

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA



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Kamket, MP on
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**12TH PARLIAMENT
(SECOND SESSION)**

24 JUL 2018



**REPORT OF THE 138TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
22ND – 28TH MARCH, 2018**

Clerks Chambers
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

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PREFACE

Hon. Speaker,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. At the time of this Assembly, there were 178 Members parliaments of the IPU. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with growing international agenda relevant to their duties.
2. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
3. The Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Parliamentary Hearing at Geneva took place on 22nd to 28th March, 2018, in Switzerland. The theme of this year's Hearing was ***Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence based policy solutions'***.
4. The meeting was opened by IPU president Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron (Mexico) as the chair, she was assisted by other several Vice-presidents: Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council(Namibia); Mr. M.A. Oquaye, speaker of parliament(Ghana); Mr. Gallagher, Deputy speaker of the House of Representatives (Ireland); Mr. I. Flores, Leader of the Delegation(Chile); Mr. M. Bouva, Deputy speaker of the National Assembly(Suriname); Mr. W. Simina, Speaker of the Congress(Federated States of Micronesia); Ms. A. Tolley, Deputy speaker of the House of Representatives(New Zealand); Mr. A. Jasem Ahmad, Leader of the Delegation(United Arab Emirates); Ms. C. Roth (Deputy speaker of the Bundestag (Germany); and Mr. A. Anastacia, member of the Federal Senate(Brazil).
5. The IPU President opened the meeting and introduced the General Debate by indicating that migration had long been part of the fabric of civilization. However, today's loosely-constructed global regime governing the movement of people between countries of origin, transit and destination was proving

insufficient. Political will and a human rights approach were required to address the many legal, socio-economic and political issues that migrants and refugees, as well as host communities and countries of origin and transit, presented on the ground. Mixed migration flows added an additional layer of complexity. She further informed the Assembly that United Nations was currently in the process of developing two global compacts – one on migration and one on refugee protection. The parliamentary perspective and engagement were critical to shaping sustainable solutions.

6. To kick-start the debate, the heads of the key UN agencies involved in the process –Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Featured in a high-level interactive debate moderated by Ms. Claire Doole, A former BBC journalist.
7. The heads of the UN agencies stressed that while all policies for refugees and migrants had to be based on carefully vetted evidence, in the final analysis, the bedrock that should inform the debate at all levels was that of the international human rights framework. Everybody, citizens and non-citizens, enjoys the same rights. That was precisely true for refugees whose right to non-refusal and other rights were clearly enshrined in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
8. Ms. Margaret Mensah Williams (Namibia) representing the Forum for Women Parliamentarians underscored that at the national level parliamentarians needed to ensure that laws and migration policies systematically integrated a gender dimension, including in terms of identifying the multiple forms of discrimination and protecting migrant women and girls. At the regional and interregional levels, it was important to share best practices on the integration policies and establish holistic pre-departure and post-arrival programs, and develop targets to accelerate the inclusion of migrants. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development demanded that all women be empowered. For that to happen, parliamentarians had the power to create an enabling environment that would ensure that migrant and refugee women were aware of their rights and were able to claim them, to create forums for the women to voice their needs and concerns, and to ensure that women of different origin – including immigrant women – were represented in political institutions.

9. Ms. Ruth Itamarichoquec (Plurinational State of Bolivia), member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, stressed the centrality of the human rights approach to all policies on migration and refugee protection, and called on all parliaments to hold governments to account in ensuring that relevant agreements are implemented. Policies again should be evidence based, with age-disaggregated data on migrants and refugees so as to better understanding the particularities of young people. Parliament has a key role to play in ensuring that the services needed for young migrants and refugees to succeed in new surroundings were in place, in particular in terms of quality health care, education, economic opportunities through decent jobs, and entrepreneurship programs. The cost of such measures was far lower than the cost of an uneducated and unhealthy population that was unable to contribute to the society.

Hon Speaker,

10. The 138th IPU Assembly and related meetings was attended by delegations from 148 Member Parliaments, 8 Associate Members and 6 observers. In total, 1,526 delegates attended the Assembly, of these, 744 were Members of Parliament, comprising of 59 Presiding Officers, 39 Deputy Presiding Officers and 227 women MPs.
11. The highlight of the Kenya delegation to IPU Assembly was the election of **Senator Susan Kihika** to the Bureau of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians to represent the Africa Geo Political group. She was later on elected the First Vice President of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians.

Hon. Speaker,

12. The Parliament of Kenya is well represented in the affairs of the IPU. The Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, serves in the Executive Committee – a 15-member Committee that steers the agenda of the IPU. This is in addition to Sen. Susan Kihika, who was elected to serve in the Bureau of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians as the First Vice President.

Hon Speaker,

13. The Kenyan delegation to the 138th IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following:

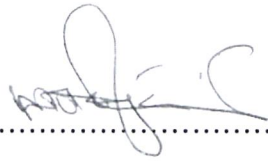
- i) Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, EGH, MP - Speaker of the Senate and Leader of delegation
- ii) Sen. Susan Kihika, MP -Senator
- iii) Sen. Enoch Wambua, MP -Senator
- iv) Hon. William Kamket, MP -Member of National Assembly
- v) Hon. Owen Baya, MP -Member of National Assembly
- vi) Hon. Vincent Tuwei MP -Member of National Assembly
- vii) Hon. Nasri Ibrahim, MP -Member of National Assembly
- viii) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS -Clerk of Senate/ Member ASGP
- ix) Mr. James Mwangi, EBS -Senior Deputy Clerk, National Assembly
- x) Mr. NjengaRuge - Ag. Director, Speakers Office, Senate
- xi) Mr. Zakayo Mogere - Deputy Director, Senate
- xii) Mr. Kipkemoi Arap Kirui - Principal Clerk Assistant
- xiii) Ms. Rose Natecho - Principal Research Officer, Senate
- xiv) Mr. George Otieno - Clerk Assistant/Delegation Secretary,
- xv) Ms. Getrude Nthiiri - Clerk Assistant/Delegation Secretary
- xvi) Mr. Frankline Mutulu - Media Relations Officer, Senate

14. During the Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenyan delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions that were arrived at. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for bestowing upon us the important task of representing Kenya in one of the most important fora in the associations of Parliaments.

Hon. Speaker,

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

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



.....
HON. WILLIAM KAMKET, M.P.
MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION

DATED..... 5.7.2018

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND ON 22ND -28TH MARCH, 2018

A. INTRODUCTION

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

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

- a) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;
- b) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;
- c) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights;
- d) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs;
- e) Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- f) Committee on Middle East Questions;
- g) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus;
- h) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- i) Advisory Group on Health;
- j) Gender Partnership Group;
- k) Forum of Women Parliamentarians; and
- l) Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

5. The current President of the IPU is Sen. Gabriela Cuevas Barron from Mexico, while the speaker of the Senate of Kenya, the Hon. Kenneth Lusaka, sits in the Executive Committee of the IPU.

B. AGENDA OF THE 138TH IPU ASSEMBLY

6. Agenda of the 138th Assembly was-

- (a) Election of the president and Vice-Presidents of the 138th Assembly.
- (b) Consideration of the request for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.
- (c) General Debate on the theme *Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: the need for evidence based policy solutions*.
- (d) Engaging the private sector in the implementing of the SDGs
- (f) Reports of the Standing Committees
- (g) Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules
- (h) The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the wake of UN Charter resolutions.

C. GENERAL DEBATE : STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL REGIME FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: THE NEED FOR EVIDENCE BASED POLICY SOLUTIONS

7. The IPU President delivered an opening address on the main theme of the General Debate. The theme was very topical and relevant as nearly 258 million people in the world resided in countries not of their birth. Many of them were migrants, regular or irregular, who sought a better life, and refugees who had fled their countries because of persecution, conflict, natural or other disasters that jeopardized their safety and threatened their lives. Their numbers were expected to grow as a result of social, economic, environmental or political instability, combined with the search for new opportunities in an increasingly interconnected world.
8. The IPU President stated that migration had long been part of the fabric of civilization. However, today's loosely-constructed global regime governing the movement of people between countries of origin, transit and destination was proving insufficient. Political will and a human rights approach were required to address the many legal, socio-economic and political issues that migrants and refugees, as well as host communities and countries of origin and transit, presented on the ground. Mixed migration flows added an additional layer of complexity. The United Nations was currently in the process of developing two global compacts – one on migration and one on refugee protection. The parliamentary perspective and engagement were critical to shaping sustainable solutions.
9. To kick-start the debate, the heads of the key UN agencies involved in the process - Mr. William Lacy Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – featured in a high-level interactive debate moderated by Ms. Claire Doole, a former BBC journalist.
10. In their initial remarks and in their responses to questions from the floor, the three UN heads sought to dispel some of the common misconceptions that surrounded the public debate on refugees and migrants. Those included the idea that flows could not be managed, that migrants and refugees amounted to a net economic loss to their host countries, or that diversity undermined the social fabric of societies. There was overwhelming evidence that that was rarely the case but, the presenters noted, it was also

true that migration governance needed to be strengthened in order to prevent large flows that could not be managed easily, to support the integration of migrants, to better share the responsibility for migrants and refugees among countries, and to help countries with funding and other forms of support as needed. Articulating those issues was precisely the point of the two global compacts on migrants and refugees that were being discussed at the United Nations.

11. The presenters also stressed that while all policies for refugees and migrants had to be based on carefully vetted evidence, in the final analysis, the bedrock that should inform the debate at all levels was that of the international human rights framework. All people, citizens and non-citizens, enjoyed the same inalienable rights. That was particularly true for refugees for whom the right to non-refusal and other rights were clearly enshrined in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. The panel's other key messages were that the two global compacts should provide for an effective review process so signatories would be compelled to maintain their commitments, and that parliaments were going to play a key role in the implementation of the global compacts by helping design effective policies for migrants and refugees and by helping mediate the public debate.

12. In keeping with the IPU's practice, gender and youth perspectives were invited so as to inform the General Debate. Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams (Namibia), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, underscored that at the national level parliamentarians needed to ensure that laws and migration policies systematically integrated a gender dimension, including in terms of identifying the multiple forms of discrimination and protecting migrant women and girls. At the regional and interregional levels, it was important to share best practices on integration policies, establish holistic pre-departure and post-arrival programmes, and develop targets to accelerate the inclusion of migrants. Last but not least, women migrants and refugees could no longer be seen primarily as victims – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demanded that all women be empowered. For that to happen, parliamentarians had the power to create an enabling environment that would ensure that migrant and refugee women were aware of their rights and were able to claim them, to create forums for women to voice their needs and concerns, and to ensure that women of all origins – including immigrant women – were represented in political institutions.

13. Ms. Ruth Itamari Choque (Plurinational State of Bolivia), member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, stressed the centrality of a human rights approach to all policies on migration and refugee protection, and called on all parliaments to hold governments to account in making sure that the relevant agreements were implemented. Policies also needed to be evidence-based, with agedisaggregated data on migrants and refugees so as to better understand the particularities of young people. Parliaments had a key role to play in ensuring that the services needed for young migrants and refugees to succeed in new surroundings were in place, in particular in terms of quality health care, education, economic opportunities through decent jobs, and entrepreneurship programmes. The cost of such measures was far lower than the cost of an uneducated and unhealthy population that was unable to contribute to society.
14. During the three days of deliberations, over 120 legislators, 42 Presiding Officers as well as representatives of five partner organizations contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the debate were webcast. The emerging recommendations and good practices are reflected in the outcome document.
15. The Assembly also held a special session with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization(WHO), who highlighted that at least half the world's population lacked access to essential services and that almost 100 million people were pushed into extreme poverty every year due to having to pay for the health care costs from their own pockets. He invited parliamentarians to engage on those issues and ensure that universal health coverage became a political and legislative priority.
16. Dr. Tedros stressed the role of parliaments in creating an environment in which health could flourish. Not only by providing health services but also by influencing the social, environmental and economic determinants of health. He made three concrete requests to parliamentarians: to ratify the protocol to eliminate illicit trade in Tobacco products as soon as possible; to create a group of friends of the WHO would hold a technical briefing for parliamentarians on universal health coverage and global health security.
17. The Assembly held a session with Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu, Director-General of the organization for the prohibition of chemical weapon(OPCW) and Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa, president of the fourth conference

of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, who provided overview of those two key agreements and encouraged all IPU member parliaments to play an active role in their ratification and implementation. In introducing the two special guests, the IPU president recalled the contribution of the national parliaments and the IPU in the drafting and promoting the convention on cluster munitions, in pursuing the elimination of weapons of mass destruction as well as in protecting citizens from the scourge of the gun violence.

18. The IPU President referred to the apparent use of chemical weapons both in war zones such as Iraq and Syria, but also in the very heart of Europe – for the first time since World War II. Those were extremely troubling issues, and all parliaments should be vigilant and prevent any such violations from occurring. The use of nuclear weapons, intentionally or accidentally, remained a real danger to humankind’s very existence, and parliaments had a moral duty and responsibility to work towards a nuclear weapons-free world, including through the ratification and implementation of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. She called on all parliaments to take resolute action in that regard.
19. The general debate was complemented by *Humans and Climate Change Stories* which provided the documentary approach to the effects of climate change on people’s lives and to their capacity for resilience. Moreover, the stories depicted in the exhibition put into perspective the social, economic and political forces that had impact on the environmental phenomena. A refugee tent was also placed on the ground floor of the conference center to provide parliamentarians with real sense of conditions faced by refugees each and every day.
20. At the end of the General Debate, the IPU President presented the declaration of the meeting. The Declaration, building on the views expressed during the deliberations and through a survey for parliamentarians, was intended to send a clear message to the world and to the United Nations that parliamentarians were fully committed to helping manage the flows of migrants and refugees in a responsible way. That meant looking at the facts of the matter, listening carefully to all stakeholders, including migrants and refugees, and helping devise solutions that worked. The Declaration made it clear that countries needed to go beyond ad hoc, unilateral responses and work together through a more coordinated international system. ***(The full text of the declaration is contained in Part K.1 of this report).***

D. CHOICE AND DEBATE OF THE EMERGENCY ITEM

21. The IPU President informed the Assembly of the following four requests for inclusion in emergency item proposal:
 - i) Repercussions of Iran's malign Activities led by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its Quds Force, in core arenas in the middle East, including Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen and in the Palestinian arena submitted by delegation of Israel.
 - ii) Violence against women in the workplace, in particular in parliament in the wake of metoo movement submitted by the delegation of Sweden.
 - iii) The consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in the light of UN Charter and resolutions, submitted by the delegation of Palestine, Kuwait, Bahrain and Turkey.
 - iv) The necessary to support the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable rights and to reject the US administration decision Al-Quds(Jerusalem) submitted by the delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran.
22. Before the vote, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran withdrew its proposal. The Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining items.
23. The proposal on the consequences of the US declaration on Jerusalem and on violence against women received the required two-thirds majority of the vote. The proposal on Jerusalem which had received a higher number of positive votes, was adopted and added to agenda as item 9.
24. The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of Monday, 26 March 2018 with Ms. E. Thalen Finne, Deputy Speaker of the Riksdagen (Sweden), in the Chair. Fourteen speakers took the floor, with with exercising their rights of reply. The majority of delegates condemned the US Administration's unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and its decision to move its embassy there, stating that such a move would seriously undermine security in the region and beyond. Delegates also expressed strong support for a two-State solution. The Assembly then referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Belgium, Chad, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Palestine, Uruguay and Zambia.

25. The resolution on the emergency item was adopted in the plenary sitting of the Assembly by consensus on 27 March 2018. However, many delegations, while expressing their support for a two-State solution, had concerns about some of the language and elements of the substance of the resolution. ***(The full text of the resolution is contained in Part K.4 of this report).***

E. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE 138TH IPU ASSEMBLY

i) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

26. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held four sittings from 25 to 27 March 2018 with its President, Ms. L Rojas (Mexico), in the chair. At its first sitting, the Committee examined an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution entitled ***Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development***, prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. M. Vargas Barcena (Mexico) and Mr. A. Caroni (Switzerland). It also considered 136 draft amendments submitted by 18 Member Parliament and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.
27. Thirty-seven percent of the amendments proposed were adopted, some with sub-amendments put forward primarily by the co-Rapporteurs. At its sitting on 27 March, the Committee adopted the amended text by consensus. The delegation of China lodged a reservation on the operative paragraph 18. The draft resolution, as amended by the Committee, was submitted to the plenary Assembly on the afternoon of 28 March and was adopted unanimously. ***(The full text of the resolution is contained in Part K.2 of this report).***

ii) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

28. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sitting on 25, 26 and 27 March 2018 with its Vice-President, Mr. A. Cisse (Mali), in the Chair. The Standing Committee had before it an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution, entitled ***Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy***, jointly prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) and Mr. Duong Quoc Anh (Vietnam). It also had before it 115 amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 18 Member Parliaments, as well as amendments from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

29. The Committee first heard a presentation of the draft resolution by the co-Rapporteurs, which was followed by a debate. A total of 25 speakers took the floor. The Standing Committee then proceeded to consider the proposed amendments in two plenary sittings.
30. At its final sitting on 27th March, the Standing Committee adopted the consolidated draft unanimously. The Committee agreed that Mr. Gryffroy would present the draft resolution to the Assembly. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Gryffroy presented the draft resolution to the Assembly at its plenary sitting of 28 March. The Assembly adopted it unanimously. ***(The full text of the resolution is contained in Part K.3 of this report).***

iii) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

31. The Committee held sittings on 26 and 27 March with its President, Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), in the Chair. At its first sitting, the Committee held a preparatory debate on the theme of the next resolution: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. The Committee approved the appointment of three Rapporteurs for the next resolution, Mr. J. Echániz (Spain), Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) and Mr. A. Touizi (Morocco).
32. The debate was introduced by two co-Facilitators of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Ambassador J. Lauber (Switzerland) and Ambassador J. Gomez Camacho (Mexico), followed by three Rapporteurs. Delegates raised a number of issues including the need to address the root causes of migration and imperative to combat discrimination and Xenophobia in the context of migration. The president invited members to assist the rapporteurs in writing the resolution by deadline of 20 April, 2018.
33. At its second sitting, the Committee gave further consideration to the proposal for a debate on the role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons. All delegates who were willing to contribute on the same were able to do so as there was an atmosphere of mutual respect thus free view by all delegates. In order to avoid any possible doubt about the decision, roll-call vote was held in which it was decided that the debate would be held at the next Assembly.

34. The Assembly took note of the Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. Despite the decision adopted by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights regarding its agenda for the next Assembly, several delegations took to the floor to express their objection to the inclusion in the Committee agenda of a panel discussion to examine the role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation. In light of the late hour and the absence of quorum required for a formal decision, it was decided to adjourn the meeting and to re-examine the issue on the occasion of the 139th IPU Assembly.

iv) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

35. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 25 and 27 March 2018. Both sittings focused on the SDGs. The first sitting took stock of parliamentary action on the SDGs, and the second helped prepare parliamentarians for the debate that would be held at the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), on the environmental pillar of the SDGs. Close to 60 parliaments were represented at the sittings, with over 20 statements made.

36. During the presentations, Mr. M. Mijatovic, (Serbia), Ms. C.L. Crexell (Argentina), and Mr. E. Saravanapavan (Sri Lanka) presented their work in parliament on SDGs implementation, outlining the structure, and providing examples of success. Ms. N. Isler, Director of the SDGs Lab in Geneva, provided an overview of the Lab's work in assisting with policy coherence across the SDGs.

37. At the second sitting Mr. A. Sinmaleza (Ecuador) and Mrs. H Haukeland Liadal (Norway) described their parliamentary work in reducing energy consumption and building more sustainable societies. Mr. m. Wackernagel, Founder and CEO of the Global Footprint Network, Mrs. S. Stone of the United Nations Environmental Program (UN Environment), explained the complementary work they were doing to encourage education on the alarming environmental situation worldwide and how much is still needed to reduce consumption and global warming.

F. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

38. The 202nd Session of the Governing Council held its meetings on 25 and 28 March, 2018.

i) Membership of the IPU

39. There were no new requests for membership or observer status. However, in the IPU's bid to achieve universal membership, the Council endorsed modalities aimed at retaining the membership per se of defaulting members while suspending their rights of participation in statutory meetings, voting rights and eligibility to IPU office. It requested that the secretariat make the appropriate proposals to amend the IPU statutes and rules in order to reflect those changes.
40. The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and endorsed the relevant recommendations formulated by the Executive Committee with regard to each of them. The Council decided to encourage all sides to dialogue in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Guinea-Bissau and reiterated the IPU's offer of its good offices to mediate those crises. Regarding Cambodia, the Council noted the shrinking political space and urged the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to pursue the cases before it involving Cambodian opposition MPs. It welcomed recent communications from Eritrea and decided to keep monitoring the situation in Libya, South Sudan, Thailand and Turkey. It endorsed the recommendations of a recently conducted mission to the Maldives.
41. The Council encouraged the Working Group on Syria to pursue its mandate and reiterated its call to conduct a political and human rights mission to Venezuela given the dire situation in that country. Regarding Yemen, it endorsed the decision by the Executive Committee to admit a single Yemeni delegation comprising the parliamentary factions based in Sana'a and Aden to the 138th Assembly on the understanding that they would work together and speak with one voice.

ii) Financial Results for 2017

42. The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2017. The Financial Statements had been prepared in full compliance with the International Public-Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the accounts of the IPU and the Closed Pension Fund were consolidated into a single set of financial statements.
43. There were comments and questions from the floor relating to the arrears of contributions, assistance to Members in financial difficulty and funding for counter-terrorism work. The Secretary General noted the need to reverse the trend of increasing arrears and underlined the efforts of the IPU to build capacities of parliaments while providing new opportunities for potential Members to participate in IPU activities through the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund. Several countries had expressed interest in funding the IPU's counter-terrorism programme and the United Arab Emirates had put forward seed funding while a detailed plan and budget was being finalized. The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2017.

iii) Financial Situation

44. The Governing Council received a written overview of the IPU's financial situation at 31 January 2018 which noted that the overall level of expenditure was on track at this early stage of the year. Arrears in assessed contributions amounted to CHF 619,000, with 37 Members having overdue accounts. Assessed contributions of CHF 5.9 million had already been paid for 2017, being 56 percent of the total amount due. The Secretary General gave an oral report to the Governing Council on the mobilization of voluntary funding towards implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021.

iv) Cooperation with the United Nations system

45. The Council took note of the draft resolution on "Interaction between United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", which would likely be adopted by the UN General Assembly on 22 May 2018. Members were encouraged to lobby their foreign ministries to sponsor the resolution and to come out in large numbers in a display of support in New York.

46. The Secretary General informed the Council about a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that had been signed with UNDP in November 2017 and a planned MoU to be concluded with the UN Environment on 2018. He was also on discussions with the WHO on a new MoU.
47. The Council noted in particular that a first meeting at the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) had been held in Geneva on 5 and 6 February in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). While encouraging the Group to pursue its work, it recommended that its composition be reviewed as part of its Terms of Reference by the Executive Committee and resubmitted for endorsement at the next session.

v) Implementation of the IPU strategy for 2017-2021

48. The Council took note of a report on the recent activities in the implementation of the strategies. In particular, it took note of the detailed project report on the center for innovation in parliament, whose establishment the council had approved at its 200th session in Dhaka April 2017. The report would be used for resource mobilization purposes.

vi) Recent specialized meetings

49. The Governing Council took note of the results of the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference; the International Conference on promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean; the Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians; the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO; the 2018 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations; and the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

vii) Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees

50. At its sitting on 28 March, the Governing council took note of the reports on the activities of the forum of Women Parliamentarians; the Committee on Middle East Questions; the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law; the Gender Partnership Group; the Advisory Group on Health; the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. The Council also heard the report of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and approved nine decisions submitted by the latter, noting the reservations expressed by the

delegations of Mongolia, Niger and Turkey concerning the cases in their respective countries.

viii) Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

51. The Council was informed that visa guarantees had been provided by the Argentinian authorities for all delegates attending the 140th Assembly in Buenos Aires barring those individuals who were on UN Security Council sanctions lists or on Interpol arrest warrant list. It approved proposals for a number of specialized meetings.

ix) Amendments to the Statutes and Rules

52. The Governing Council adopted amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules aimed at enhancing youth participation at the IPU.

G. THE 278TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

53. The Executive Committee held its 278th session in Geneva on 22, 23 and 27 March 2018. The IPU President chaired the meetings. The Executive Committee examined the audit of the Presidents vision for the IPU at the first and third sittings and proposed that priorities be set for the current year and 2019 with the costing of each new proposal. At its last sitting it endorsed a number of activities proposed by the president. It examined the three sets of proposed by the Russian Federation on defining the role of the IPU President; and the third set submitted by the IPU President. It decided unanimously to recommend that the Governing Council adopt the first set of amendments of youth participation.
54. After a lengthy debate about the other two sets of proposals, and in the absence of a consensus, the Vice-President of the Executive Committee and the President decided to withdraw their proposals so as to allow more time for consultations among the geopolitical groups and wider membership. It was decided that the issue of amendments would remain on the agenda of the Executive Committee, which would examine them at an extraordinary session in time to submit a reformulated package of amendments to the next Assembly in October 2018. Meanwhile, the Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Mr. K. Kosachev, was tasked with carrying out the necessary consultations.

55. The Executive Committee heard the report of Mr. R del Picchia, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance. The Sub-Committee on Finance had met on 21 March 2018 to prepare and facilitate the Executive Committee's consideration of financial and budgetary matters. It had carefully examined all the financial documents, including the financial results, the External Auditor's report, the current financial situation and voluntary funding update. The IPU's accounts were again fully IPSAS-compliant.
56. The Executive Committee also examined the draft UN General Assembly resolution on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union* and agreed for the process to take its course, led by the country holding the IPU presidency, Mexico. Members were invited to lobby their foreign ministers to sponsor the resolution and to come out in full force in New York on 22 May 2018, when the resolution was likely to be adopted.
57. The Executive Committee examined the situation of certain parliaments and made specific recommendations to the Governing Council of parliaments of Burundi, Cambodia, DRC, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Maldives, South Sudan, Syria, Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela and Yemen. It encouraged the promotion of dialogue between all sides.
58. The Committee heard from the President on the Working Group from Syria and decided to allow it to pursue its mandate in spite of difficult conditions in Syria. The Committee expressed concern over the dire political and socioeconomic situation in Venezuela and reiterated its call to conduct a political human rights mission in Caracas. Efforts would be spearheaded by the IPU president and the Executive Committee member from Cuba. It decided to unfreeze the participation of Yemen at the current Assembly, having ascertained that the two parliamentary factions based in Sana'a and Aden had indicated their willingness to participate as single delegation and speak with one voice.
59. In a bid to achieve Universal membership, it examined a paper on retaining the membership of parliaments in arrears for a variety of reasons while effectively suspending their rights in IPU. Such parliaments would be moved to new category of non-participating members, who would no longer be able to participate in statutory meetings, vote or hold IPU office. It recommended that the Council approve the modalities.

60. In connection with the implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2011, the Executive Committee examined a number of matters that were subsequently referred to the Governing Council, in particular a detailed project proposal for a Center for Innovation in Parliaments which had been requested previously by the Committee and which was intended for potential donors.

H. FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

61. The 27th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 24 and 27 March 2018. It brought together 116 participants including 90 delegates from 63 countries among whom were 78 women and 14 men. The President of the Bureau, Ms. Mensah-Wiliams (Namibia), chaired the proceedings. The president of IPU welcomed the participants and made the opening remarks.
62. As a contribution to the Assembly, participants considered, from a gender parity point of view, the draft resolutions before the 138th Assembly: *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for sustainable development* and *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. Two groups were formed to conduct the discussions. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments, which were incorporated by the Standing Committees in the two draft resolutions.
63. Participants then discussed the root causes of women's underrepresentation and ways to redress it. They agreed that education and socialization must prepare girls for public and political life. Education was also a key factor in changing cultural and social norms that worked against women's accession to decision-making positions. Participants cited real political will at all levels, the support of political parties, measures to encourage women to participate in politics and access by women to electoral campaign financing as ways of achieving progress and attaining equality in politics. Gender-based violence and negative stereotypes regarding women in politics were singled out as glaring obstacles requiring urgent action today. Internal reforms and plans for combating sexist behaviour, sexual harassment and sexist violence in parliament and in political parties were also needed. Measures had to be taken to end the cyberviolence and hate speech against women, which were frequently encountered in social media.

64. At its sitting on 27 March, the Forum elected representatives to fill half of the seats for the regional representatives and to replace the representative who had left the Bureau. The Forum also elected Ms. U. Karisson (Sweden) to fill the post of President and Sen. Susan W.Kihika (Kenya) to the post of first Vice-President and Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

I. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

i) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

65. The Committee submitted nine decisions to the Governing Council for adoption concerning the following countries Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia, Niger, Philippines, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic) and Zambia.
66. During the session, the Committee held 12 hearings and informal meetings with delegations and complainants to reinforce its understanding of the cases before it and convey its concerns. At the same session the Committee had on its agenda cases concerning the situation of 248 members of the parliament in 12 countries. 44 percent of cases were from Asia 25 Africa, 23 Europe, 2 Middle East and North Africa and 6 percent Africa. Violations most considered by the Committee during the session were undue suspensions and loss of parliamentary mandate, lack of fair trial, violations of freedom of assembly and torture.

ii) Committee on Middle East Questions

67. The Committee held two sittings on 24 and 26 March 2018. The Committee unanimously elected Ms. S Ataullahjan as its President for a one year-term ending in March 2019. It examined the current situation in the region and received a brief update by the Yemeni delegation of the current situation in the country. The members of the Committee all welcomed the efforts of Yemen to participate in the 138th Assembly as a unified delegation and praised the IPU for offering delegations a platform for dialogue.
68. The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to its activities including the science to peace schools, despite the current tensions in the region. All the members reiterated their commitment to work together on collaborative projects that fostered peace. They agreed to move forward with the activities of the Committee and to start planning the Third Roundtable on Water and the first Science for Peace School.

iii) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

69. The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on Monday, 26 March. Representatives of the ICRC, UNHCR and IOM participated. The Committee discussed follow-up of the emergency item resolution, *Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar*, adopted at the previous Assembly. Close to one million Rohingya had found refuge in Bangladesh, which had made considerable efforts, but more support was required to cater to the needs of both refugees and the host community. Several protection issues had been raised, including securing identification of refugees and birth registration, addressing sexual and gender-based violence and providing education. Additionally, returns must only take place on a voluntary basis and in the absence of any security risks.
70. The Committee expressed concern that the situation did not seem to be improving. Attention should be devoted to addressing the root causes of the crisis, and ensuring the access to humanitarian aid to population in Myanmar. It would share its concern with Myanmar Parliament, offer the IPU support and carry out the fact finding mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar if possible before the IPU Assembly.
71. Concerning the Global Compact on Refugees, the Committee noted that the current draft did not include any reference to Parliament as a key stakeholder and called on IPU member Parliaments to support the inclusion of such a reference through their respective representatives in the negotiations.

iv) Gender Partnership Group

72. The Gender Partnership Group, composed of Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway), Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation), Mr. K.M. Lusaka (Kenya) and Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia), met on 27 March 2018. Ms. Mensah-Williams chaired the meeting. The Group reviewed figures regarding the composition of delegations present at the 138th IPU Assembly. As at 27 March 2018, 30.5 per cent of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see page 53). The Group expressed its wish to have that figure continuously increase and agreed to discuss at its upcoming meetings ways to break what seemed to be a glass ceiling of 30 per cent female participation.

73. Out of the 148 delegations present, 142 were composed of at least two delegates of which 18 were composed exclusively of men (12.7%) and three were composed of only women. The 21 single-sex delegations were from the Parliaments of the following States: Andorra, Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic people Republic of Korea, Denmark, Guinea, Lebanon, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Micronesia, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Somalia and Yemen.
74. The Group welcomed the new IPU study entitled *Women in parliament in 2017: The year in review*. They stressed the importance of access to such data for awareness-raising purposes and for policymaking. As at March 2018, four parliamentary chambers were all-male: the single houses of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the lower house of Yemen. The Group welcomed the appointment of four women to the Advisory Council of Qatar, which was the last parliament in the Arab world to include women. The Group decided to invite representatives of the four parliaments with no women to a discussion at its next session. They also agreed, where possible, to carry out visits to those parliaments to engage in a dialogue and offer the IPU's assistance. It also took note of the IPU's work on violence against women in parliament.

v) Advisory Group on Health

75. The Advisory Group heard the report on the field visit it had carried out in Rwanda from 24 to 27 January 2018. The Group had been impressed by the country's progress on different health indicators, including on sexual and reproductive health. It praised the strong commitment to that issue at all levels, from government and parliament, to community health workers and leaders. The Group urged Rwanda to share its experience with other parliaments in Africa and more broadly, so as to inspire stronger parliamentary engagement on health.
76. The Advisory Group examined its rules and practices with a view to ensuring gender equality in its membership. It recommended that all IPU bodies pay attention to ensuring gender equality in their membership and in their leadership positions. The principle of rotation between male and female chairpersons and vice-chairpersons in different IPU bodies was also an option to be considered. In addition, geographical balance, competence and relevant experience were equally important criteria for strong IPU bodies.

vi) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

77. The meeting was attended by two Facilitators, Mr. P. Van Den Driessche (Belgium) and Mr. J. De Matos Rosa (Portugal) and four members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. The members expressed the wish to resume the negotiations under the auspices of the UN in order to reach a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem, in accordance with the international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the values and principles of the European Union. The members expressed strong commitment to the achievement of a solution through peaceful dialogue, to the benefit of all Cypriots, especially the generations to come.

vii) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

78. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians met on Sunday, 25 March with 72 young parliamentarians in attendance, 36 per cent of who were women. In the absence of the President of the Board of the Forum, the Forum was chaired by Ms. R.B. Itamari Choque (Plurinational State of Bolivia) in her capacity as the youngest member of the Board present at the 138th Assembly. The participants took stock of the national efforts to enhance youth participation and highlighted the lowering of the age limits to run for office. Welcoming the approval by the Executive Committee of the proposed amendments to the IPU statutes in enhancing youth participation the young MPs called on the IPU to take the lead in identifying an internationally recognized target for the Youth participation in Parliament. A special unit of the Forum focused on the need to review and reform policies, where necessary to guarantee the enjoyment of Human Rights and eliminate stigma and discrimination faced by young people living with HIV/AIDS.
79. The Board met and deliberated on the way forward regarding the IPU campaign for youth empowerment that had been recommended. The Board members agreed to hold a consultation on target for youth representation in parliament to work on technological based means to better promote the work of the young MPs at the IPU and to take stock of the implementation of the IPU resolutions. The Board appointed Mr. O Altabtabae (Kuwait) to prepare a youth overview report to be submitted by 20 April 2018 to the standing committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

J. OTHER SIDE MEETINGS

i) Interactive Session on Ensuring Accountability and Oversight for Adolescent Health

80. The session started with presentations by Dr. V. Chandra-Mouli, scientist, WHO, and Dr. E. Mason, member of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP). The session was attended by over 50 delegates. Dr. V. Chandra-Mouli noted that despite the significant progress made in reducing child and maternal mortality, adolescent health lagged behind. Nearly 1.5 million adolescents die annually, mainly from preventable causes. Particular attention should be paid to issues of domestic and sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancy, substance abuse, disability, as well as mental health in general. Dr. E. Mason stressed the urgency of removing legal, cost, and other key barriers to adolescents' access to health care. Free access should be provided to a package of essential health services. The role of parliamentarians was crucial in implementing adolescent-responsive budgeting, holding education ministries accountable for eliminating all discriminatory barriers, and ensuring that adolescents were consulted by parliaments, among other things.
81. The eleven parliamentarians who took the floor expressed strong support for the need to prioritize adolescent health and provided additional insights on their own country experiences. In spite of the different challenges experienced in developing and developed countries, a cross-cutting theme that emerged was the need to pay special attention to psychological and mental health. Belgium, New Zealand and Serbia raised concerns about the increasing incidence of teenage suicide. In regard to teenage pregnancies, Botswana noted the need for parliamentarians to investigate the overlaying causes. Uganda noted that public hearings would be convened and young people would be invited to participate. Lesotho committed to mainstreaming adolescent health as a priority across sectors. All parliamentarians committed to implementing programmes to address adolescent health and called for support from the IPU in facilitating the oversight role of national parliaments.

ii) Interactive Session with Regional and other Parliamentary Assemblies and Organizations on the Implementation of SDGs

82. The interactive session opened with introductions and overviews by participants of their respective areas of work. The IPU partner organizations shared toolkits, findings of studies and other knowledge products. AirQuality Asia raised the issue of transboundary air pollution. It called upon parliamentarians to take legislative action to effectively protect the right to clean air by setting targets and timelines for air quality improvement with clear accountability, establishing a comprehensive air pollution monitoring network, promoting investment in clean energy and removing subsidies to thermal and fossil fuel consumption.
83. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) presented two specific digital tools that could help parliamentarians in bringing the SDGs from the global to the local level: the “Sustainable Energy Market Place”. A platform that connected project proposals and investors and the project navigator which provided practical information, tools and guidance to assist in the development of bankable renewable energy projects.
84. The Organization for Economic Co-operations and Development (OECD) stressed the importance of raising awareness about SDGs implementation and stated that political commitment and multi-ministerial approaches were fundamental for advancing that agenda.
85. Participants exchanged views and identified avenues for possible cooperation, taking into account national specificities and particular needs. The importance of working with the private sector was also highlighted. The session contributed to establishing clearer lines of communication and support among participants to avoid duplication and maximize outcomes.

iii) Workshop on Refugee Protection: Implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework-what can Parliaments do?

86. The workshop brought together close to 80 participants. Members of Parliament from 19 countries took the floor and exchanged views with experts from UNHCR. The workshop focused on implementing the comprehensive Refugee Response Framework(CRRF) which, together with New York declaration on Refugees and migrant, affirmed that humanitarian, development, political and security actors all had roles to play in the achievement of refugee’s protection and solutions and paved the way for important policy shifts and new initiatives.

87. Experts highlighted how the Framework reflected important changes in historical approaches to refugee response: rather than responding through purely (and often underfunded) humanitarian methods and actors, the elements of the CRRF were designed to form a more systematic and sustainable response which benefited both refugees and host communities.
88. The workshops provided a space for countries implementing the CRRF to highlight policy shifts that most governments had made, as well as past and future participation of parliamentarians. The participants also highlighted key priorities and concerns: security of host countries; responsibility-sharing by the International Community; addressing the root causes of movement of populations; limited understanding of the distinction between refugees and migrants and the need to address climate-change induced displacement and peace-building.

iv) Workshop on Implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from the UN to Parliaments: Putting the nuclear weapons ban work

89. The workshop was organized by the the Standing Committees on United Nations Affairs and on Peace and International Security and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. The President of the Standing Committee on the United Nations Affairs moderated the discussion. The workshop provided participants with information on the Treaty and its implementation worldwide.
90. Adopted by the United Nations on 7 July 2017, the Treaty drew on international humanitarian law and supplemented existing bans on other weapons of mass destruction. Its objective, once is entered into nuclear weapons and devices. Like other treaties of a similar nature, it did not apply exclusively to its signatories. To date 53 States had signed the Treaty, five had ratified it and it it would enter into force once 50 States had done so.
91. The discussion also touched on various ways of convincing the nine known nuclear weapons States and their allies to join the treaty or to take other steps towards nuclear disarmament. One such step could be for parliamentarians to ensure that the issue remained a high priority within the IPU and that it came up for discussion again through a new resolution.

K. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 138TH IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

1. DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL REGIME FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: THE NEED FOR EVIDENCE- BASED POLICY SOLUTIONS

Endorsed by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 28 March 2018)

- 1.1 Migration has been a feature of human civilization and interaction from time immemorial. Properly managed, it contributes to greater human well-being and collective wealth. It expands knowledge and strengthens the bonds of human solidarity.
- 1.2 Likewise, the flight of refugees from persecution and conflict is not new. When refugees flee, those who provide them with the protection and assistance that they need contribute to the cause of humanity and should be supported in their efforts by the international community.
- 1.3 Over and beyond national differences, people everywhere aspire to the same things: a decent life, good health and education, a safe environment, strong democratic institutions and, above all, peace.
- 1.4 Yet today's global regime for migrants does not always harness the potential benefits of migration, nor does the international refugee regime do enough to ease the pressures on those who host large numbers of refugees. Too often, both regimes fail to protect increasing numbers of migrants and refugees from discrimination, exploitation, or other kinds of abuse. The human and economic costs of this failure are enormous and run counter to our common vision for a prosperous, sustainable, and peaceful world.
- 1.5 A large portion of refugee and migration policy today remains ad hoc, with countries devising their own solutions to a host of common problems. We need a more coordinated system that brings countries together around practical solutions that work for all. As this is one of the most important issues facing our countries, we welcome wholeheartedly the United Nations initiative to forge two Global Compacts – one for safe, orderly and regular migration, and another on refugees – which governments will formally adopt later this year.
- 1.6 While acknowledging important legal distinctions between *migrants* and *refugees*, we see many commonalities between these two large groups in terms of their need for basic services and their fear of discrimination or unlawful persecution. We affirm that all people on the move – voluntary and involuntary, regular and irregular, economic migrants, displaced

people and refugees, regardless of their individual drivers to move to other countries – are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights pursuant to the relevant international treaties and covenants. We should not condone discrimination against migrants or refugees based on culture, gender, race, ethnicity, religion or other differences. We should support enhanced protection for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, beginning with women, children and people with disabilities.

- 1.7 Our challenge, as policy-makers and opinion leaders and as representatives of the people, is to reconcile our short-term national interests with this long-term world view that seeks to reap the benefits of human mobility in an orderly fashion. We strongly believe that migration policies and the public debate about migrants and refugees must be more balanced and based on empirical evidence of what works and what does not. We recognize that diversity makes our countries stronger, not weaker. We condemn the worrying trend of holding foreigners responsible for home-grown problems not of their making. We affirm our duty, as trustees of the common good, to avoid language that stokes the flames of xenophobia and racism.
- 1.8 Most importantly, we have a responsibility to work resolutely to address the root causes of refugee situations (including persecution and armed conflict) and the drivers of migration, be they economic, social or environmental. Doing so will affirm the right to leave as well as the right to stay in one's home country. In a world of extreme income and wealth inequality, climate change, and weakening democratic institutions, a sense of deep insecurity on the part of growing numbers of people is both a reason why people move and a prime cause of the negative response to migrants and refugees in many countries. The response must be an all-encompassing one that seeks to support the well-being and prosperity of all people – citizens and non-citizens alike – everywhere.
- 1.9 We reiterate our pledge to work for the implementation of the UN-approved 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs provide a clear road map for inclusive and sustainable prosperity for all. By empowering all countries economically and institutionally, and by strengthening the foundations of peace between and within countries, the SDGs will help to address the root causes of refugee movements and help to achieve a better balance between the benefits and the costs of migration, such as the benefit of remittances and the costs of brain drain to developing countries. The implementation of the SDGs will also support a fairer sharing of the responsibility all countries have toward migrants and refugees.
- 1.10 Combined, all of these actions will allow people to move by choice, not through necessity, thus largely containing the potential disruption that

can come from large, unpredictable movement of persons related to society-wide shocks. At the same time, we recognize that the integration of migrants and refugees is not an event but a process requiring time and effort. Unlike inanimate capital and goods that can move quickly across borders, people have emotional ties and personal needs. We must be sensitive to this from the perspective both of host communities and of the migrants and refugees themselves by adopting proactive policies for social cohesion. That said, we find that by and large integration is possible and is working as it should in the majority of our countries.

- 1.11 As the statistics clearly show, only a tiny fraction of migrants and refugees has ever posed a threat to national security. While this is paramount to all of us, we commit to help dispel the misconceptions in the media and in the public discourse that migrants and refugees present a heightened risk. At the same time, we commit to ensuring that border controls and admission procedures are designed to detect and filter out potential terrorists and elements of organized crime.
- 1.12 We recognize that putting up artificial obstacles to the migration of people will generate needless human suffering and social tensions. The response to growing irregular migration is to generate more regular pathways for people to work and live in destination countries in mutually beneficial ways. Not all migrants seek permanent residence. Many of them can be accommodated through temporary arrangements and through policies that will facilitate their return to their home countries. At the same time, countries of origin need to do more to allow their people to return.

The Global Compacts

- 1.13 The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees need to be mutually reinforcing, creating a comprehensive practical framework to manage all types of human mobility more effectively at national, regional and global levels. They need to embed the key principle of shared responsibility between countries of origin and destination as well as between countries and the international community. For the compacts to be effective, they must first articulate a clear definition of migrant as a distinct category from refugee, which will be particularly useful in targeting policy at mixed flows, emerging new categories such as people fleeing the consequences of climate change, or displaced people whose status as migrants or refugees is not always easy to determine. The compacts need to reaffirm all relevant human rights treaties and conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

1.14 The compacts need to establish strong review mechanisms to hold governments to account for their commitments. The role of parliaments as key stakeholders, particularly with regard to the implementation of both compacts, needs to be specifically acknowledged in the text. As for the legal status of the compacts, as our survey shows, the possibility of a legally binding regime should not be discounted altogether.

1.15 Our debate demonstrated high support for the following specific provisions to be articulated in both compacts:

- More and better data on migrants and refugees must be generated and exchanged at all levels nationally and globally to inform public debate as well as relevant national policies;
- Partnerships with local authorities, civil society organizations and private enterprises that are first in line to respond to the flow of migrants and refugees should be encouraged;
- Birth registration of all children of migrants and refugees needs to be enforced to ensure their rights are protected;
- An international standard of practice for countries dealing with vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, needs to be established;
- Human trafficking must be brought to an end through stronger bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as stronger enforcement of existing laws;
- National security policies should not single out migrants and refugees, and should instead aim at a comprehensive approach to detect and prosecute criminal elements in our societies at large;
- Public services such as health and education, housing and food support, should be provided to all refugees and migrants, along with a firewall protecting them from law enforcement;
- Hate speech should be sanctioned and hate crimes clearly defined in the law, with law enforcement and social services departments provided with the tools to combat and punish such crimes;
- More support from the international community is needed to help countries cope with large inflows of migrants and refugees.

Migrants

- 1.16 With regard specifically to regular and irregular migrants, we are supportive of the following provisions to be reflected in the Global Compact for Migration:
- Countries of origin, transit and destination need to cooperate more closely to facilitate the movement of migrant workers, including by facilitating the accreditation of academic and professional credentials, by allowing the portability of social security benefits, and by lowering the cost of remittances;
 - Vulnerable groups such as women, children and people with disabilities should be given special protection in migration policies and in the law against exploitation and abuse;
 - National migration policies need to include input from migrants themselves, ensuring that migrants are not passive subjects but active participants in the societies in which they live;
 - National quotas of labour migrants can contribute to greater predictability of migration flows, although it remains up to each country to decide whether to establish a quota or not;
 - Migrants should generally be granted the right to participate in political decision-making in their host countries only upon the obtainment of citizenship, though some provision for the participation of permanent residents should be considered.

Refugees

- 1.17 With regard to the Global Compact on Refugees, we welcome the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and its four key pillars to ease pressure on countries receiving large numbers of refugees, to provide for a dignified life for all refugees, to facilitate third-country resettlement, and to prepare for the return of refugees to their home countries when conditions so allow.
- 1.18 We further recommend that the following provisions should be reflected in the completed, final document:
- People fleeing conflict should enjoy legal protection as refugees under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
 - To the extent possible, countries should be incentivized to give long-term refugees permanent residence, while no refugee should be denied the right to return to the homeland;

- The freedom of movement of refugees in their host countries must be upheld in all circumstances;
- The return and resettlement of refugees requires their consent and needs to be carefully coordinated between host countries, countries of origin or third countries;
- The return of refugees to countries of origin can only take place when all fundamental freedoms and personal safety can be guaranteed;
- More funding for the accommodation of refugees in host countries should be channeled to developing countries where the vast majority of refugees live;
- All countries that have yet to join the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol should be encouraged to do so.

The way forward

- 1.19 Along with governments and the United Nations, including in particular IOM and UNHCR, parliaments will have a key role to play in the implementation of the global compacts.
- 1.20 Our task as parliamentarians is to hold governments accountable for their commitments and to see to it that laws and budgets are consistent with those commitments. To that end, we encourage the international community and the IPU, as our world organization, to continue to work closely with our parliaments, strengthening our institutional capacities to design relevant policies for migrants and refugees and to oversee such policies effectively.
- 1.21 More importantly, we commit to stimulating a debate on migrants and refugees that builds on people's strengths, their dreams and aspirations, regardless of their differences.
- 1.22 Where there are walls, we will work to build bridges; where there is fear, we will seek to restore hope.

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2. SUSTAINING PEACE AS A VEHICLE FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 28 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming that, according to its Statutes, working for peace and cooperation among peoples is one of the main purposes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the IPU resolutions entitled *The prevention of conflicts and the restoration of peace and trust in countries emerging from war; the return of refugees to their countries of origin, the strengthening of democratic processes and the hastening of reconstruction* (99th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Windhoek, 1998), *Achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples* (103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, Amman, 2000); *Ensuring respect for and peaceful co-existence between all religious communities and beliefs in a globalized world* (116th Assembly, Nusa Dua, 2007); *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa* (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012); *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives* (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013) and *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States* (136th Assembly, Dhaka, 2017),

Also recalling the IPU outcomes of general debates, namely the Quito Communiqué (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013), the Hanoi Declaration (132nd Assembly, Hanoi, 2015) and the St. Petersburg Declaration (137th Assembly, St. Petersburg, 2017), containing, among other things, the parliamentary community's action towards implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Also recalling the determination to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling that sustaining peace has been defined in the substantively identical resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly

(70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]) adopted on 27 April 2016 "as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations' engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all of its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance",

Welcoming the renewed mandate these United Nations resolutions give to the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office within the context of the Sustaining Peace Agenda,

Also welcoming the prioritization of prevention of violent conflict by the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Fully supporting United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security which emphasizes the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security which recognizes the positive role of youth in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Recognizing these resolutions and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) as crucial steps towards more coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations, namely peace and security, development and human rights,

Mindful that the 2030 Agenda recognizes the need for sustaining peace and ensuring security and includes them as cross-cutting issues,

Recognizing that the SDGs apply to all States, while acknowledging that their implementation shall be adapted to the uniqueness of each and every State and that each State shall have the right to determine its priorities concerning the SDGs depending on its prevailing circumstances and needs,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda calls on governments, parliaments and other stakeholders to design and deliver laws and programmes that meet the needs of the people, break down policy silos, uphold human rights, and leave no one behind,

Underlining that there is a link between peace and the promotion and protection of all human rights, included in, but not limited to, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and *recognizing* the will of the United Nations General Assembly to continue examining the issue of the promotion and protection of the right to peace,

Also underlining that, in view of the mutually reinforcing nature of development, human rights, peace and security, the strengthening of democracy and good governance, inclusive development, the promotion and protection of human rights, the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and equal application of the law to all people are among the most effective ways to sustain peace and security and prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflicts,

Emphasizing that peace and security are not only political issues defined by the absence of violence and war but also the freedom from fear, and that they encompass political, cultural, economic, social, environmental, educational and humanitarian issues,

Recognizing that violence is increasingly driven by domestic political instability and that one out of every two people in the world has been affected by or lives in proximity to political violence (OECD report *States of Fragility 2016*),

Convinced that parliaments can significantly contribute to sustaining peace, and *highlighting* both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy in enhancing democracy and human rights, including its capacity to reduce tensions and mitigate and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,

Reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee inclusiveness through the representation and empowerment of women, the respect of the rights of

children, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious groups and those of LGBTI sexual orientation, and the expression of all their interests through parliamentary representation to ensure peace among all community members,

Also reaffirming that parliaments must guarantee that the situation and particular needs of migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls are taken into account, as well as the protection of their rights, their security, economic and social integration and their empowerment,

Recognizing that climate change has direct and indirect implications for peace and security, mainly affecting those in the most fragile and vulnerable situations, exacerbating the threat of social and political unrest, increasing environmental pressures and disaster risks, and causing the migration of populations that can be the source of conflicts,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative consequences for sustainable peace, security and development of all aspects of the extraction and exploitation of mineral resources,

Noting with concern the plight of children in conflict situations, in particular the phenomenon of the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflicts, as well as other violations and abuses committed against children, and *stressing* the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts and for ensuring that the protection and rights of children in armed conflicts are integrated into all peace processes,

Recognizing that sustaining peace and achieving sustainable development requires regular, predictable and adequate financing and that innovative solutions must be pursued to increase the financial contributions made by non-traditional stakeholders, including the private sector,

Emphasizing the importance of the equal participation and inclusive involvement of all citizens of the nation, and of ethnic, religious and linguistic and other minorities, such as persons with different sexual orientations and persons with disabilities in national efforts towards sustaining peace, and *also emphasizing* the acknowledgement of the rights of all community groups and minorities, as principal partners in the attainment of peace,

Stressing the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment, as well as of facilitating the enhanced participation of

youth in decision-making processes, with a view of addressing social, political, cultural, and economic challenges, and *welcoming* in this regard the adoption of the United Nations Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth aimed at addressing youth unemployment,

Also stressing the need to accelerate the process of adoption of national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security while ensuring the full participation of parliaments in their drafting, oversight of their implementation and financing,

Highlighting the contribution of civil society in ensuring sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs, and *welcoming* mutually beneficial interaction with it in order to build linkages to enhance citizens' well-being,

Reaffirming the principle of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace which is understood as a broadly shared responsibility by the parliament, the government, the judiciary and all other national stakeholders,

Recognizing the contribution of regional actors, governmental and non-governmental, regional parliamentary assemblies, local bodies, and other regional forums, to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the substantively identical resolutions on sustaining peace by the United Nations General Assembly (70/262) and the United Nations Security Council (2282 [2016]);
2. *Calls on* all parliaments to contribute to the implementation of the concept of sustaining peace and the SDGs, and to identify specific measures of implementation in accordance with their national contexts;
3. *Stresses* the importance of national ownership and leadership in sustaining peace, and that the primary responsibility for identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs lies with national parliaments and governments;
4. *Underlines* that, in this regard, inclusiveness and diversity are crucial to ensuring that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and *acknowledges* inclusiveness itself as a means of conflict prevention;

5. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to bear in mind the notion of sustaining peace in the implementation of the SDGs as well as in their daily parliamentary work, and to include conflict prevention and the implementation of peacebuilding strategies in their parliamentary relations agenda, without prejudice to the principle of State sovereignty;
6. *Also calls on* all parliaments to use the preventive potential of the parliamentary process fully as a way of mitigating and resolving conflict, including through monitoring of human rights protection, inclusive dialogue processes, and mediation to peacefully address the needs of all segments of society;
7. *Encourages* parliaments to collaborate with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in their conflict prevention efforts and *recommends* that their national governments seek inclusion of their country's situation on the Commission's agenda where appropriate;
8. *Invites* parliaments to adopt enabling legislation, including key budget laws in order to advance both the SDGs and sustaining peace agendas, including measures that promote increased financial support from national stakeholders, notably the private sector;
9. *Also invites* parliaments to apply all generic parliamentary functions to hold governments accountable for the effective implementation of the sustaining peace framework and the SDGs, including the relevant law-making, oversight, budget, representative and elective functions and sustainable development agendas informed by the work of independent oversight bodies such as audit institutions, ombudsman institutions and national human rights institutions;
10. *Calls on* parliaments to partner with civil society more regularly in order to build trust among the general public, including the marginalized sections of society, to ensure inclusiveness and representation of a variety of needs and enable more effective access to decision-making processes, according to the national legislations;
11. *Recommends* parliamentarians to engage with governments, international organizations and civil society to promote gender equality, bearing in mind the impact of conflict on women and children, as well as the women, peace and security agenda of the United Nations, and to further

promote the participation of women in peace processes, particularly, in mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, as well as in education, health care and promotion of a culture of peace; moreover, *urges* parliaments to work towards concrete measures to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of children such as encouraging gender responsive budgets and the provision of adequate funding of human rights components in UN peacekeeping operations;

12. *Calls on* parliaments to adopt national plans of action for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and to oversee their implementation and adequate financing;
13. *Recommends* parliamentarians to work with governments, international organizations and civil society in order to guarantee the protection of children from conflict at all times, and to avoid the use of children in armed conflict;
14. *Insists* that national parliaments and the international community, in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, put in place legislative and financial provisions based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and *calls on* them to engage against climate change and its consequences, in particular on people who have to move and should be guaranteed a bedrock of international inalienable rights;
15. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure implementation of international commitments and treaties by the government, including the 2030 Agenda and human rights obligations, and *stresses* that a signed treaty is binding upon its signatories, who are obliged to implement it without any preconditions;
16. *Acknowledges* that particular attention must be paid to the prevention of violence in the context of elections, as pivotal moments of the political cycle, since politically stable situations provide an environment that is conducive to sustainable development and sustaining peace;
17. *Recognizes* the responsibilities of political parties and associations in this regard and the important role of free and fair elections and supporting

institutions such as an independent electoral commission, the judiciary and free media;

18. *Urges* parliaments of conflict-affected countries to exert more efforts in supporting national reconciliation and transitional justice, the establishment of the truth, and in dealing with the past; *acknowledges* the important role of parliaments and national human rights institutions in national reconciliation; *underlines* the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, and *calls on* parliaments to ratify the Rome Statute;
19. *Encourages* parliamentarians to legislate and collaborate with governments, international organizations and civil society, in accordance with international law, and international humanitarian law, to prevent the flow of arms in conflict-affected societies and regions;
20. *Declares* that an effective implementation of the SDGs not only contributes to preventing the outbreak of conflict but also supports the sustainability of peace and development by significantly reducing all forms of violence;
21. *Looks forward* to the High-level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace on 24 and 25 April 2018 convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly;
22. *Acknowledges* that cultural diversity has significant importance for achieving sustainable development and *invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to organize with the United Nations a world conference on the interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of the Heads of States, Parliaments and leaders of world religions;
23. *Encourages* ever-closer cooperation among parliaments and regional parliamentary organizations and local bodies within the Inter-Parliamentary Union with a view to contribute to sustaining peace and the implementation of the SDGs;
24. *Recommends* that governments of developed countries carry out their responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security in developing countries and promote the sustainable development process they originally initiated;

25. *Emphasizes* parliament's role in sponsoring active dialogues among various community members from different backgrounds to ensure sustaining peace and tolerance within communities.

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3. ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN IMPLEMENTING THE SDGs, ESPECIALLY ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 28 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Reaffirming its commitment to effectively implementing United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which laid the foundations for an inclusive sustainable development agenda with the involvement of all stakeholders, including the private sector, and set forth Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy, in which the necessity of renewable energy development is affirmed,

Stressing that the Hanoi Declaration of 1 April 2015, adopted by the 132nd IPU Assembly, recognized parliament's role in mobilizing finance from both private and public sources to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stated that the environment for private investments should be strengthened in ways that directly support sustainable development; and *reaffirming* the IPU resolution on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*, which was adopted by the 136th IPU Assembly and calls for enhancing women's entrepreneurship and access to financial resources,

Referring to United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/69/313 of 27 July 2015, entitled *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development*, and A/RES/71/233 of 21 December 2016, entitled *Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*, and to the outcomes of the United Nations Private Sector Forum 2017, the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on progress towards the implementation of Goal 17, the 2017 IPU Regional Seminar on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments in the Asia-Pacific Region, the 2017 IPU Regional Seminar on the Sustainable Development Goals for the Parliaments of Sub-Saharan Africa, which recognized that the SDGs will have a disproportionate effect on the younger generations, in Africa and around the world, which should be included in the planning and implementation of development policies, and the 26th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum,

Asserting that sustainable development is the common goal of society and that among the interconnected and indissociable 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 7 is a significant linchpin for the success of the others, especially those relating to poverty reduction, education, health and environmental protection in response to climate change,

Emphasizing that the development of renewable energy sources and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources have a significant contribution to make in ensuring energy security, minimize inequalities in energy access, both within and between countries, create jobs and improve people's livelihoods, including those of youths and women in society,

Recognizing the urgent need to ensure full and equal access of women to renewable energy as a means to enhance their economic empowerment, as well as women's potential, given their key role in producing and using energy in households and communities, particularly in developing countries,

Observing that renewable energy technologies have experienced remarkable cost reductions over the last decade, exhibiting lower unit costs than traditional thermal power plants in many regions, and that similar developments are envisaged for generation and storage technologies in the foreseeable future,

Recognizing that the contribution of the private sector to development goes beyond capital provision and employment creation and that the private sector can be a true development agent which drives technology development and innovation, makes smart investment in key areas, facilitates technology transfer and participates in the transition towards sustainable production, operation and consumption, and that the active involvement of the private sector and the strategic partnership between the private sector and the public sectors, civil society and local communities are critical, especially in the field of renewable energy,

Emphasizing the responsibility of private sector entities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the surrounding community in which they operate their businesses, including in terms of environmental preservation and human rights protection,

Stressing, however, that it continues to lie primarily within the State's responsibility to assure and steer the SDG implementation process, not least

because private investments tend to flow into middle-income countries and/or countries with a certain level of reliability in their respective investment structures which, in turn, results in a further disadvantage for the group of LDCs and thus for the countries that are the most dependent on support by the international community in implementing the 2030 Agenda,

Acknowledging that the organization and operation of the private sector are diverse, ranging from multinationals, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises, microenterprises, social enterprises and households to the informal sector, and that the modalities and scale and scope of public-private partnership vary from country to country and there should be institutional frameworks for these partnerships,

Affirming the need for countries to support small and medium enterprises through policies that support the creation of synergies between domestic companies and foreign actors,

Cognizant of the fact that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, and that although technology advancement has offered a reduction in renewable energy cost, developing countries are at a disadvantage when it comes to the technology and finance required for easier access to renewable energy,

Underscoring the indispensable role of parliaments in institution-building and sovereign oversight of the Government in effectively executing policies on engagement of the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially in terms of renewable energy,

Wishing to promote international and national legal institutions where there is alignment between the interests of the private sector and poverty eradication and sustainable development, especially renewable energy,

1. *Strongly urges* parliaments to raise public awareness about the need for the engagement of multi-stakeholders in SDG implementation, especially renewable energy, by increasing the number of educational and awareness-raising campaigns and activities reaching out to all members of society in order to equip them with enhanced knowledge on sustainable development, and also to incorporate sustainable development content into curricula at all education levels, especially undergraduate and graduate courses in investment, production,

business and commerce in order to change the business mindset towards SDG implementation;

2. *Calls on* parliaments to support gender-responsive legislation, policies and budgets aimed at ensuring equal access of youth, women and men to science and technology, education and training, capacity-building programmes for women, especially in rural areas, and equal opportunities to engage in all stages of the renewable energy value chain, including entrepreneurship opportunities, jobs and careers, as well as equal participation in local, national and international decision-making processes in the renewable energy sector;
3. *Also calls on* parliaments to support capacity-building programmes for poor and vulnerable sections of the population, and promote legislation and policies with a view to reducing energy poverty for vulnerable consumer groups;
4. *Urges* State agencies to recognize the important role of the private sector and simultaneously enlighten the private sector on its own important part and responsibility in SDG implementation, especially renewable energy, and to further promote entrepreneurship for sustainable development, boost corporate social responsibility and support social enterprise development so that the private sector is encouraged to integrate sustainable development concerns into its respective core business areas;
5. *Welcomes* the joining of hands by parliaments with governments to adopt national development strategies with mid-term and long-term sustainable development targets in which the engagement of the private sector as a stakeholder in SDG implementation is identified and SDGs are built into innovative and sustainable investment programmes;
6. *Appeals* to parliaments to build, and supervise governments in following, the road map to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy, increase the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix, mitigate environmental pollution, implement solutions for efficient-effective energy usage and the use of renewable energy, develop green technologies and new environment-friendly materials as well as to develop domestic industries and infrastructure supporting renewable energy production, distribution and use;

7. *Also appeals* to parliaments together with governments to reorient financial markets to advance sustainability and consider suitable risk-sharing partnerships, such as innovative blended public-private finance mechanisms for funding sustainable development that ensure transparency and accountability and the balancing out of returns on private capital with social impacts;
8. *Urges* parliaments to establish, and support the development of, a transparent and competitive electricity market that will ensure that the production of electricity from renewable energy sources is self-supporting;
9. *Suggests* that parliaments safeguard policy space for investment into off-grid renewable energy and encourage private investment into off-grid renewable energy technology, including small-scale electricity generators converting power from renewable energy sources and mini-grids, through support to building risk management tools for such investments and an enabling regulatory and institutional framework and by preparing reliable long-term rural electrification road maps that mitigate the risks of grid extension interfering with private mini-grid and off-grid markets;
10. *Exhorts* parliaments to allocate appropriate budgets for investment and stimulate private investment into research and development (R&D) and innovation, and prioritize investment into essential infrastructure for renewable energy development;
11. *Urges* technologically advanced States to lead research in the practical application of technical solutions for storing and utilizing hydrogen produced from renewable energy, thereby making this technology a powerful option for the effective utilization of renewable energy;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to support the establishment of transparent and reliable databases for potential private investment in sustainable development, especially pipelines of small projects, the setting up of broader investor networks in the field of sustainable development, performance indicators, reporting systems for joint monitoring and evaluation on investment impacts, and standards for sustainable products and technologies, as well as the organization of multi-stakeholder forums allowing for constructively sharing knowledge, technical know-how, success stories, causes of failure and lessons learned in sustainable investment, production, operation and consumption;

13. *Also calls on* parliaments to continue their efforts to build economic institutions which foster an enabling business climate for the private sector to engage in SDG implementation and ensure the participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in policymaking and assessment;
14. *Further calls on* parliaments to support regulations for comprehensive, detailed and real-time energy measurements to facilitate cost-reflective billing and transparent revenue models;
15. *Recommends* that each parliament issue suitable incentive policies for the private sector, particularly small investment in small projects, in accordance with the respective socioeconomic conditions of the country in its own development period and without distorting functioning markets;
16. *Invites* parliaments, governments, international and regional organizations to identify and deliberate on new generation international investment agreements that focus on the promotion of sustainable development policies, bearing in mind the implementation of existing climate funding mechanisms;
17. *Proposes* more exchanges and enhanced cooperation between countries in order to promote the transfer of high-end technologies with more incentives, build policies that widen access to environmentally sound technologies, strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development as set forth in SDG Goal 17;
18. *Encourages*, in particular, the participation of parliaments and their members in specialized organizations and forums on renewable energy, such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the establishment of networks of parliamentarians, including between parliaments, parliamentary organizations and parliamentarians, to facilitate exchanges on best practices and enable knowledge transfer, including on policy, technology and finance; and *invites* the IPU to cooperate with these bodies with a view to enhancing parliamentary support for the SDG Goal 7 renewable energy targets.

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4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DECLARATION ON JERUSALEM AND THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) CHARTER AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution adopted by consensus¹ by the 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 27 March 2018)

The 138th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, including resolutions 181 (II) (1947), 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 298 (1971), 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 478 (1980), 1322 (2000), 2334 (2016), United Nations General Assembly resolutions and other relevant international documents,

Taking note of the final communiqué and resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Istanbul on 13 December 2017 and the Istanbul Declaration on "Freedom for Al-Quds",

Rejecting any unilateral decisions dealing with any changes to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly and other international covenants dealing with the legal status of the city of Jerusalem, whether through governments of States or the Israeli occupation or otherwise,

Deploring and condemning the announcement by the US Administration of the transfer of its Embassy to occupied Jerusalem by mid-May, which coincides with the anniversary of the Nakba (15 May 1948),

Reaffirming its support for the right of the Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle to end the Israeli occupation and to regain their rights to return and establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital,

¹Delegations expressed their support for a two-State solution, but had concerns with some of the language and elements of the substance of the resolution. The following delegations expressed reservation on specific operative paragraph/s: **Finland, Italy and San Marino (para 2); France (paras 2 and 5); and Switzerland (paras 2, 4 and 5). France also expressed reservation to preambular paragraph 5.** Furthermore **Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Seychelles, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)** all expressed reservation on the resolution as a whole.

1. *Renews* its solidarity with and support to the Palestinian people in defending their just cause and their legitimate rights, including their historical and rooted rights in Jerusalem, guaranteed by the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy;
2. *Supports* all legal and peaceful steps taken by the Palestinian leadership at the national and international levels to consolidate the sovereignty of Palestine over the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
3. *Affirms* its absolute rejection in its entirety of the recent US Administration's decision regarding Jerusalem and *considers* it null and void under international law;
4. *Calls on* all parliaments to urge their governments to recognize the State of Palestine along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with UN resolutions;
5. *Reaffirms* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel to impose its law and measures on Jerusalem are illegal and have no legitimacy;
6. *Demands* that Israel cease all settlement-building activities and any other measures aimed at altering the status, character and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Jerusalem, all of which have a detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and on the prospects for a peaceful settlement;
7. *Expresses* grave concern at the restrictions imposed by Israel to impede access by worshippers to the holy sites in Jerusalem;
8. *Calls on* international organizations to take the necessary steps to preserve and maintain the historical heritage of Jerusalem;
9. *Emphasizes* the need to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to carry out aid programmes for the relief of the Palestinian refugees in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 302 (IV) of December 1949;
10. *Encourages* the relaunch of the peace process through a multilateral initiative in accordance with United Nations resolutions to achieve the existence of a two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders.

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L. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE KENYAN DELEGATION

The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 138th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, urges the two Houses of Parliament to-

1. Note this Report; and
2. Follow up on the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions of the 138th IPU Assembly and related meetings.

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