked by protracted conflicts, humanitarian crises, growing inequalities and increasing pressure on multilateral institutions. Delegates reaffirmed the central role of parliaments in promoting peace, upholding international law, protecting fundamental freedoms and translating international commitments into meaningful national action.
11. The agenda of the 152nd IPU Assembly comprised the following items:
 - i. Election of the President of the 152nd Assembly.
 - ii. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.
 - iii. General Debate under the theme: “Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations.”
 - iv. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions.
 - v. Consideration of the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on:
 - vi. The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace.

- vii. Consideration of the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development on:
 - viii. Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance.
 - ix. Presentation and adoption of reports of the Standing Committees.
 - x. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 154th Assembly, and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs.
12. In addition to the Assembly proceedings, delegates participated in meetings of the Governing Council, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Committee on Middle East Questions, and other statutory bodies. The Assembly also considered an emergency item titled "*The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.*" The Governing Council further conducted the election of the IPU Secretary General.

2.2 Participation and Representation

13. The 152nd IPU Assembly comprised 1,432 delegates from 133 Member Parliaments and 10 Associate Members, including 697 parliamentarians, 77 Presiding Officers and 34 Deputy Presiding Officers. Women constituted 36 percent of parliamentary delegates, while 12.5 per cent were young parliamentarians, reflecting continued efforts to promote inclusive parliamentary participation.
14. Delegations from the following 133 Member Parliaments participated in the work of the Assembly: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan,

Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

15. The Associate Members represented at the Assembly were the Arab Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

2.3 Observers and Partner Organizations

16. The 152nd IPU Assembly was attended by representatives from international organizations, regional and international parliamentary assemblies and associations, international political party federations, and other partner organizations. Representatives from the United Nations and related organizations participated in the Assembly, including the United Nations (UN), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).
17. The Assembly also welcomed representatives from regional and international parliamentary assemblies and associations, including the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the Association of Senates, Shooru and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), the Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and the UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health.
18. Other observers included representatives from international political party federations, namely Liberal International (LI) and Socialist International, as well as partner organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Future Council.

2.4 Format and Organization of Proceedings

19. The 152nd IPU Assembly was conducted as an in-person event, with hybrid arrangements provided to facilitate remote participation in selected non-plenary proceedings. The format enabled broad engagement while maintaining opportunities for direct parliamentary dialogue and interaction.
20. A total of 101 statutory and related meetings were held, including the opening ceremony, Assembly sittings, Governing Council sessions, Standing Committee meetings and Forum meetings. The proceedings attracted nearly 9,000 online views, demonstrating continued global interest in IPU activities and parliamentary engagement.

CHAPTER THREE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 152ND ASSEMBLY

3.1 Introduction

21. The proceedings of the 152nd IPU Assembly provided a platform for parliamentarians to deliberate on matters of global significance, exchange perspectives and identify collective parliamentary responses to emerging challenges. The Assembly considered agenda items relating to peace, security, human rights, sustainable development, institutional strengthening and international cooperation through the General Debate, emergency item process and discussions of statutory bodies.
22. This chapter highlights the key deliberations and outcomes of the Assembly, including the General Debate, consideration of the emergency item, adoption of the Istanbul Declaration and discussions arising from the work of IPU bodies.

3.2 Opening of the Assembly and General Debate

23. The 152nd IPU Assembly was formally opened on 16 April 2026 by Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and President of the 152nd IPU Assembly, under the theme “*Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations.*” In his opening remarks, he emphasized the need for fair, constructive and respectful dialogue among nations, noting that global challenges required practical action, stronger cooperation and renewed commitment to international principles. He stressed that parliamentary diplomacy remained essential in addressing conflicts, humanitarian crises and growing global inequalities.
24. The IPU President, Dr. Tulia Ackson, noted that the Assembly was taking place amid increasing global uncertainty, characterized by armed conflicts, fragile peace, climate change, displacement, persistent poverty, gender inequality, technological risks and pressures on democratic institutions. She emphasized that, despite shortcomings in the international system, there remained a foundation for collective action through solidarity and shared responsibility. She called on parliamentarians to make decisions that protect the interests of current populations while safeguarding the rights and well-being of future generations.
25. The General Debate provided a platform for parliamentarians to examine the role of legislatures in responding to contemporary global challenges, including armed conflicts, humanitarian crises, climate change, inequality, technological transformation and declining public trust in democratic institutions. Delegates highlighted the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation, uphold international law, protect human rights and translate international commitments into national action through legislation, oversight and representation.
26. Discussions further underscored the importance of inclusive governance and meaningful participation in parliamentary decision-making. Ms. C. López Castro, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, emphasized that there could be no sustainable peace and

development without gender equality, noting continued barriers affecting women's representation and participation in political leadership. She called for renewed efforts to prevent regression and strengthen women's equal participation in political processes. Ms. N. Abu Ghosh, President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, highlighted the importance of intergenerational partnerships and noted that young people remained significantly underrepresented in parliaments, with only 2.8 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide being under the age of 30. She called for greater youth participation and policies that consider the interests of future generations.

27. The opening of the General Debate included an intergenerational dialogue between Mr. B. Salih, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Ms. G. Magesa, an 11-year-old youth and climate activist from the United Republic of Tanzania, moderated by Mr. T. Fitzsimons, IPU Director of Communications. The discussion highlighted the interconnected challenges of displacement, humanitarian protection and climate change. Mr. Salih noted that approximately 120 million people were living in forced displacement globally and emphasized the role of parliaments in establishing legal frameworks that protect refugees and uphold human dignity. Ms. Magesa called for urgent global action on climate change, emphasizing that solutions required cooperation beyond national borders.
28. The General Debate reaffirmed the central role of parliaments in promoting peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development. Delegates emphasized that parliamentary action must be guided by solidarity, accountability and long-term approaches that address current challenges while protecting the interests of future generations.

3.3 Special Accountability Segment of the General Debate

29. On 18 April 2026, the Assembly convened a Special Accountability Segment, chaired by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President, to review progress by Member Parliaments in implementing IPU resolutions, decisions and initiatives. The segment emphasized the responsibility of parliaments to translate IPU commitments into national action and focused on three priority areas: youth participation in parliaments, human rights, and climate action to live in harmony with nature.
30. The IPU Secretary General presented the annual reporting exercise on the implementation of IPU decisions, noting that the 2025 reporting cycle achieved a 76 per cent response rate and encouraging Member Parliaments to continue sharing concrete examples of follow-up action.
31. Discussions on youth participation drew on findings from the IPU report on *Youth Participation in National Parliaments*, presented by Mr. D. Joshi, IPU Consultant on Youth Representation, and Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians. Delegations from Namibia, Norway and Uruguay shared national experiences in promoting youth representation and participation.

32. The segment also highlighted national actions on human rights and climate change. Delegations from Chad, Ghana and San Marino shared experiences in strengthening human rights protections, while Bhutan, South Africa and Spain presented environmental initiatives recognized under the 2025 World Future Policy Award. Other delegations, including Algeria, Canada, Portugal, Thailand, Tunisia and Ukraine, shared examples of parliamentary action in implementing IPU commitments.

3.4 Special Segment to Mark the 50th Anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

33. The 152nd IPU Assembly commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, recognizing five decades of its contribution to protecting parliamentarians whose rights have been violated in the exercise of their mandates. The commemoration highlighted the Committee's unique role as a parliamentary mechanism for addressing violations against parliamentarians, promoting parliamentary solidarity and upholding democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.
34. The special segment, moderated by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President, featured a video presentation highlighting five success stories illustrating the Committee's impact over five decades. The discussion reflected on the Committee's approach, which combines dialogue, engagement with national authorities and parliamentary diplomacy to seek solutions to cases involving violations of parliamentarians' rights.
35. Contributions were made by Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, who shared recent examples of the Committee's work; Mr. M.R. Onanga Ndiaye, Speaker of the National Assembly of Gabon, who highlighted the role of dialogue and diplomacy in resolving a case concerning his country; and Ms. K. Fey (Germany), who presented the German Bundestag's Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians programme.
36. Hon. Millie Odhiambo (Kenya) emphasized the importance of global partnerships in supporting parliamentarians at risk, including cooperation between the Committee and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Delegations from Iraq, Senegal and Zambia shared experiences of engagement with the Committee, noting its contribution to resolving cases and strengthening protections for parliamentarians. The commemoration reaffirmed the continued relevance of parliamentary solidarity and international cooperation in safeguarding democratic institutions and ensuring that parliamentarians can carry out their mandates without intimidation or obstruction.

3.5 Consideration of Draft Resolutions by the Standing Committees

37. The Assembly considered reports and draft resolutions submitted by its Standing Committees. The Committees deliberated on issues within their respective mandates before presenting their

recommendations for consideration by the Assembly. Detailed reports of the Committees are presented in Chapter Five of this Report.

3.5.1 Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

38. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security considered the draft resolution entitled “*The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace.*” Following deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft resolution for consideration by the Assembly. The Assembly subsequently adopted the resolution by consensus during its plenary sitting on 19 April 2026. The delegation of China expressed a reservation, while the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation opposed the resolution. In preparation for its future work, the Committee approved the next subject item entitled “*Strengthening maritime security and protecting critical infrastructure in times of conflict: The role of parliaments in safeguarding international navigation and global economic stability,*” and adopted its workplan for the next two Assemblies.

3.5.2 Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

39. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade considered the draft resolution entitled *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance.* Following consideration of amendments and contributions from Member Parliaments, the Committee adopted the draft resolution for submission to the Assembly. The Assembly subsequently adopted the resolution. The Committee also approved its next subject item entitled “*Parliamentary leadership to protect mountain and ocean ecosystems and achieve the 30 per cent conservation goal by 2030,*” and adopted its workplan, including discussions on the impact of artificial intelligence on employment and preparations for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31).

3.5.3 Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

40. The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights considered the draft resolution entitled “*Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities,*” which will be submitted for consideration at the 153rd IPU Assembly. The Committee also deliberated on the implications of artificial intelligence for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Following discussions, it adopted a motion entitled “*Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence,*” calling for continued parliamentary engagement in promoting responsible AI governance.

3.5.4 Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

41. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs deliberated on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments. Discussions focused on the role of the UN field presence in Türkiye and the need for a more effective and representative United Nations system, including proposals for the review of the UN Charter.

3.6 Choice and Consideration of the Emergency Item

42. In accordance with the Rules of the Assembly, the 152nd IPU Assembly considered requests for the inclusion of an emergency item on its agenda. Emergency items enable the Assembly to respond to recent developments of international concern requiring urgent parliamentary attention and action. Following consideration of the proposals submitted by Member Parliaments, the Assembly selected one item for debate and the preparation of a draft resolution.

3.6.1 Selection of the Emergency Item

43. On 17 April 2026, the Assembly considered three requests for the inclusion of an emergency item on its agenda, namely:
 - i. Condemnation of the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Jordan (submitted by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates);
 - ii. The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions (submitted by Qatar, Australia, Türkiye, France, Brazil, Zambia, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Ireland, with the support of the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the African Group); and
 - iii. Condemnation of military aggression and acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America and Israel, including those involving the use of foreign military bases in the Persian Gulf countries (submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran).
44. The Islamic Republic of Iran subsequently withdrew its proposal and expressed support for the joint proposal submitted by Qatar. Following a roll-call vote, the Assembly adopted the joint proposal by the required two-thirds majority and included it on the agenda as Item 10: “The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and *support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.*”

3.6.2 Consideration of the Emergency Item

45. Following its inclusion on the Assembly agenda, the Assembly considered the emergency item entitled “The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.” Delegates underscored the

urgent need for coordinated parliamentary action to support ceasefires, promote dialogue and strengthen peacebuilding initiatives in conflict-affected regions. Discussions highlighted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in protecting civilians, safeguarding critical infrastructure, facilitating humanitarian assistance and supporting post-conflict recovery and reconciliation.

46. At the conclusion of the debate, the Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee comprising representatives from Algeria, Australia, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uruguay to prepare a draft resolution for consideration by the Assembly. The draft resolution was subsequently presented to the plenary and adopted during the closing sitting of the 152nd IPU Assembly.

3.7 Closing Sitting of the 152nd IPU Assembly

47. The concluding sitting of the 152nd IPU Assembly was held on 19 April 2026. The Assembly unanimously adopted the Istanbul Declaration, “Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations,” introduced by Mr. F. Jitoko (Fiji) and Ms. B. Nghifikwa (Namibia). The Declaration reaffirmed the role of parliaments in advancing peace, democracy, human rights, international law and multilateral cooperation.
48. The Assembly also adopted three resolutions. The resolution on “The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace” was presented by Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The resolution on “Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance” was presented by Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, and was adopted unanimously.
49. The Assembly further adopted the emergency item resolution, “The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions,” introduced by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), Rapporteur of the drafting committee. It also approved amendments to the Rules of the Assembly formalizing the 48-hour deadline for submission of emergency item proposals.
50. The Assembly paid tribute to the outgoing Secretary General, Mr. M. Chungong, recognizing his 12-year tenure and contribution to strengthening the IPU. The session also welcomed Ms. Anda Filip (Romania) as the incoming Secretary General, following her election for a four-year term beginning 1 July 2026.
51. In closing remarks, Dr. T. Ackson, President of the IPU, highlighted the historic nature of the Assembly, including record attendance, adoption of an emergency item resolution, approval of the IPU Strategy 2027–2031 and election of the first woman Secretary General of the Organization.

CHAPTER FOUR: GOVERNING COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4.1 Introduction

52. The Governing Council and Executive Committee considered institutional, governance, financial and administrative matters relating to the work and future direction of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Discussions focused on strengthening the Organization's effectiveness, ensuring financial sustainability, advancing parliamentary diplomacy and preparing for future activities of the IPU. The meetings also considered leadership and membership matters, reviewed progress in implementing institutional priorities, and undertook elections and appointments to various IPU bodies and subsidiary structures. The decisions taken provided strategic direction for the continued work of the Organization and its engagement with Member Parliaments.

4.2 217th Session of the IPU Governing Council

53. The 217th Session of the IPU Governing Council was held during the 152nd IPU Assembly. The Governing Council considered key institutional matters, including elections, organizational performance, financial matters and reports on the implementation of the IPU Strategy.

4.2.1 Election of the President of the 152nd IPU Assembly

54. The Governing Council elected Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, President of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, as President of the 152nd IPU Assembly.

4.2.2 Election of the IPU Secretary General

55. The Governing Council considered the election of the IPU Secretary General from among four candidates proposed by the Executive Committee. Following a secret ballot, Ms. Anda Filip (Romania) was elected Secretary General of the IPU for a four-year term running from 1st July 2026 to 30th June 2030.

4.2.3 Organizational Performance and Financial Matters

56. The Governing Council considered reports on the performance, financial position and implementation of the IPU Strategy. The Council took note of the IPU President's report on activities undertaken since the previous session, including representation of the Organization at international and regional forums and engagements aligned with the IPU Strategy.

57. The Secretary General presented the IPU Impact Report 2025, highlighting progress achieved during the fourth year of implementation of the IPU Strategy 2022–2026. The Council noted the IPU's continued support to Member Parliaments, including assistance to parliaments facing political challenges, parliamentary diplomacy initiatives, protection of parliamentarians' rights, promotion of gender equality, digital transformation and work on

artificial intelligence governance. The report also highlighted efforts to strengthen universal membership and expand national and regional support activities.

58. The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2025. Mr. M. Dick (Australia), President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, reported that the IPU remained in a sound financial position, with expenditure maintained within approved budgets and key financial indicators confirmed as satisfactory by the External Auditors. The Council noted positive investment performance, progress in addressing outstanding Member Parliament contributions and continued efforts to mobilize voluntary funding. The Council subsequently approved the financial results for 2025.

4.2.4 IPU Strategy for 2027–2031

59. The Governing Council adopted the IPU Strategy for 2027–2031, following its endorsement by the Executive Committee. The Strategy was developed through consultations involving parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, partners and other stakeholders from 111 countries. The Strategy is anchored on three objectives: strengthening strong and inclusive parliaments; facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action; and enhancing the IPU as a responsive and accountable organization. It also emphasizes greater Member engagement, digital transformation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence, while maintaining focus on peace and security, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, climate action, gender equality and youth participation.

4.2.5 Membership Matters and Institutional Situations

60. The Governing Council considered matters relating to IPU membership, including membership applications, outstanding contributions and the status of parliaments experiencing political transitions or institutional challenges. No new membership applications had been received and the Council welcomed continued efforts to expand IPU membership.
61. The Council endorsed the suspension of membership rights for El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu due to accumulated arrears, while clarifying that the suspensions would not affect potential IPU support to the respective parliaments. Further consideration of possible suspension of membership rights for Guinea, Liberia, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu was deferred until the 153rd IPU Assembly.
62. The Council received updates on parliaments operating under political transition, conflict situations or other institutional constraints. It reaffirmed the IPU's commitment to supporting the restoration of effective and representative parliamentary institutions through dialogue, monitoring, technical assistance and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

4.2.6 IPU Priority Theme for 2026: Respect for Human Rights

63. The Governing Council considered progress on activities under the IPU's 2026 priority theme on respect for human rights, which seeks to strengthen parliamentary engagement,

accountability and the translation of international human rights commitments into practical action. The theme coincides with three significant milestones: the 50th anniversary of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the 60th anniversary of the two International Covenants on Human Rights.

64. The Council was informed of the IPU campaign *Bring Human Rights into Focus*, launched during the 152nd Assembly. The campaign aims to mobilize parliaments, promote institutional reforms, strengthen support for parliamentarians at risk and enhance parliamentary leadership in advancing human rights. Planned activities under the initiative include thematic exchanges, national parliamentary human rights audit exercises and a global parliamentary conference to develop practical actions for strengthening parliamentary engagement on human rights.
65. The Governing Council approved the schedule of future inter-parliamentary meetings and noted the temporary closure of the Geneva International Conference Centre in 2028 due to renovations. Member Parliaments were encouraged to consider hosting an IPU Assembly during that period. Members of the Governing Council were invited to participate in the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, scheduled for 2–4 June 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia.
66. The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in reports submitted by IPU committees and bodies, including the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, Committee on Middle East Questions, Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Gender Partnership Group, Advisory Group on Health, High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, and the Working Group on Science.

4.2.7 Amendments to IPU Rules and Reports of IPU Bodies

67. The Governing Council approved amendments to Rule 11 of the Rules of the Assembly concerning the procedure for the inclusion of emergency items on the Assembly agenda. The amendments aim to enhance clarity, transparency and predictability in the consideration of urgent matters requiring parliamentary attention at the international level.
68. Under the revised provisions, Member Parliaments requesting the inclusion of an emergency item are required to submit a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution outlining the scope of the issue and demonstrating its alignment with IPU principles and values. Requests must be submitted to the IPU Secretariat at least 48 hours before the vote, after which the Secretariat will circulate the proposals and supporting documents to all Member Parliaments.

69. The amended rules clarify that emergency items must relate to recent major situations of international concern requiring urgent action by the international community and appropriate parliamentary engagement. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of votes cast, while the Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. The revised framework also allows proposals from different Member Parliaments addressing the same subject to be combined while maintaining the overall scope of the original submissions.
70. The amendments further strengthen the role of the Steering Committee by providing advice on the admissibility of proposals and recommending an appropriate procedure for consideration by the Assembly. The revised framework is intended to support timely parliamentary responses to emerging international challenges while ensuring that emergency agenda items remain consistent with the IPU's mandate and principles.
71. The Governing Council approved recommendations contained in reports submitted by IPU committees and subsidiary bodies, including the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, Committee on Middle East Questions, Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Gender Partnership Group, Advisory Group on Health, High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, Group of Facilitators for Cyprus and the Working Group on Science and Technology.

4.3 299th Session of the IPU Executive Committee

72. The 299th Session of the IPU Executive Committee was held in Istanbul, Türkiye, ahead of the 152nd IPU Assembly. The Committee considered key institutional, financial and governance matters, including the selection of the next Secretary General, the Organization's financial position, membership matters, parliamentary diplomacy initiatives, institutional reforms and preparations for the Assembly.

4.3.1 Leadership and Institutional Governance

73. The Executive Committee concluded the selection process for the next IPU Secretary General following a competitive process initiated in 2025 to identify a successor to Mr. Martin Chungong, whose final term was set to expire on 30 June 2026. The Committee confirmed that the process was conducted in accordance with the IPU Statutes and Rules and upheld the principles of transparency, confidentiality and equal opportunity.
74. Following interviews with shortlisted candidates, the Executive Committee submitted four candidates to the Governing Council for election: Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou (Greece), Ms. Anda Filip (Romania), Ms. Fatou Dieng Thiam (Senegal) and Ms. Cecilia Widegren (Sweden). The Governing Council subsequently elected Ms. Anda Filip as Secretary General of the IPU for a four-year term from 1st July 2026 to 30th June 2030.

75. The Executive Committee considered the proposed IPU Strategy 2027–2031, informed by consultations with Member Parliaments, partners and stakeholders. Members emphasized the importance of a responsive, inclusive and adaptable strategic framework to guide the Organization’s future work. The Committee endorsed the Strategy and recommended its adoption by the Governing Council.
76. The Executive Committee reviewed proposed reforms to the Rules of the Committee on Middle East Questions aimed at strengthening its effectiveness, representativeness and operational focus. The reforms included restructuring the Committee’s membership to enhance geopolitical and gender balance while ensuring participation of representatives from Israel, Palestine, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

4.3.2 Parliamentary Diplomacy and Strategic Direction

77. The Executive Committee considered the proposed IPU Strategy 2027–2031, developed through consultations with Member Parliaments, partners and other stakeholders. Members emphasized the importance of a responsive, inclusive and adaptable strategic framework to guide the Organization’s future work. The Committee subsequently endorsed the Strategy and recommended its adoption by the Governing Council.
78. The Committee also considered the proposed IPU Sustainability Policy, developed to mainstream sustainability considerations across IPU programmes and operations. Recognizing climate action as a key priority identified by Member Parliaments, the Committee endorsed the Policy and recommended its adoption by the Governing Council.
79. The Executive Committee received updates on IPU initiatives aimed at advancing parliamentary diplomacy, conflict resolution and the protection of parliamentarians’ rights. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians reported that it was handling cases involving 401 parliamentarians across 27 countries, with 96 per cent of cases closed in 2025 having been resolved through cooperation with national authorities. The Executive Committee commended the Committee’s work and emphasized the importance of balancing public advocacy with discreet diplomatic engagement.
80. Members received updates from the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, including efforts to pursue humanitarian outcomes and support displaced children. Further updates were provided on parliamentary diplomacy initiatives relating to Cyprus, the Middle East, Armenia-Azerbaijan, the Korean Peninsula, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting dialogue, confidence-building and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

4.3.3 Financial and Administrative Matters

81. The Executive Committee reviewed the IPU's financial position, including the 2025 consolidated financial statements and the External Auditor's report. The Sub-Committee on Finance reported that the Organization remained in a sound financial position, with expenditure maintained within approved budgets and progress made in implementing previous audit recommendations. Members emphasized the importance of reducing outstanding contributions from Member Parliaments and welcomed progress in mobilizing voluntary funding to support implementation of the IPU Strategy.
82. The Committee considered matters relating to IPU membership, arrears and efforts to strengthen universal membership. It noted that no new membership applications had been received and welcomed initiatives aimed at increasing participation, particularly from the Pacific and Caribbean regions. Owing to outstanding membership contributions, the Committee recommended the suspension of the membership rights of El Salvador, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu, while emphasizing that such suspension would not affect continued IPU support to the affected parliaments.
83. Consideration of the possible suspension of membership rights of Guinea, Liberia, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu was deferred pending further consultations and consideration at the 153rd IPU Assembly. The Committee also agreed to further review the situation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and discussed measures to strengthen the participation of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through greater engagement in IPU activities and enhanced exchange of parliamentary experiences.
84. The Executive Committee further considered administrative matters relating to the work of the IPU. Members supported the proposal to invite former IPU Presidents and Secretaries General to participate in future IPU activities, subject to their availability and defined roles, to leverage their institutional knowledge and experience. The Committee also received updates on staff movements and promotions within the Secretariat, as well as the launch of nominations for the 2026 Cremer-Passy Prize.

4.3.4 Preparations for the 152nd IPU Assembly

85. In preparation for the 152nd IPU Assembly, the Executive Committee monitored developments relating to the security situation in the Middle East and considered contingency measures to safeguard the conduct of the Assembly and Governing Council. Options considered included hybrid participation, remote meetings and possible postponement. Following improved circumstances and strong in-person attendance, the Committee determined that contingency measures would not be required and expressed solidarity with countries affected by conflict.

4.4 Elections and Appointments

86. The Governing Council and other IPU statutory bodies conducted elections and appointments to various leadership positions, committees and subsidiary bodies. The elections reflected the IPU's commitment to inclusive representation and continuity in the functioning of its institutional structures.
87. The Executive Committee elected Mr. M. Dick (Australia) as Vice-President representing the Asia-Pacific Group. It also appointed Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) and Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) to the Gender Partnership Group, which subsequently elected Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) as its Chair. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians further elected Ms. Y.A. Asseke (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ms. D. Wangmo (Bhutan) to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians to complete the unexpired terms of outgoing regional representatives.
88. The Governing Council elected four members to the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians for five-year terms ending in March 2031, with one vacancy remaining. It also elected Ms. A. Erdogan (Türkiye) as President of the Committee on Middle East Questions for a one-year term, while two vacancies remained on the Committee. In addition, members were elected to the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law for four-year terms ending in March 2030, with one vacancy remaining for the Eurasia Group.
89. Appointments were also made to the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, the Working Group on Science and Technology and the Committee on Health. Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) and Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France) were re-elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the High-Level Advisory Group respectively, while Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) and Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) were re-elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group on Science and Technology. Several vacancies remained across these bodies.
90. Elections to the Bureaux of the Standing Committees filled a number of vacant positions for terms ending in March 2028, although vacancies remained across the African, Asia-Pacific and Eurasia geopolitical groups. The Assembly also appointed Ms. L. Zaburanna (Ukraine) and Mr. M. Almheiri (United Arab Emirates) as co-Rapporteurs for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, and Ms. C. Roth (Germany), Mr. D. Kyere-Duah (Ghana) and Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal) as co-Rapporteurs for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development.

CHAPTER FIVE: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, FORUMS AND ADVISORY BODIES

5.1 Introduction

91. In addition to the plenary proceedings of the 152nd IPU Assembly, various committees, forums and advisory bodies convened to deliberate on thematic issues within their respective mandates. Their discussions focused on advancing parliamentary action in areas including human rights, artificial intelligence, peace and security, gender equality, youth participation, health, science and technology, and international cooperation. This chapter presents the key outcomes and recommendations arising from these bodies.

5.2 Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

92. The 152nd IPU Assembly noted the report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, which held two sittings on 17 and 18 April 2026 addressing disability inclusion and the implementation of the parliamentary mandate on artificial intelligence (AI).
93. During discussions on Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities, participants examined the role of parliaments in advancing disability-inclusive governance and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Discussions emphasized the need to move away from paternalistic approaches towards rights-based frameworks that recognize persons with disabilities as equal rights holders and active participants in social, economic and political life.
94. Participants called for robust legislative and oversight frameworks to remove barriers affecting persons with disabilities, including barriers to political participation, access to justice, education and employment. The need for accessible parliamentary processes, reasonable accommodation measures and greater representation of persons with disabilities in decision-making institutions was emphasized. Delegates further noted that disability inclusion requires adequate budgetary allocations, evidence-based policymaking and meaningful consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.
95. Discussions also emphasized the need for reliable data collection systems to support evidence-informed policymaking and parliamentary oversight. Delegates identified areas requiring further attention, including disability inclusion in disaster preparedness, the use of digital technologies to improve accessibility and the establishment of institutional mechanisms within parliaments to mainstream disability considerations across legislative and oversight functions.
96. The Committee also considered the implementation of the parliamentary mandate on artificial intelligence (AI), following the adoption of the 2024 IPU resolution “The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.” Discussions recognized the transformative potential of AI in areas such as scientific research, healthcare, education and innovation, while highlighting emerging risks relating to human rights, cybersecurity,

electoral integrity, employment disruption, military applications and the misuse of synthetic content.

97. Participants emphasized the responsibility of parliaments to strengthen their capacity to legislate, oversee and participate in international AI governance processes. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Parliaments and Responsible AI was presented as a framework to guide parliamentary readiness, lawmaking, oversight and international cooperation on AI governance. Delegates underscored the importance of ensuring that technological innovation remains consistent with democratic values, human rights and international law.
98. Delegates shared national experiences in responding to AI-related challenges, including the development of AI strategies, data protection frameworks and legislation addressing emerging harms. A case study on AI-generated non-consensual intimate imagery highlighted legislative responses from Austria, Mexico and Canada. Austria shared efforts to criminalize the creation and distribution of non-consensual deepfakes, while emphasizing the importance of clear legal definitions to support enforcement. Mexico presented the Ley Olimpia, which recognizes digital violence as a criminal offence and extends protections to AI-generated sexual content. Canada highlighted legislative efforts to address gaps relating to non-consensual distribution of synthetic intimate imagery and emphasized the need for complementary measures, including rapid content removal and victim support mechanisms.
99. Delegates from South Africa, Türkiye and the United Kingdom further highlighted challenges in adapting existing legal frameworks to address AI-enabled harms, including fabricated political imagery and non-consensual recording. The Committee also considered the heightened risks faced by children, including cyberbullying, online exploitation and AI-enabled sextortion, emphasizing the need for child-sensitive regulatory approaches.
100. Discussions further examined concerns relating to algorithmic bias, including potential impacts in areas such as employment, healthcare and facial recognition technologies. Delegates also considered the implications of AI applications in armed conflicts and the need for parliamentary oversight to ensure that emerging technologies do not undermine civilian protection or fundamental rights.
101. The Committee received an update on the IPU's 2026 programme of work on AI policy, which focuses on strengthening parliamentary capacity, expanding engagement on policy areas affected by AI and supporting parliamentary participation in international AI governance processes. The Committee subsequently adopted, by acclamation, the motion "*Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence*", which recognized that more than 60 parliaments worldwide had undertaken significant AI-related actions, including through legislation, specialized committees, inquiry processes and public consultations. The motion called upon IPU Member Parliaments to implement the recommendations of the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Parliaments and responsible AI*, strengthen institutional capacity through access to expertise and continuous learning, facilitate inter-parliamentary knowledge

exchange, engage actively in global AI governance processes and ensure that AI governance frameworks take into account the perspectives of women, young people and other affected groups.

5.3 Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

102. The 152nd IPU Assembly noted the report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, which held two sittings on 17 and 18 April 2026 under the chairmanship of Vice-President Mr. F. Al-Nouiri (Libya). Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations system and national parliaments, the need for reform of the United Nations Charter, and the importance of ensuring sustainable and predictable financing for the Organization.
103. The Committee's first sitting examined the role of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in strengthening engagement with national parliaments, using the experience of Türkiye as a case study. Representatives from the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, the UNHCR, UN Women and UNICEF highlighted the importance of moving beyond ad hoc support to individual parliamentarians towards sustained institutional cooperation that strengthens parliamentary capacity.
104. Discussions emphasized that parliaments play a central role in translating global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals, into national action through legislation, budgeting and oversight. The experience of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye demonstrated the value of institutionalized cooperation between parliaments and UN entities in promoting evidence-based policymaking, gender-responsive budgeting, refugee protection, child protection and human rights. Specific areas of collaboration included strengthening committee-level research capacity, supporting gender analysis in legislative processes, establishing specialized research mechanisms, and facilitating peer learning among parliamentarians.
105. Delegates underscored that effective cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments requires sustained engagement, transparent communication and national ownership. They noted that parliaments should not be viewed merely as recipients of international assistance but as essential partners capable of advancing global commitments through their representative, legislative and oversight mandates.
106. The Committee's second sitting considered proposals for a review conference of the United Nations Charter and broader reforms to strengthen the effectiveness and representativeness of the Organization. The discussion highlighted concerns that the current institutional framework, developed in 1945 for a smaller international community, requires reflection to address contemporary challenges, including climate change, artificial intelligence, geopolitical tensions and emerging security threats.

107. Presentations by the Article 109 Coalition emphasized that a Charter review process would require early parliamentary engagement, given the role of legislatures in shaping national positions and, in many jurisdictions, ratifying international agreements. Delegates broadly supported the idea of a review conference while stressing that any reform process must remain inclusive, transparent and grounded in the fundamental principles of multilateralism, international peace and security, human rights and the rule of law.
108. Delegates further emphasized that reform of the United Nations must be accompanied by sustainable financing. Discussions highlighted concerns regarding the Organization's reliance on earmarked and unpredictable funding streams, which limit its ability to respond effectively to global challenges. The Committee was informed that the United Nations budget stood at approximately US\$67 billion, with delegates noting that this represented a small proportion compared with global military expenditure and other major global financial flows.
109. Findings from the joint IPU–Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation survey of parliamentarians highlighted continued parliamentary support for strengthening United Nations financing and accountability. Of the 120 parliamentarians surveyed, 91 per cent considered the United Nations relevant to their countries and globally, while 53 per cent supported increased funding for the Organization. Furthermore, 77 per cent believed that parliaments should have a greater role in decisions concerning national contributions to the United Nations budget, while 72 per cent supported reforms aimed at improving efficiency within the United Nations system.
110. Discussions also highlighted innovative proposals for strengthening predictable financing, including consideration of alternative revenue sources such as taxation of international financial transactions and international air travel. Delegates stressed that adequate financing remains essential for the United Nations to fulfil its mandates in peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, development and protection of vulnerable populations.
111. The Committee also received an update on the funding challenges facing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The representative highlighted the impact of funding reductions on the agency's ability to provide essential services, including healthcare, education and food assistance, underscoring the need for sustained international and parliamentary support to maintain humanitarian operation.
112. Overall, discussions reaffirmed the need for stronger parliamentary engagement with the United Nations system, both domestically and internationally. Delegates emphasized that parliaments are critical actors in ensuring democratic accountability, translating international commitments into national policies, supporting institutional reform and safeguarding effective multilateral cooperation.

5.4 Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

113. On 15 April 2026, the 41st Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians brought together 307 participants, including 156 parliamentarians (92 women and 64 men) from 62

countries, to deliberate on gender equality, women's political participation and the integration of gender perspectives into the work of the 152nd IPU Assembly. Participants reviewed ongoing IPU initiatives to strengthen gender equality in parliamentary institutions, including efforts to address sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments. The Gender Partnership Group also reported on women's participation in parliamentary delegations, noting increased representation of women at the Assembly while emphasizing the need for continued action amid a global slowdown in progress towards gender equality.

114. As part of its contribution to the work of the 152nd IPU Assembly, the Forum examined two draft resolutions through a gender perspective: The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace and building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance. Participants proposed gender-responsive amendments to both texts, all of which were incorporated into the respective draft resolutions, strengthening the consideration of gender equality in parliamentary approaches to peacebuilding, economic governance, trade and taxation.
115. Discussions on post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding emphasized that sustainable peace requires the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, recovery processes and political decision-making. Participants called for gender-responsive recovery frameworks supported by dedicated financing for essential services, including healthcare, education, psychosocial support and economic empowerment for women, girls and displaced persons. They further underscored the importance of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, survivor support mechanisms, and recognition of women-led organizations and women human rights defenders as critical actors in peacebuilding.
116. The Forum also considered the gender dimensions of trade and taxation, highlighting that women are disproportionately affected where tax avoidance, protectionist measures and reduced public revenues weaken access to essential public services. Participants called for greater integration of gender considerations into trade agreements, procurement policies and taxation frameworks, including gender-responsive budgeting, improved access to trade and skills development opportunities, increased representation of women in economic decision-making, and improved collection of sex-disaggregated data to support parliamentary oversight.
117. A panel discussion on the impact of rising conflicts on women and girls highlighted persistent gaps between international commitments and realities on the ground, particularly regarding protection from violence, access to healthcare, education and justice, and women's participation in diplomacy, peacebuilding and political leadership. Participants reaffirmed that women must be recognized as leaders, peacebuilders and agents of change, and called for stronger legislative, oversight and budgetary measures to advance the Women, Peace and

Security agenda. They further emphasized the importance of reliable and disaggregated data to inform gender-responsive laws, policies and budgets.

118. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, which met on 15 and 18 April 2026, reviewed gender-related outcomes of the 152nd IPU Assembly and discussed emerging challenges affecting women's political participation, including disinformation, misinformation and online violence targeting women in politics. The Bureau also reviewed implementation of the IPU anti-harassment policy, elected new members, heard presentations from candidates for the position of IPU Secretary General, and undertook a field visit to the Bakırköy Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre in Türkiye to learn from national efforts addressing violence against women.

5.5 Forum and Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

119. On 16 April 2026, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians brought together almost 100 participants, including 61 young parliamentarians (21 women and 40 men) from 41 countries, to deliberate on youth political participation, peacebuilding and the role of young parliamentarians in shaping responses to contemporary global challenges. Participants reviewed findings from the 2025 IPU report on Youth participation in national parliaments, which highlighted stagnation in youth representation globally, including a decline in the proportion of young women parliamentarians. Young MPs called for stronger measures to enhance youth participation, including greater engagement through political parties, youth caucuses, training programmes and reforms to reduce barriers to political participation.
120. Delegates emphasized that youth inclusion should extend beyond numerical representation to meaningful participation and influence in parliamentary decision-making. Sharing national experiences, participants highlighted the importance of creating institutional mechanisms that enable young parliamentarians to contribute effectively to legislative processes and public policy development.
121. Contributing a youth perspective to the General Debate theme Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations, young parliamentarians emphasized that conflict, inequality and weakening multilateral cooperation continue to undermine the prospects of future generations. They called for stronger youth participation in governance, peacebuilding and development processes, stressing that young people should be recognized not only as beneficiaries of policies but as active participants in designing, implementing and overseeing solutions.
122. Young parliamentarians also provided perspectives on two draft resolutions before the Assembly. On post-conflict management and peacebuilding, they highlighted the effects of conflict on young people, including disruptions to education, unemployment, displacement and mental health challenges, while emphasizing the role of youth in reconciliation, social cohesion and community recovery. On building a fair and sustainable global economy,

participants called for greater consideration of youth impacts in trade and economic policies, stronger action against corporate tax avoidance and more inclusive economic opportunities for younger generations.

123. In preparation for the 153rd IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. A. Koko Abdelgader (Chad) as Youth Rapporteur for the proposed draft resolution on Inclusive social development for all: Parliamentary strategies to promote the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities. Discussions highlighted the compounded barriers faced by young persons with disabilities, particularly in education, employment and political participation. Participants called for improved data collection, inclusive education and employment pathways, and meaningful involvement of young persons with disabilities in policymaking.

124. The Bureau of Young Parliamentarians reviewed youth participation at the 152nd Assembly and encouraged Member Parliaments to increase the representation of young MPs in parliamentary delegations, including greater participation of parliamentarians below the age of 30. The Bureau also engaged with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the situation of refugees and reaffirmed the importance of protecting their rights and dignity through strengthened parliamentary cooperation

5.6 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

125. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held its 180th session from 14 to 18 April 2026, during which it reviewed the human rights situation of 217 parliamentarians, 35 per cent of whom were women, across 21 countries. The Committee declared admissible new cases concerning parliamentarians from Ecuador and Mongolia, found one case from the Democratic Republic of the Congo inadmissible, and conducted hearings with national delegations and complainants to assess alleged human rights violations affecting legislators.

126. Following its deliberations, the Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council concerning the cases of 204 parliamentarians from 16 countries, reaffirming the IPU's continued commitment to protecting the rights, safety and independence of parliamentarians and promoting accountability for violations affecting elected representatives.

5.7 Report Committee on Middle East Questions

127. Between February and April 2026, the Committee on Middle East Questions held an informal virtual meeting on 4 February 2026 to consider proposed amendments to its Rules and Practices, followed by two sittings on 16 and 18 April 2026. Discussions focused on institutional reforms, developments affecting peace and security in the Middle East, humanitarian concerns arising from ongoing conflicts, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), and the role of parliamentary diplomacy in supporting dialogue and peaceful solutions.

128. During its first sitting, the Committee reviewed recent developments in the wider Middle East region and expressed concern regarding the humanitarian consequences of conflicts,

particularly the impact on civilians and essential infrastructure. Members emphasized the importance of civilian protection, compliance with international humanitarian law, accountability for violations and continued efforts towards peaceful resolution of conflicts. The Committee also received a briefing from the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on applicable IHL obligations and the role of parliaments in promoting respect for international legal frameworks through legislation, oversight and inter-parliamentary engagement.

129. Members highlighted the need to strengthen accountability mechanisms, support international justice processes and ensure that the experiences of affected communities remain central to parliamentary discussions. They further underscored the importance of field engagement and direct understanding of realities on the ground in informing parliamentary action.
130. During its second sitting, the Committee considered the practical implementation of its reform framework, which introduces a dual-focus approach: maintaining the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as a standing priority while selecting a rotating regional focus at each Assembly. Members agreed to strengthen engagement between Assemblies through virtual meetings, field visits and closer cooperation with other IPU bodies and relevant partners.
131. The Committee selected the role of parliamentary and inter-parliamentary mediation in the Middle East in ensuring the implementation of United Nations resolutions as its rotating priority focus until the 153rd IPU Assembly. The Committee further identified settlements in the West Bank through the lens of international humanitarian law as its standing priority. Follow-up actions included coordination with the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, engagement with relevant parliamentary actors on mediation efforts, collaboration with the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre on parliamentary actions relating to settlements, and consideration of a field visit to the West Bank.
132. The Committee also reiterated the importance of sustained support for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Members emphasized that parliamentary engagement remains essential in supporting international efforts towards peace, humanitarian protection and respect for international law.

5.8 Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

133. The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met on 17 April 2026 to examine emerging humanitarian challenges and parliamentary responses to strengthening compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL). Attention was given to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Lebanon following the escalation of hostilities, with briefings from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Members expressed concern over the rising civilian casualties, widespread displacement and destruction of critical

infrastructure, and called on all parties to respect their obligations under IHL, particularly the protection of civilians and civilian objects. The Committee further urged IPU Member Parliaments to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis within their legislatures and support efforts aimed at de-escalation and humanitarian protection.

134. The Committee also reviewed ongoing initiatives to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the implementation of international humanitarian law. Discussions focused on preparations for the Global Initiative to Galvanize Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law and the 2026 High-Level Conference on Humanity in War, implementation of the IPU Geneva Declaration on *Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis*, and parliamentary measures to promote compliance with humanitarian disarmament treaties, particularly the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In addition, Members considered strategies to advance refugee protection through wider accession to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and emphasized the importance of incorporating humanitarian safeguards into counter-terrorism legislation and strengthening parliamentary capacity through continued learning on international humanitarian law.

5.9 Committee on Health

135. The Committee on Health held its second meeting on 15 April 2026, focusing on global health challenges and the role of parliaments in advancing the right to health, strengthening health equity and improving access to healthcare. Discussions examined sexual and reproductive health and rights, adolescent health, and the need for inclusive health policies that address persistent inequalities. Members also received a briefing on the Lancet Commission on 21st-Century Global Health Threats, which highlighted the increasing complexity of global health risks, including pandemics and climate.
136. The Committee further discussed negotiations on the proposed World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement, emphasizing the importance of parliamentary engagement in combating misinformation, strengthening preparedness and ensuring that international commitments are translated into national action. Members identified declining international health financing, particularly for HIV programmes, regulation of emerging tobacco and vaping products, antimicrobial resistance, and stronger parliamentary oversight as priority areas requiring continued attention.
137. The Committee also highlighted opportunities for parliamentary engagement through the upcoming Global Parliamentary Forum on 20 May 2026 during the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Members participated in related Assembly activities, including discussions on accelerating action for women's, children's and adolescents' health during crises, sustainable health financing, and the role of health taxes. A visit to a refugee centre further underscored the importance of inclusive, resilient and people-centred health systems.

5.10 Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

138. The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus did not hold a formal session during the Assembly due to upcoming elections in Cyprus and the country's commitments related to its Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The three facilitators from Armenia, Portugal and Switzerland met to identify priorities for engagement with political representatives from both sides of the island and agreed to seek discussions with the United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus on how parliamentary diplomacy could support the UN good offices mission.
139. The facilitators also considered ways to maintain the Group's work between Assemblies and briefed the IPU Executive Committee on its parliamentary diplomacy activities. They welcomed the Executive Committee's attention to parliamentary diplomacy and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting dialogue on Cyprus.

5.11 Task Force on the Peaceful Resolution of the War in Ukraine

140. The Task Force held its 16th meeting to review diplomatic developments, including recent talks in Abu Dhabi and Geneva, as well as humanitarian issues such as prisoner exchanges. While noting progress in some areas, members expressed concern over the slowdown in negotiations and emphasized the importance of continued parliamentary engagement in supporting dialogue towards a peaceful resolution. Members further discussed humanitarian priorities, including separated children, prisoners, food security and protection of cultural heritage. The Task Force noted constructive engagement on humanitarian matters and agreed to continue follow-up discussions ahead of the next IPU Assembly.

5.12 High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

141. The HLAG held its 20th meeting on 15 April 2026, chaired by Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico), who was re-elected as Chairperson, alongside the renewal of the mandate of Ms. L. Saint Paul (France) as Vice-Chairperson. The meeting examined the evolving nature of terrorism and violent extremism, with particular attention to post-conflict environments, where weakened institutions, unresolved grievances, governance gaps and socio-economic exclusion can create conditions for extremist resurgence.
142. Members emphasized that effective responses require comprehensive approaches combining security measures with prevention, institutional strengthening, socio-economic inclusion and respect for human rights. They highlighted the role of parliaments in addressing these challenges through legislation, oversight and international cooperation, while ensuring that counter-terrorism measures remain consistent with fundamental rights and freedoms. Discussions also considered the role of digital platforms in facilitating online radicalization and recruitment, particularly among young people, while recognizing the potential of technology to support prevention through digital literacy and alternative narratives. Participants stressed the need for regulatory approaches that promote transparency,

accountability and human oversight in the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.

143. The Group welcomed the Secretariat's proposed non-binding definition of terrorism, developed in line with international law and human rights standards, as a reference framework to support greater coherence in parliamentary and legislative approaches. Members further reviewed progress under the Call of the Sahel initiative, emphasizing the need to move from commitments to practical action through stronger partnerships, resource mobilization and development-oriented interventions. In this regard, members noted ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement with national parliaments and local stakeholders, including planned parliamentary visits to the Sahel region and cooperation with initiatives such as the Sudano-Sahelian Initiative, which links environmental protection, sustainable development and security.

5.13 Working Group on Science and Technology

144. The Working Group on Science and Technology held a meeting on 17 April 2026, attended by 11 members and two guest parliamentarians from France and Uruguay. Discussions examined parliamentary engagement with science and technology, highlighting approaches including advisory mechanisms, specialized committee, expert hearings and partnerships with research institutions to strengthen evidence-based policymaking. Members emphasized that emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity and digital transformation, require robust legislative frameworks, ethical oversight and international cooperation. They also highlighted persistent challenges, including misinformation, rapid technological change and unequal access to digital infrastructure, underscoring the need for inclusive digital development.
145. Members further discussed the role of science diplomacy in addressing global challenges and fostering cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world. They emphasized that while science can support peace, sustainable development and evidence-based decision-making, its application requires ethical safeguards and oversight to prevent misuse. The Working Group also reviewed developments in AI governance, including the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Parliaments and Responsible AI, which recognizes the central role of parliaments in shaping AI regulation through legislation, oversight and accountability mechanisms.
146. Expert discussions on AI and quantum computing highlighted both opportunities and emerging risks. Members noted that AI applications are expanding across sectors, including legislative processes, while also creating risks relating to cybersecurity, fraud, democratic integrity and accountability. Discussions on quantum computing highlighted its potential contribution to scientific research and innovation, alongside concerns regarding its implications for existing encryption systems and the need to prepare for quantum-safe security approaches.

147. The Working Group also considered progress on the draft AI Ethics Annex to the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology. Members emphasized principles including human rights, inclusion, non-discrimination, transparency, explainability, accountability and oversight, while noting the need to translate these principles into practical legislative guidance. Members were further invited to participate in upcoming IPU and United Nations activities on science, technology and innovation, including engagements focusing on responsible innovation, AI ethics and the role of parliaments in advancing equitable technological progress.

5.14 Gender Partnership Group

148. The Gender Partnership Group held its 53rd session on 14 and 18 April 2026, during which it reviewed progress on women's representation in national parliaments, IPU bodies and Assembly delegations. The Group noted that women accounted for 36 per cent of delegates at the 152nd Assembly, representing a decline compared with previous Assemblies and highlighting the continued need to strengthen women's participation in parliamentary processes. It also reviewed implementation of the IPU Policy to Prevent and Address Harassment, including sexual harassment, and encouraged Member Parliaments to adopt similar measures to promote safe and inclusive parliamentary environments.

149. A dialogue with the delegation of Samoa examined efforts to increase women's political participation, including the country's constitutional quota reserving seats for women in Parliament. The delegation highlighted persistent barriers, including social norms, limited awareness and challenges arising from the traditional *Matai* system, which affects women's ability to contest elections. Participants identified societal attitudes, limited support for women candidates and the need for greater engagement of male parliamentarians as key barriers to women's political participation.

CHAPTER SIX: SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

6.1 Introduction

150. The 152nd IPU Assembly featured a range of special activities and engagements that complemented the formal proceedings of the Assembly and meetings of its statutory bodies. These activities provided opportunities for parliamentary dialogue, knowledge exchange, institutional reflection and collaboration with international partners on issues of global concern.

6.2 Joint Meeting with Chairpersons of Geopolitical Groups, Presidents of Standing Committees and Presidents of Other Specialized Bodies of the IPU

151. On 15 April 2026, the IPU President and Secretary General convened a joint meeting with Chairpersons of geopolitical groups, Presidents of Standing Committees and Presidents of other specialized bodies to strengthen coordination among the Organization's various bodies. Discussions focused on enhancing the meeting as a platform for strategic dialogue, early identification of emerging issues and consensus-building before matters were presented to the plenary.

152. Participants supported a more action-oriented approach to the joint meeting, including improved coordination among IPU bodies, identification of cross-cutting priorities and stronger alignment of institutional activities. The Secretary General highlighted the meeting's role in supporting agenda-setting, facilitating exchanges on sensitive issues and promoting coherence across IPU structures.

153. The meeting also considered proposals for emergency items for the 152nd Assembly and emphasized the importance of consensus-building in enabling the Assembly to adopt emergency items. Participants further discussed the 2026 human rights priority theme, activities marking the 50th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and initiatives to strengthen parliamentary engagement on human rights.

154. Participants exchanged views on emerging issues, including artificial intelligence, international humanitarian law, health equity and the role of parliaments in addressing global challenges. The meeting concluded with a commitment to strengthen coordination, dialogue and strategic direction within the IPU.

6.3 Special Session on Advancing the Two-State Solution for Israel and Palestine

155. Held on 17 April 2026, the special session brought together over 50 parliamentarians and experts to examine the role of parliamentary diplomacy in supporting a just and lasting peace based on the two-State solution. The discussion recalled the IPU's 2025 resolution affirming the two-State solution as the internationally recognized framework for peace, grounded in international law, relevant United Nations resolutions, mutual recognition and human dignity. Against the backdrop of continued conflict and humanitarian challenges, the session highlighted the need for sustained parliamentary engagement in support of dialogue and peaceful solutions.

156. Deliberations focused on the role of parliaments in advancing peace through legislation, oversight and diplomacy. Participants identified key challenges, including ongoing violence, settlement expansion, restricted humanitarian access and declining trust between parties. The discussion also highlighted recent reforms to the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions, aimed at strengthening its inclusiveness, representation and capacity to support parliamentary dialogue.
157. The interactive discussion reflected diverse perspectives on the feasibility and implementation of the Two-State solution, while underscoring the need to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, uphold international law and sustain political dialogue. Participants noted that parliamentary diplomacy could contribute to confidence-building, reducing polarization and sustaining engagement among stakeholders.

6.4 Workshop on Sustainable Health Financing through Health Taxes

158. The workshop, held on 17 April 2026 and organized jointly with the WHO, examined how parliamentarians can support sustainable health financing through health taxes. Discussions focused on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage taxes as evidence-based measures that can improve public health outcomes while generating domestic revenue. Opening the session, Dr. T. Atatrah, WHO Representative in Türkiye, called for stronger political leadership to strengthen resilient health systems amid growing fiscal pressures. Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan), President of the IPU Committee on Health, noted the role of parliaments in translating evidence into effective health policies.
159. Presentations from WHO representatives examined challenges in financing universal health coverage and the contribution of health taxes to disease prevention and revenue mobilization, particularly amid rising non-communicable diseases and constrained public budgets. Parliamentarians shared national experiences, highlighting the need for political support, effective administration and sustained engagement in implementing health tax reforms. coverage, prevent noncommunicable diseases and address financing challenges.
160. Parliamentarians shared national experiences, including lessons from France, Mongolia and Montenegro on strengthening political support, addressing industry resistance and ensuring effective tax administration. The interactive discussion highlighted the role of parliamentary leadership in legislation, oversight and public engagement, while noting that successful implementation of health taxes requires sustained political commitment and strong governance.

6.5 Workshop on Multistakeholder Approaches to Peace and Reconciliation

161. Held on 17 April 2026, the workshop brought together parliamentarians and experts to exchange experiences and good practices on peacebuilding and reconciliation. The session was co-moderated by Ms. Ş. Pavey (Senior Adviser, Office of the UNHCR)) and Ms. S. Markiewicz (Political Affairs Officer, IPU), with contributions from parliamentarians, faith leaders, academics and peacebuilding practitioners. Opening remarks by Ms. K. Bradley (United Kingdom) focused on the role of multistakeholder engagement, including

parliamentary participation, in building peaceful and cohesive societies. Discussions examined how parliamentarians and other actors can support reconciliation in conflict-affected contexts.

162. Participants noted that parliamentarians' legitimacy as elected representatives, access to communities and political actors, and convening roles enable them to bridge divides, sustain dialogue and address emerging tensions. The discussion also examined the contribution of religious diplomacy in promoting mutual understanding, dialogue among faith communities and social cohesion.
163. Examples from South Africa, Iraq and Mozambique illustrated how inclusive approaches involving parliamentarians, faith actors and other stakeholders can support reconciliation, strengthen legislative processes and prevent conflict. Participants also discussed the role of parliaments in countering identity-based hatred through constructive narratives and public engagement.
164. The exchange further examined parliamentary contributions to peacebuilding through mediation, public discourse, advisory roles and parliamentary diplomacy. Participants noted that cooperation between governments, parliaments and faith actors can strengthen social cohesion, while reaffirming that peace efforts must be accompanied by justice and accountability.

6.6 Workshop on New Global Methane Rules

165. Held on 17 April 2026, the workshop brought together 25 parliamentarians and 11 parliamentary staff from 20 countries, alongside representatives from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the Global Methane Hub and academia, to examine the implications of emerging methane regulations for climate action, trade and economic competitiveness.
166. Discussions examined methane as both an environmental and economic policy issue, particularly in relation to market access, investment and competitiveness. Ms. M. Otto (Head of Secretariat, CCAC) noted that methane reduction measures could support economic resilience and growth, while Ms. O. Azadegan (Global Methane Hub) outlined opportunities for rapid and cost-effective action, particularly in the energy and waste sectors. Ms. C. Plaza Martin (Complutense University of Madrid) presented the 2024 European Union Methane Regulation as an example of how emerging regulatory frameworks could influence global markets and investment decisions.
167. Parliamentarians shared national experiences on methane governance. Norway's approach, including restrictions on routine flaring and venting, methane taxation, and monitoring and repair requirements, was cited as an example of regulatory measures supporting emissions reductions. Ghana outlined efforts to integrate methane reduction into national frameworks through parliamentary debate, budget allocation and oversight, while Zambia shared progress in strengthening parliamentary engagement, including capacity-building initiatives and a private members' motion on methane abatement. Greece shared experiences related to

implementation of the European Union methane framework and access to financing mechanisms.

168. The discussion underscored the need for stronger legislative frameworks, parliamentary oversight and effective monitoring, reporting and verification systems to support implementation of methane commitments. Participants noted that alignment with emerging international rules would be critical, particularly where climate regulations increasingly influence trade and investment decisions. The workshop concluded with recognition of methane as a growing priority at the intersection of climate and economic policy. Participants called for continued parliamentary cooperation through the IPU to support the translation of global commitments into national action.

6.7 Workshop on The UN Convention against Cybercrime

169. Held on 18 April 2026, the workshop brought together about 50 parliamentarians and experts to examine the role of parliaments in supporting ratification and implementation of the 2024 United Nations Convention against Cybercrime. The session featured representatives from Australia, Cambodia, the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie, INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Discussions centred on the need for coordinated legal frameworks to address the evolving nature of cybercrime and strengthen cross-border cooperation. Participants underscored the role of parliaments in adopting enabling legislation, overseeing implementation and ensuring adequate resources, while integrating safeguards on human rights, data protection and due process.
170. The panel further examined operational challenges, including the need for timely information-sharing mechanisms, effective electronic evidence procedures and stronger international cooperation. Participants noted that responses to cybercrime should balance enforcement with prevention and victim protection, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children. National experiences shared by delegates from Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Zimbabwe highlighted progress in developing legal frameworks, national strategies and specialized institutions, while also identifying capacity constraints requiring international support, training and technical assistance. The workshop concluded with calls for accelerated ratification and implementation of the Convention, strengthened parliamentary oversight, enhanced international cooperation and investment in cybersecurity capacity-building. Participants also emphasized the importance of public awareness and ethical cybersecurity practices in preventing cybercrime and protecting digital spaces.

6.8 Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on Parliamentary action to end statelessness

171. Held on 18 April 2026, the open session examined the role of parliaments in addressing statelessness and strengthening legal pathways to nationality. The session featured Ms. C.M. Mumma (Kenya), Ms. C. Chitengu (Co-Lead, Global Movement Against Statelessness), Ms. N. Gurung (Co-Founder, Citizenship Affected People's Network) and Ms. M. Sandvik (Senior

Statelessness Coordinator, UNHCR). The session highlighted that 4.4 million people across 101 countries were recorded as stateless, including 44 per cent children, although the actual figure was likely higher. Participants examined the impact of statelessness on access to basic rights, including education, healthcare and employment. While legislative reforms had enabled more than 600,000 stateless persons to acquire citizenship since 2014, renewed political commitment and parliamentary action remained necessary to address persistent gaps.

172. Deliberations considered key drivers of statelessness, including limited birth registration, exclusionary digital identity systems and discriminatory nationality laws. Participants noted that 24 countries continued to restrict women's ability to confer nationality on their children. Country experiences from Chile, Kenya, Poland and Sierra Leone illustrated both progress and remaining challenges, including emerging risks linked to climate-induced displacement and surrogacy.
173. Parliamentarians were encouraged to strengthen action by reviewing national compliance with the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness, assessing existing legal frameworks, documenting populations at risk, engaging with stateless persons and strengthening oversight of rights-based implementation. The session concluded with a call for sustained parliamentary leadership and cooperation with stateless-led organizations and partners such as UNHCR to advance efforts towards ending statelessness.

6.9 Workshop on Oceans and climate change

174. Held on 18 April 2026, the workshop examined the role of parliaments in advancing sustainable ocean governance and climate resilience. Discussions explored the links between oceans, climate change, biodiversity, food security and sustainable development, while providing a platform to exchange legislative and policy approaches to ocean conservation.
175. Participants considered implementation of international commitments, including the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), alongside national measures to protect marine ecosystems. Deliberations also examined youth engagement, the blue economy and innovative financing mechanisms, including blue bonds, as tools for strengthening ocean resilience.
176. Country experiences from Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Greece, Malawi and Seychelles demonstrated efforts to expand marine protected areas, reduce plastic pollution, strengthen fisheries management and integrate ocean conservation into national development planning. The workshop reaffirmed the role of parliaments in translating international commitments into legislation, oversight and budgetary action to protect marine ecosystems and support sustainable livelihoods.

CHAPTER SEVEN: DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 152ND ASSEMBLY

7.1 Introduction

177. The 152nd IPU Assembly adopted a declaration and three resolutions addressing key global challenges and outlining parliamentary commitments to peace, sustainable development, human rights and inclusive governance. The outcomes reflected the role of parliaments in responding to emerging global challenges, strengthening multilateral cooperation and translating international commitments into legislative, oversight and representative action at the national level.

7.2 Istanbul Declaration

178. The 152nd IPU Assembly adopted the Istanbul Declaration, *nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations*, reaffirming the role of parliaments in advancing peace, democracy, human rights, international law and multilateral cooperation. The Declaration identified interconnected global challenges, including armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions, terrorism, democratic pressures, misinformation and disinformation, cyber threats, widening inequalities, forced displacement, climate change, environmental degradation and the risks arising from emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.

179. The Declaration called on parliaments to strengthen inclusive, accountable and representative governance by promoting transparency, citizen participation, gender equality and greater involvement of young people in decision-making. It encouraged long-term governance approaches through strategic foresight, evidence-based policymaking, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and institutional mechanisms that consider the interests of future generations. It also called for action to address structural drivers of instability, including poverty, inequality, exclusion and polarization, while advancing sustainable development, food security and climate resilience.

180. The Declaration highlighted the need for responsible governance of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, through effective oversight, ethical frameworks and international cooperation. It called for innovation that supports human well-being while addressing risks linked to misuse, cybercrime and threats to democratic institutions.

181. Recognizing the role of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting dialogue, confidence-building and peaceful dispute resolution, the Declaration encouraged stronger inter-parliamentary cooperation and support for the implementation of international commitments on peace, sustainable development and human rights. Parliamentarians committed to translating the Declaration's commitments into legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative action at the national level, while encouraging the IPU to continue strengthening strategic foresight to support parliaments in addressing future challenges.

7.3 Resolutions Adopted

7.3.1 The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace

182. The 152nd IPU Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution “The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace.” The resolution examined the role of parliaments in supporting sustainable peace through inclusive recovery processes, accountable institutions, justice mechanisms and effective implementation of peace agreements
183. The Assembly reaffirmed that lasting peace must be grounded in respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, while ensuring the protection of civilians and accountability for violations of international humanitarian law. It noted that peace agreements require effective implementation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms to prevent renewed violence and restore confidence in public institutions.
184. Recognizing that post-conflict recovery extends beyond the cessation of hostilities, the Assembly outlined a comprehensive recovery framework based on five interconnected areas: resilient and accountable institutions; equitable economic reconstruction and livelihoods; social reconciliation and dialogue; inclusive political participation; and sustained international support. The framework included restoration of essential services, transparent public financial management, education, skills development and environmental recovery as foundations for sustainable peace. The resolution stressed that recovery processes should be nationally owned and democratically led, with external assistance supporting rather than replacing domestic institutions. Parliaments were identified as central actors in translating peace agreements into legislation, allocating resources, overseeing implementation and ensuring that recovery strategies respond to affected communities.
185. The Assembly called for stronger parliamentary action to address impunity for serious violations of international law and international humanitarian law. It recognized transitional justice as a key component of sustainable peace and encouraged legal frameworks that enable truth-seeking, victim-centred reparations, reconciliation, institutional reform and guarantees of non-recurrence. The resolution also called for measures addressing the consequences of conflict, including recognition of victims, memorialization initiatives, psychosocial support for survivors and accountability for conflict-related sexual violence.
186. The resolution linked sustainable peace to addressing the structural causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, exclusion and unresolved grievances. Parliaments were encouraged to apply human security and common security approaches through their legislative, oversight and budgetary functions to strengthen prevention, resilience and inclusive recovery. The Assembly called for inclusive dialogue involving affected communities, civil society, traditional and religious actors, and encouraged parliaments to safeguard an enabling environment for human rights defenders, journalists and community actors contributing to reconciliation.

187. The Assembly recognized women, youth and marginalized groups as essential partners in peacebuilding rather than only affected populations. Parliaments were encouraged to establish mechanisms that enable their meaningful participation in peace negotiations, reconciliation processes, transitional justice bodies, reconstruction planning and oversight mechanisms. Particular attention was given to youth leadership, education, employment opportunities and mental and social well-being as components of preventing renewed cycles of conflict.
188. The Assembly called for greater prioritization of peacebuilding, prevention and reconciliation within national and international financing frameworks. Parliaments were encouraged to use their budgetary oversight functions to promote predictable resources for recovery efforts, including support for gender equality, displaced populations, survivors of violence and community reconciliation initiatives. Transparency, integrity and anti-corruption safeguards were identified as necessary elements of reconstruction financing. The resolution also encouraged support for international mechanisms, including the UN Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund.
189. Addressing the humanitarian consequences of conflict, the resolution called for recovery policies that restore livelihoods, healthcare, education, essential services and critical infrastructure while supporting the return of refugees, internally displaced persons and unlawfully transferred civilians, including children. It also encouraged mechanisms for compensation, restitution and reparations, including lawful approaches to mobilizing resources for reconstruction.
190. The Assembly encouraged stronger parliamentary oversight of security institutions, including through support for security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. It also called for inclusive political processes, cross-party dialogue and regular consultation with affected communities to strengthen institutional trust and prevent renewed instability.
191. Recognizing that environmental destruction can contribute to insecurity and prolong recovery challenges, the Assembly called for environmental considerations to be integrated into post-conflict management frameworks. Parliaments were encouraged to promote sustainable resource governance, environmental restoration and accountability for ecological harm.
192. The resolution called for strengthened parliamentary diplomacy, regional cooperation and international support for post-conflict recovery, including through technical assistance, peer learning and capacity-building for parliaments. The IPU was encouraged to continue supporting parliamentary institutions through advisory support, mediation assistance and the sharing of good practices.

7.3.2 Resolution on Building a Fair and Sustainable Global Economy: The Role of Parliaments in Combating Protectionism, Reducing Tariffs and Preventing Corporate Tax Avoidance

193. The 152nd IPU Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution “*Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance.*” The resolution examined the role of parliaments in promoting an open, predictable and rules-based global economic system while safeguarding national policy space, strengthening domestic revenue mobilization and ensuring that trade and taxation systems contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.
194. The Assembly noted that international trade remains an important driver of economic growth, employment creation, poverty reduction and integration into global value chains, particularly for developing countries. It raised concerns over the increasing use of protectionist measures, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers, which can disrupt trade flows, increase economic uncertainty, deepen inequalities and undermine progress towards sustainable development. Parliaments were encouraged to support fair, transparent and non-discriminatory trade systems, including efforts to facilitate trade through improved customs procedures, digitalization, infrastructure development and reduced administrative barriers.
195. The resolution addressed challenges arising from corporate tax avoidance, particularly practices involving artificial profit shifting, abusive transfer pricing arrangements and the exploitation of gaps in international tax rules. It called for stronger international cooperation, transparency and exchange of information to protect national revenue bases. Parliaments were encouraged to scrutinize international tax negotiations, strengthen domestic legal frameworks, address regulatory gaps and support effective anti-tax-avoidance measures while maintaining a distinction between unlawful practices and legitimate tax planning.
196. Recognizing the growing significance of the digital economy, the Assembly called for stronger legislative and oversight frameworks to address emerging taxation challenges associated with digital enterprises, artificial intelligence and algorithm-driven business models. Parliaments were encouraged to assess whether existing tax systems remain adequate in a rapidly evolving economic environment and to promote fair taxation of digital services while supporting innovation and investment.
197. The resolution further linked trade and tax policies with broader development outcomes, calling on parliaments to assess their impacts on poverty reduction, gender equality, employment, energy security and sustainable development. It encouraged the use of evidence, including sex-disaggregated data, to evaluate how economic policies affect vulnerable groups, women, youth and future generations. The Assembly also called for gender-responsive trade and taxation policies, including provisions supporting women’s participation in trade, entrepreneurship, skills development and leadership.
198. The Assembly encouraged parliaments to ensure that economic openness translates into inclusive growth by supporting complementary domestic measures, including social protection systems, education and skills development initiatives. It called for greater attention to the participation of women and young people in economic activities and for policies that expand access to opportunities created through international trade.

199. The resolution called for continued efforts to strengthen the multilateral trading system, including reforms to ensure that the World Trade Organization remains effective and that its dispute settlement mechanisms are accessible to all members. It also encouraged continued support from developed countries and international financial institutions through technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer to enable developing and least developed countries to participate more effectively in global trade and implement modern tax frameworks.
200. In conclusion, the Assembly encouraged greater inter-parliamentary cooperation on trade, taxation and development, including the exchange of good practices and experiences. Parliaments were encouraged to balance the benefits of economic openness with the need to protect national interests, promote tax fairness and ensure that global economic systems support equitable, sustainable and inclusive development.

7.3.1 Resolution on The Urgent Need for Concerted Parliamentary Efforts to Preserve Ceasefires and Support Peacebuilding in the Middle East and Other Regions

201. The 152nd IPU Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution “The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.” The resolution addressed the role of parliaments in promoting respect for international humanitarian law, protecting civilians, supporting diplomatic efforts and strengthening accountability mechanisms in situations of armed conflict.
202. The Assembly reaffirmed the obligation of all parties to armed conflicts to comply with international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure, medical facilities and essential services. It expressed concern over reported violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in ongoing conflicts, including attacks affecting civilian populations, destruction of critical infrastructure and restrictions on humanitarian assistance. The resolution underscored that accountability for violations is necessary to prevent impunity and support sustainable peace.
203. Recognizing the constitutional powers of national parliaments over executive action, including in matters relating to foreign and security policy, the Assembly called on parliaments to strengthen oversight of government actions and assess compliance with international humanitarian law. It encouraged legislative and oversight measures to support documentation of violations, promote accountability and ensure that international commitments are translated into national action.
204. The resolution called for strengthened parliamentary diplomacy and coordinated engagement through IPU mechanisms and regional parliamentary groups to support de-escalation, civilian protection and peaceful solutions, particularly in the Middle East. It encouraged the continuation and strengthening of ceasefire arrangements through renewed dialogue among parties, supported by sustained political engagement and efforts to address underlying political, security and humanitarian concerns.

205. The Assembly urged all parties to avoid actions that could undermine ceasefires, obstruct negotiations or contribute to further escalation of conflicts. It called for diplomatic processes that are inclusive, sustained and capable of addressing key areas of disagreement, including humanitarian concerns, regional stability, maritime security and freedom of navigation where relevant.
206. The resolution further assigned the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law a role in monitoring developments in the Middle East, reporting on responses to calls for civilian protection, humanitarian access and de-escalation, and proposing parliamentary measures to address further deterioration. It also encouraged the IPU leadership to use its good offices to facilitate parliamentary dialogue and support efforts aimed at protecting civilians, preserving essential infrastructure and creating conditions for negotiated settlements.
207. In conclusion, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of parliaments and parliamentary organizations in supporting peacebuilding, conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery. It encouraged national parliaments to contribute to diplomatic efforts, uphold international law, support civilian protection and participate in rebuilding confidence and advancing peaceful resolutions to armed conflicts. The resolution was circulated to IPU Member Parliaments and relevant international institutions to strengthen collective efforts towards accountability and peacebuilding.

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KENYA DELEGATION

8.1 Conclusion

208. The participation of the Kenya Parliament Delegation in the 152nd IPU Assembly and related meetings provided an opportunity to engage with parliamentarians from across the world on issues affecting democratic governance, peace and security, human rights, sustainable development and emerging global challenges. The Assembly reaffirmed the critical role of parliaments in advancing international cooperation, promoting accountability and translating global commitments into national action through legislation, oversight and representation.
209. The discussions, resolutions and declarations adopted during the Assembly highlighted the importance of strengthening parliamentary institutions, promoting inclusive governance and responding collectively to challenges such as conflicts, climate change, technological transformation, economic inequalities and threats to human rights. The outcomes of the Assembly provide useful reference points for continued parliamentary engagement and policy discussions within Kenya.

8.2 Recommendations by the Kenya Delegation

210. The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, recommends that the Senate -
- i) Notes this Report; and
 - ii) Follows up on the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions adopted by the 152nd IPU Assembly and related meetings.

