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**REPORT OF THE KENYA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
TO THE 150TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS
HELD IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN
5TH TO 9TH APRIL, 2025**

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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Hon. M. M. Mwangi
Delegate
A. Shibuka
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Clerks Chambers,
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NAIROBI.

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REPORT OF THE 150TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN 5TH TO 9TH APRIL, 2025

PREFACE

Honorable Speaker,

1. The 150th Assembly of the IPU and its related meetings was held at the Tashkent City Congress Centre in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from Saturday, 5th to Wednesday, 9th April 2025.
2. All IPU statutory bodies, including the Governing Council, Standing Committees, Committees on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and on Middle East Questions, as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs convened during this Assembly.
3. Noted that the 150th Assembly was an important milestone for the IPU, as well as being the first time an Assembly was being held in Central Asia. The IPU was also celebrating four decades of tireless advocacy and leadership by its Forum of Women Parliamentarians and called on those present to take further action to achieve equal representation in politics.

Honorable Speaker,

4. The General Debate focused on the overall theme of *“Parliamentary action for social development and justice.”* and would provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to discuss topical issues such as poverty reduction, decent work, social integration and increased participation of the population in the decision-making process.
5. The Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item taken up by the Standing Committee
6. The 31st President of the IPU Member Parliaments, Ms. Tulia Ackson, proposed three solutions to ensure social development for all: investing more in people, by ensuring that the public sector took care of them and equipped them with the tools to thrive; making the economy work

11. The Governing Council of the Committee on Health elected *Sen. Catherine Muyeka Mumma, MP* for a four-year term ending in March 2029.

Honorable Speaker,

12. Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President, said that Participants had presented inspiring examples of how parliaments were rising to the challenges of the time, and had also engaged in parliamentary diplomacy to develop meaningful cooperation and take necessary action forward. However, the Assembly had fallen short of adopting an emergency item resolution, but she urged participants to view that setback as an opportunity to strengthen coordination and deepen dialogue.

Honorable Speaker,

13. In the Tashkent Declaration, the Assembly had reaffirmed a shared commitment to placing human dignity and well-being at the heart of policymaking, underscored the fact that economies must serve humanity, and stressed that democracy and development were deeply intertwined.

14. Parliamentarians present were urged to continue their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, to invest in people's health, education and happiness, to protect the planet, to democratize the economy and to make sure that the institutions overseeing such efforts were fit for purpose.

Honorable Speaker,

15. The Kenyan delegation to the 150th IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following-

- i. The Rt. Hon. Amason Jeffah Kingi, EGH, MP- Speaker of the Senate and Leader of the Delegation
- ii. Sen. Catherine Mumma, MP, (Member of the Bureau of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians)
- iii. Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP (Member of the IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians)
- iv. Hon. John Kiarie, MP (President of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law)

A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE IPU

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It exists to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue and concrete action. The IPU currently has a membership of 180 national parliaments and 12 associate members. The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development around the world. The IPU works closely with the United Nations and other partner organizations with similar ideals. To this end, the IPU aims at –
 - i) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
 - ii) Considering questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
 - iii) Contributing to the defense and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; and
 - iv) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
2. The IPU's main areas of activity are representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.
3. The IPU Assembly is the principal 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.

Assembly. The General Debate focused on the overall theme of ***“Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)”*** and provided a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanize Parliamentary action in this area.

C. AGENDA OF THE 150TH IPU ASSEMBLY

8. The following outlines the Agenda of the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
 - i. Election of the President of the 150th Assembly
 - ii. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 - iii. General Debate on the theme Parliamentary action for social development and justice
 - iv. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
 - v. The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
 - vi. Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
 - vii. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - viii. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 152nd Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
 - ix. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Member delegations), including 47 Presiding Officers, and 43 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliaments' delegations included 254 women MPs (37.2%) and 98 young MPs (14.4%). There were also several special guests, including the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, who also attended the Assembly and gave addresses at high-level segments.

12. ***Observers included representatives of:***

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health

(iii) international non-governmental organizations: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)

(iv) international political party federations: Socialist International (SI)

social development for all: investing more in people, by ensuring that the public sector took care of them and equipped them with the tools to thrive; making the economy work for all, through a fairer distribution of economic gains and involving everyone in economic decision-making; and strengthening all institutions that underpinned the social contract.

16. Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, said that, in his two years in the role, the world had undergone significant dislocations and now seemed on the brink of a new era. The globalizing project of the past 50 years and its promises of free trade and international cooperation were being rejected by some of the world's most powerful countries. Liberal internationalism had failed in part because it was more concerned with serving the interests of capital than those of ordinary people. International institutions like the IPU offered a potential solution and they worked best when they focused relentlessly on the interests of the people they served.
17. Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that social development without gender equality was an illusion, and justice without gender parity was an unfulfilled promise. Gender equality was a precondition for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. It was not possible to eradicate poverty while half of the world's population remained economically marginalized. Decent work for all was not possible if women's labour continued to be undervalued, and full social inclusion required the dismantling of the gender barriers holding women back. True equality would only come when women shared power equally in politics. The unpaid care work carried out by women needed to be recognized, reduced and redistributed, and equal pay for equal work needed to become a reality. The policies she had outlined were not just for women but for stronger, more resilient societies for all. Gender equality was the IPU's priority theme for 2025 and the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in her country, Mexico, in March 2025 had set the tone for a year of action in which equality would not just be debated, but delivered.
18. In a video message, Mr. G. Hounbo, Director-General of the International Labour Organization, congratulated the IPU on its 150th Assembly, which was being held in a country that stood as an example

20. On 7 April 2025, to mark the 31st anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, the Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of all victims of genocide. The Assembly was reminded of the solemn duty of the global parliamentary community to promote peace and continue fighting on behalf of the victims of such atrocities.
21. On 8 April 2025, the Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, who had passed away the previous day while attending the Assembly as part of his Parliament's delegation. Mr. Ngulube had made significant contributions to the work of the IPU over many years, notably having played a key role in the organization of the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka in 2016.

F. CHOICE OF AN EMERGENCY ITEM

22. By 7 April 2025, the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been submitted:
 - i) Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism (Chile and Peru)*
 - ii) Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar (Philippines and Thailand)*
 - iii) The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming (Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt, with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group)*
 - iv) Ending the double standard: Calling on the international community to accept refugees from Gaza instead of exploiting them to attack Israel (Israel)*
23. The President informed the Assembly that, in accordance with Rule 12 of the Assembly, the Steering Committee had met twice, on 6 and 7 April, to provide an opinion on the admissibility of the proposals as per Rule 11.2 of the Assembly, which states that a request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern. The Steering Committee had agreed on 6 April that only proposal 1 met the criteria stipulated in Rule 11.2, and suggested that proposals 2 and 3 be revised. At the time, proposal 4 had been incomplete.

30. The Secretary General confirmed that there was no formal proposal currently on the table to amend the Statutes and Rules to allow for the inclusion of a second emergency item. The President then confirmed that the 150th Assembly would have only one emergency item, and invited the sponsors to present their proposals.
31. The Assembly heard presentations of proposals 1 and 2, with no delegates speaking against them. A delegate from Israel spoke against proposal 3, stating that it had been written with one purpose, to vilify Israel. He then presented and withdrew proposal 4.
32. The President said that, since Israel had withdrawn its proposal, it was not possible for other delegates to speak against it. A delegate from Palestine then requested a point of order, stating that proposal 4 called for the displacement of the Palestinian people, which would be a violation of international law.
33. The Assembly then proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining proposals. The President announced that none of the three proposals still on the table had obtained the requisite two-thirds majority. The President informed the Assembly that this result meant that none of them could be included on the agenda of the 150th Assembly in accordance with Rule 11.2a of the Assembly.

Special accountability segment of the General Debate

34. As at previous Assemblies, the General Debate included a special accountability segment chaired by the IPU President, in which delegations were invited to report on national efforts to implement IPU outcomes. The President opened the segment by reaffirming the duty of IPU delegations to present IPU resolutions to their parliaments, promote their implementation, and report results obtained back to the IPU Secretariat. She stressed that translating global commitments made at the IPU into national policies was both a shared responsibility of Member Parliaments and critical to the IPU's mission.
35. Ms. A. Filip, Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, outlined the IPU's annual reporting mechanism, which included a survey circulated to a selection of parliaments from each geopolitical group. The results informed a report prepared by the IPU Secretary General for dissemination and presentation at the second Assembly of the year. She also outlined the IPU's collaboration

Technology, which focused on integrating artificial intelligence into parliamentary functions with a view to improving multilingual access and transparency.

43. Ms. D. Adehm (*Luxembourg*) reflected on the November 2023 visit to her country by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and reported on follow-up measures, including advocacy for MPs imprisoned in other countries.
44. Mr. A. Burapachaisri (*Thailand*) presented his country's green energy transition goals, which included achieving 50% renewable energy by 2024, scaling up green hydrogen and battery storage, and committing to 30% electric vehicle production by 2030.
45. Ms. A. Erdoğan (*Türkiye*) presented her country's climate targets, set following the ratification of the Paris Agreement, including a net-zero emissions goal by 2053 and an interim emission reduction target of 41% by 2030.
46. Mr. F. Undurraga (*Chile*) reported on his country's 2024 data protection law, which included updated provisions on processing purpose, security and confidentiality, and established a national data protection authority.
47. Mr. Phu Binh Pham (*Vietnam*) explained how the parliamentary authorities in Viet Nam consistently transmitted IPU Assembly outcomes and resolutions to relevant national institutions, and highlighted the country's active engagement in parliamentary diplomacy at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

Special segment on gender equality

48. The 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was an occasion to recall the history of the women's movement at the IPU and to take stock of achievements so far. The General Debate included a special segment on gender equality, the IPU's priority theme for 2025.
49. The IPU report *Women in parliament: 1995–2025* was presented during the segment, as was *Women in Politics: 2025*, a map published jointly by the IPU and UN Women. These publications showed that

mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development. The Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus, with reservations expressed by India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Russian Federation.

55. The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented by its President, Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, presented by member of the Bureau, Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad).
56. The Assembly approved the subject items for the resolutions to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, for adoption at the 152nd Assembly, together with the co-Rapporteurs that would be working on the draft resolutions.
57. The Assembly unanimously adopted amendments to the IPU Statutes and the Rules of the Assembly, with the effect of mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout all of the IPU's work, clarifying the emergency item procedure, encouraging enhanced diversity among delegations to IPU Assemblies, ensuring a youth perspective in IPU resolutions, and harmonizing deadlines for circulation of amendments to the Statutes and Rules and for the preparation of summary records by the Secretariat.
58. At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: Ms. A.T. Didiza (South Africa), President of the African Group, Mr. M. Hadid (Palestine) on behalf of the Arab Group, Mr. Tian Xuejun (China), *Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group*, Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru) on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), *Chair of the Twelve Plus Group*. They thanked the Parliament, Government and all the people of Uzbekistan for their warm hospitality, as well as the IPU President, Secretary General and Secretariat for organizing another successful Assembly.
59. They paid tribute to Mr. Roy Ngulube, *Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia* and member of his Parliament's delegation, who had unfortunately passed away during the Assembly.
60. In her concluding remarks, Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President, said that the landmark 150th Assembly had lived up to expectations and that the

had discussed many of the common challenges of humanity and reaffirmed their commitment to global responsibility, peace and an openness to dialogue. She thanked all the delegations and experts who had participated; the IPU President, the Secretary General and the whole Secretariat, in particular those who had worked so hard over many weeks to liaise with staff on the ground; the interpreters, who played such a vital role in opening the channels of communication; and all the volunteers who had devoted such attention to welcoming participants to Tashkent. She believed that the 150th Assembly would be remembered as a bright chapter in the IPU's history and looked forward to meeting participants again at future IPU events. Ms. T. Narbaeva declared the 150th IPU Assembly closed and the national anthem of Uzbekistan and the IPU Anthem were played.

G. 215th SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The following agenda items were considered during the meetings of the 215th session of the Governing Council: -

i. Election of the President of the 150th Assembly

66. On the proposal of Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), seconded by Mr. N. Kurtulmus (Türkiye), the Governing Council elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, as the President of the 150th IPU Assembly.

ii. Report of the IPU President

67. The Governing Council took note of a report by the IPU President on her activities since the last Assembly in October 2024. These activities consisted of attendance at and online contributions to high level thematic meetings and were focused on: strengthening and giving visibility to the work of the IPU; consolidating cooperation with IPU Member Parliaments; providing parliamentary perspectives to global efforts to resolve specific challenges, namely advancing gender equality and reinvigorating actions to address climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts; and inspiring a new dynamic in democracy to adapt it to new sociopolitical requirements. The Governing Council thanked the President for her continued commitment to the noble cause of the Organization.

72. The Executive Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU on 31 January 2025. The Organization's budget performance was on track for the start of the year so far and the IPU was in good financial health. Ms. O'Neill welcomed the strong results in mobilizing voluntary funds, which showed that the IPU continued to be seen as a valued partner.
73. The Internal Auditors' report was presented by Ms. P. Glover-Rolle (Bahamas) and Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium). They conveyed their opinion that the financial statements presented by the IPU accurately reflected its financial position as of 31 December 2024 and its financial performance throughout 2024, and complied fully with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
74. The External Auditor had expressed a positive opinion on the Financial Statements with no reservations, confirming that all previous audit recommendations had now been implemented. The net assets of the IPU had decreased due to an operating deficit of CHF 0.4 million, consisting primarily of the write-off of arrears of three Member Parliaments whose membership rights had been suspended, and the increase of the provision for future potential credit losses from assessed contributions.
75. Two recommendations had been made by the External Auditors, who had proposed a comprehensive review of the IPU's Financial Regulations and Accounting Manual to ensure consistency, alignment and harmonization, and had recommended optimizing the financial reporting features of the IPU's accounting software to enhance efficiency and support digital transformation.
76. The Secretary General had accepted these recommendations and indicated that the Secretariat would reflect on the best ways to implement them. Ms. Glover-Rolle and Mr. Gryffroy concluded that the financial management of the IPU had a strong foundation based on internal controls and its financial position was healthy. They recommended that the Governing Council approve the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2024. The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2024.

v. Questions relating to membership, observer status and recommendations

82. To this end, the Council endorsed the Executive Committee's request to mandate the Secretary General to engage with the Caribbean Community through a visit to the region in the coming months, and to report back to the Executive Committee at its session in October 2025.
83. By the same token, the Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to delegates to engage their parliaments further with the activities of the IPU by sharing the report and outcomes of IPU meetings with all their members.
84. The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend the associate membership rights of the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in application of Articles 5.3 of the Statutes and Rules.
85. The Governing Council heard the Secretary General's report on the situation of certain parliaments, grouped into three categories, and approved the recommendations made by the Executive Committee. Concerning non-functioning parliaments, the Governing Council considered the case of both Afghanistan and Myanmar together due to the similarity of their situations.
86. The Council took note with regret that no significant progress had been made since its 2022 decision to recognize the pre-Taliban Parliament in Afghanistan and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) in Myanmar as the IPU's legitimate interlocutors and to allow them to participate in IPU activities in a non-voting and non-elective capacity. Maintaining that previous decision, the Council also took note that an amendment to the Statutes would be proposed at the 151st Assembly that would have the effect of stopping the assessed contributions of these parliaments and writing off their outstanding arrears.
87. In Bangladesh, elections had not taken place in 2024 as foreseen under the country's Constitution. According to recent updates, the elections would take place in December 2025 or June 2026 pending the reforms under way. In the meantime, the administration of the Parliament, namely its Secretariat, was functioning under the authority of a senior member of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

National Advisory Council of the Refoundation, but without any specific reference to its modalities. Due to slow progress in setting up a legislative body to support transitional efforts, as was the case in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali, the Governing Council decided to suspend the affiliation of Niger in application of Article 4.2 of the Statutes. The Council confirmed that the IPU's doors remained open in the event that Niger established a parliament and expressed its wish to rejoin.

93. As there had been no signs of a parliament being re-established in Sudan, the Governing Council maintained its previous decision to keep the country's affiliation to the IPU suspended until such a time as a legislative institution was established.
94. In the Syrian Arab Republic, following the collapse of the former regime in December 2024, the Parliament had continued to function for some time and had finally been dissolved in view of establishing a new Parliament at the end of a transitional period that had now been defined.
95. Taking note of the update provided, the Governing Council welcomed the objectives set by the new authorities to create a transitional parliament and mandated the Secretary General to help identify possible areas of engagement and to provide technical support as and when requested by the authorities. The Council also requested to receive an update on the situation during its next session in October 2025.
96. The second category of the situation of certain parliaments concerned transitional parliaments. The Governing Council welcomed and expressed its thanks to the Secretary General for implementing the mandate entrusted to him to support the transitional efforts in those countries, all of which were in Africa. The Governing Council took note of the updated information provided in the cases of Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali.
97. In the last two of those countries, security challenges remained as they were experiencing regular terrorist attacks. The Council expressed its hope to see the transition process enduring and urged the authorities of the countries to speed up progress towards the restoration of constitutional normality.

the Council believed that the outcome of those elections would be helpful in deliberations on the next step in resolving the status of the Parliament at the IPU. The Governing Council therefore decided to defer any decision on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela until its next session in October 2025.

104. Conflict was still ongoing in Yemen. The Parliament recognized by the IPU and aligned with the internationally recognized government was now functioning in exile. The Governing Council took note of that development and reiterated its call for an end to the conflict to allow parliamentary elections to take place as soon as possible.

vi. IPU priority theme for 2025

105. 2025 is a year of milestones for gender equality, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the 10th year of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the 40th anniversary of the IPU's Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

106. In 2025, the IPU is undertaking a series of initiatives related to gender equality and women's rights, including the production of tools and awareness-raising material (*the Women in Politics: 2025 map, the Women in parliament: 1995-2025 report and the report on Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region were all published in early 2025*), the organization of global events on women's political participation and women's rights (*including the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico in March 2025*) as well as the launch of a major campaign: *Achieving gender equality, action by action*.

107. The campaign aims to mobilize the global parliamentary community to accelerate progress in achieving gender equality in politics and society and emphasizes the urgency of immediate action. The campaign promotes 10 key actions that both men and women MPs are called on to take and that are structured around three key thematic areas:

i) Promoting parity in parliament and politics

ii) Encouraging gender-sensitive institutions

iii) Combating gender-based violence and discrimination

108. The 10 actions are the most strategic and transformative actions that can be taken to advance gender equality. They build on commitments

election of the Vice-President of the IPU by the Executive Committee, ensuring gender balance on the Sub-Committee on Finance, and ensuring a youth perspective in IPU resolutions.

x. Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

112. The Governing Council heard a report from the Secretary General on preparations for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which would be taking place in Geneva from 29 to 31 July 2025, preceded by the *15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament on 28 July*. Since the last Assembly, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference had met twice, in Geneva on 18 October 2024 and in New York on 12 February 2025. At those meetings, the Committee had agreed on the structure, programme, main themes and expected outcomes of the Conference and approved its Rules. It had also approved a first draft of the High-Level Declaration for the Conference, on the theme *A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*. The draft Declaration had been distributed to IPU Member Parliaments on 6 March 2025, with an invitation to provide any amendments or feedback by 4 May 2025.

xi. Reports of committees and other bodies

113. The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, 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 High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus and the Working Group on Science and Technology. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies.

H. 295th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The highlights of the meetings were as follows-

119. The Executive Committee approved a proposal for a revised version of the administrative arrangements for the Office of the IPU President. The Executive Committee took note that the administrative arrangements would continue to be reviewed periodically. The Executive Committee reviewed and took note of the preliminary draft United Nations General Assembly resolution on Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
120. The Executive Committee received an update on the arrangements for *the award of the 2025 CremerPassy Prize*. It encouraged Member Parliaments to submit, through the geopolitical groups, their nominations of parliamentarians with an unrivalled track record on *gender equality*, the priority theme for 2025, by the deadline of 30 June 2025.

ii. Sub-Committee on Finance

121. Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) addressed the Executive Committee on behalf of Mr. M. Dick (Australia), the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance. The Sub-Committee had examined the consolidated financial statements for 2024 and the External Auditor's report. The audit of the IPU's accounts for 2024 had been carried out once again by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. Two new audit recommendations had been issued and all previous recommendations had been implemented in full.
122. The Sub-Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 January 2025 and stressed that the follow-up of arrears of Member Parliaments' contributions remained an area that needed the attention and support of all Member Parliaments.
123. The Executive Committee received and reviewed the Secretary General's usual update on the mobilization of voluntary funding. New funding had recently been confirmed from the *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United Arab Emirates and the European Commission*, among other donors. The situation of voluntary funding was promising thanks to successful fundraising efforts by the Secretary General and his team.
124. During the Executive Committee's sitting on 12 December 2024, the Working Group on Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules had

I. MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council)

i. Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

128. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 6 to 8 April 2025, with its President, Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), in the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution. The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum had been prepared by a team of six co-Rapporteurs: Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria), Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), Mr. J. Buttimer (Ireland), Ms. T. Ts'ita-Mosena (Lesotho), Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) and Mr. T. Utikere (New Zealand).
129. During the drafting process, the Committee considered 156 amendments tabled by 26 Member Parliaments. *The Forum of Women Parliamentarians* had decided to support three of these amendments. The Bureau of the Committee gathered on the morning of 8 April 2025. Its main decision was to agree on its next subject item and its work plan for the next two Assemblies.
130. At its last sitting, on the afternoon of 8 April 2025, the Committee considered the revised draft resolution to be unbalanced and therefore unable to be adopted in its present form by the Assembly. The geopolitical groups, after consultation, decided to propose that all amendments be dropped and that the initial draft resolution be adopted by the Committee. The proposal and the initial draft resolution were both adopted by acclamation. The Committee also adopted the subject item and the work plan proposed by the Bureau.
131. On 9 April 2025, the President of the Committee presented the draft resolution at the plenary sitting of the Assembly, and it was adopted by consensus. The *delegation of Austria* expressed reservations on the use of the terms “*use of starvation as a method of warfare*” in preambular paragraph 8, and “*political prisoners*” in preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraph 1. *The delegations of Germany, Hungary and Switzerland* expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution. The *delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran* expressed its opposition to the entire text of the resolution. The *delegation of*

135. At its final sitting and at the proposal of its Bureau, the Committee submitted a proposal to the Assembly for its next subject item and nominated three co-Rapporteurs. The Committee also approved a work plan for the next Assembly. It includes a debate on the topic of the next resolution, a panel debate on *the impact of global warming: A parliamentary call to protect the most vulnerable*, and a segment to prepare for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30). The Committee endorsed the Bureau candidacies as proposed by the geopolitical groups. The African Group subsequently revised its nomination, replacing the candidacy from Cameroon with one from Eswatini.

iii. Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

136. At its first sitting, held on 7 April 2025 with President Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) in the chair, the Committee debated its next resolution, *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, which will be considered at the 151st Assembly. A total of 28 delegations contributed to the debate. Following this debate, Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) opened a discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

137. At its second sitting, held on 8 April 2025 with Ms. O'Neill in the chair, the Committee held a debate on follow-up to the 2024 IPU resolution *the impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada) moderated the final section of this debate. Six candidates were elected to fill vacancies on the Bureau of the Committee and five Bureau members completing their first term were re-elected for a second term.

iv. Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

138. The Committee held two sessions, on 7 and 8 April 2025. The first session focused on the UN field presence in Uzbekistan. It featured contributions from Ms. S. Machl (*UN Resident Coordinator, Uzbekistan*) and Mr. P. Linnér (*Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation*). Ms. Machl described the work of the UN Country Team, which comprised 25 entities working to implement a Cooperation Framework designed in close coordination with the Government, as well as with the input of the Senate of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations. Also

The Forum elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, as President of its 39th session. In their opening remarks, Dr. T. Ackson (IPU President), Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General) and Ms. López Castro focused on celebrating the *40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians*. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, entitled *the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*.

145. The Forum formulated two amendments to the second of these draft resolutions. The Forum also expressed support for gender equality-related amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed and supported amendments were incorporated into the text of the draft resolutions, strengthening the gender perspective of the texts. The Forum also organized a panel discussion on *Women shaping politics: Global networks*, during which participants recommended strengthening cooperation between women's leadership networks.
146. The Bureau met on 5, 8 and 9 April 2025. The meeting of 5 April was dedicated to preparing the work of the Forum, and the meeting of 8 April focused on the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Bureau. Following that meeting, the Forum re-elected Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) to the post of President, and elected Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) to the post of First Vice-President, and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.
147. At its meeting on 9 April, the Bureau took stock of the results of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective and considered its future work, including mobilizing parliaments to lead action on *gender equality*, the IPU's priority theme for 2025. The Bureau was consulted on the social media self-defence training for women in politics developed by the eSafety Commissioner of Australia.

on the advancements made in connecting with young people and promoting gender equality.

L. OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

i. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

152. The Committee held its 177th session from 4 to 8 April 2025. During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 288 parliamentarians (31% of whom are women) in 17 countries. New cases concerning 48 parliamentarians were declared admissible, namely 9 MPs in Myanmar and 39 MPs in Türkiye. The Committee also held eight hearings with national delegations and complainants. The Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 266 parliamentarians in the following countries: Brazil, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Myanmar, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Uganda.

ii. Committee on Middle East Questions

108. Since the last Assembly, held in October 2024, the Committee on Middle East Questions met once informally (on 12 March 2025) and once formally, in two sittings (on 6 and 8 April 2025). The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security concerning the proposed restructuring of the Committee on Middle East Questions, and to review a draft structural proposal for the composition and modalities of the Committee.
109. At its formal sittings in April, the Committee held a discussion on its structure, mandate and future direction, reflecting on the increasing complexity of regional crises and the need to ensure that the Committee remained responsive and representative. Members took note of the Secretariat's briefing on recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, which had further underscored the need for the Committee to broaden its scope beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to a just and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-State solution and in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

iii. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

114. The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 5 April 2025. The meeting was attended by all three Facilitators, Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Mr. H. Arshakyan (Armenia) and Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal), three members of the Cyprus delegation to the IPU representing the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, and three representatives of the Turkish Cypriot political parties. The parties expressed the hope that the informal meetings between the UN Secretary-General, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, and the three guarantor powers, held on 17 and 18 March 2025, would lead to concrete confidence-building measures and the resumption of talks to reach a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem, under the auspices of the United Nations. The parties also decided, over the coming sessions of the Group, to agree on one or more proposals for action the parties could take to support the confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing trust between the communities, which could be proposed to their respective institutions.

iv. Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

115. At its 13th meeting, held in October 2024, the Task Force initiated discussions with both delegations on five individual cases involving children relocated from Ukraine to the Russian Federation. Following the meeting, the IPU Secretariat engaged in discreet consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross to gain deeper insight into the legal and humanitarian dimensions of the issue and to explore potential pathways for addressing the cases in question.
116. At its 14th meeting, held on 7 April 2025, the Task Force continued discussions with both delegations on the above-mentioned cases. Members were encouraged by the fact that parliamentarians from both countries emphasized that any children who had been separated from their parents, siblings, legal guardians or close relatives should

Led by Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, the initiative aims to make IHL a political priority at global, regional and domestic levels, with all parliaments invited to consider taking steps and adopting measures to make IHL a political priority in their respective countries.

121. The Committee also considered the findings of the ICRC report on International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts, focusing on the issue of the urbanization of armed conflict, and in particular on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The Committee discussed how parliaments could engage their governments in adhering to the *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* and in ensuring its implementation.
122. Finally, on the subject of progress in addressing statelessness, the Committee welcomed the recently adopted constitutional amendment granting Malaysian women the equal right to confer automatic citizenship on their children born overseas. Although the amendment has been voted on and passed by parliament, it has yet to be published in the official gazette and, as such, has not yet entered into force.

vi. Gender Partnership Group

123. The Gender Partnership Group held its 51st session on 4 and 8 April 2025. As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined the composition of delegations at the 150th Assembly. As of 10 April 2025, 37.2% of the delegates at the Assembly were women, which was an improvement on the previous five Assemblies but still below the record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021.
124. At this Assembly, 47 delegations out of 127 (37%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This was a slightly lower percentage than at the previous Assembly. Of the 127 delegations present, 123 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 10 were all-male (8.1%). In addition, four delegations of two or more delegates were composed entirely of

women were only elected to 8.1% of seats. The delegation indicated that the electoral and political parties' laws would be amended ahead of the 2026 elections to the lower chamber in order to enforce the 50/50 gender quota and ensure women also occupied leadership roles within the parties.

131. In addition, awareness-raising measures for the public, political parties and political leaders were being envisaged, as was training for women MPs. In view of this situation, there was a need to raise awareness about women's contribution to governance at all levels – through school curricula, grassroots dialogues, and awareness-raising for the media and political parties. Ensuring women had the necessary financial support to run for political-party primaries was also identified as an important step towards leveling the playing field. The IPU remains available to support parliament's efforts to shift public perceptions on women in politics and build will among political parties to allocate seats for women candidates.

iii. Advisory Group on Health

132. The Advisory Group on Health met on 7 April 2025 for its 32nd and last meeting before its transformation into an IPU Committee. The rules of the Committee on Health, approved at the 149th Assembly, establish a committee of 15 members with a mandate to promote parliamentary engagement on health at the global, regional and national level, focusing on inequalities and discrimination in access to health. The Group adopted a revised accountability framework for the 2019 IPU resolution *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. This framework focuses on legal provisions for universal health coverage (UHC), barriers to access to health, and the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
133. The Group highlighted the importance of monitoring parliamentary efforts on UHC. The Group heard reports from the World Health Organization and the *Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health* on the negative consequences of cuts to global health aid. Areas particularly affected include immunization, health emergencies, the collection of health data at the national level, and the promotion of women's empowerment and diversity.

139. Group members heard that such a definition should include two essential elements: first, the commission of criminal acts that intentionally caused death or serious bodily harm (*actus reus*); and second, a specific intent beyond the act itself, such as intimidating a population, or coercing a government or international organization to take, or refrain from taking, a particular action. The need to avoid misclassifying other forms of violence as terrorism was also emphasized.
140. A key topic discussed was the implementation of the ad hoc committee for *the Call of the Sahel*. The committee will address five key priority areas: development, education, security, environment and communities. Facilitators have been identified for all areas other than “communities”. Work will be supported by the IPU Secretariat in collaboration with UN agencies, other international organizations, academia and non-governmental organizations. The meeting also featured an initial exchange on the growing impact of AI in the context of terrorism and transnational organized crime. Three experts contributed to the discussion: Mr. S. Stroobants (*Institute for Economics and Peace*), Ms. W. O’Brien (*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*) and Mr. N. Tankoano (*Parliament of Burkina Faso*).
141. The experts explored how terrorist and criminal networks were increasingly leveraging AI tools and digital platforms for planning, recruitment, propaganda and financing, particularly through cryptocurrencies. Concerns were raised about the role of AI in enabling lone actors to operate with minimal digital footprints, making them significantly harder to detect and monitor. Participants emphasized the urgent need to update legal and policy frameworks to keep pace with these evolving threats.
142. In response, the Group announced that a dedicated expert meeting would be held later in 2025 with a view to further exploring *the role of AI in terrorism and organized crime*. The event will bring together parliamentarians, policy experts, technologists and international stakeholders to identify practical legislative responses and strengthen global cooperation. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies, while ensuring that all efforts remained anchored in the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

- held at the *International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE)* in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, on 10–12 September 2025.
148. Working Group members discussed the findings of a survey on parliamentarians' use of scientific research and identified significant barriers to the effective use of scientific evidence, including time constraints and a lack of staff and resources to translate complex evidence into actionable knowledge. Members also discussed concrete strategies and steps to overcome some of these challenges.

M. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

i. Joint meeting of the Chairs of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU

149. On 5 April 2025, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairs of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU. The IPU President welcomed participants to the first edition of this meeting, which was held in an expanded format and included the Presidents of all subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council. She emphasized that this development was in line with the ongoing modernization of the IPU's Statutes and Rules.
150. In accordance with Rule 9 of the Assembly, she underscored the importance of strengthening coordination across IPU bodies, particularly given the complexity and breadth of IPU Assemblies. By bringing together the various work streams of the Organization, synergies could be further identified, thus raising the quality of outcomes. Ms. A. Filip, *IPU Director of the Division of Member Parliaments and External Relations*, presented the highlights of the 150th IPU Assembly. These included:
- a) *The General Debate's focus on Parliamentary action for social development and justice*
 - b) *A special address by Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan*
 - c) *A special segment marking the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, alongside the launch of a new IPU gender equality campaign*

implementation mechanisms by enhancing information-sharing and reporting on legislative progress.

156. Mr. B. Boughali (Algeria), President of the Arab Group, conveyed that the success of the IPU depended on the effective implementation of its resolutions by all Member Parliaments. He also reiterated the Arab Group's call for Arabic translation of all IPU documents.
157. Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), highlighted the importance of ensuring that the IPU 2027–2032 Strategy included a more localized focus. He also called on all geopolitical groups and the IPU leadership to engage more directly with parliaments that had become disengaged from the Organization. He affirmed that GRULAC remained open to increased contact and collaboration between the geopolitical groups, the IPU Secretariat and other IPU bodies.
158. Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group, welcomed the idea of increased collaboration between geopolitical groups, particularly through the exchange of agendas and coordinated approaches to the emergency item. He conveyed that the Twelve Plus Group stood ready to share best organizational practices with other groups. Regarding the IPU 2027–2032 Strategy, Mr. Wehrli pointed out the need to allow sufficient time for meaningful exchanges with the geopolitical groups. He underlined the importance of receiving a clear calendar for consultations.
159. Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus), President of the Eurasia Group, expressed support for the expanded format of the meeting and welcomed the inclusion of additional IPU bodies. At the same time, he encouraged the preservation of past good practices, particularly the sharing of updates by the Chairs of the geopolitical groups. He also recalled that 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the victory over fascism and noted that the Eurasia Group had issued a statement on this occasion.
160. Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, argued that the grouping of Member Parliaments from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) should also have been taking part in the discussions and advocated for their better integration within geopolitical group deliberations.

- people and speak about harmful norms and practices. She further stressed that FGM was a societal issue with no cultural justification.
168. Ms. S. Mbaya (Menopause Solutions) spoke of the stigma surrounding menopause, which she said was institutionalized in policies and resource allocations. She called for representation and legislation on this subject, highlighting the need for budget allocations for menopause research and services.
169. Ms. E. Muthoni Ndiga (Center for Reproductive Rights) emphasized the work of civil society in promoting legislation to advance reproductive rights. She stressed the intersection between racism and gender inequality, calling for comprehensive sexuality education and survivor-centred health services.
170. Delegates from *Bahrain, France, India, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands and the United Republic of Tanzania* took the floor. Despite the challenges parliamentarians face in addressing social norms and beliefs related to women's health, examples were shared of progress on *abortion rights, child marriage and gender equality*. Other issues raised included the need to engage men, and male bias in scientific research.
171. In her closing remarks, Ms. E. Scolaro (WHO) highlighted the importance of parliamentary engagement in addressing global health issues. She spoke of the need for sustainable financing for global health, and of the importance of parliamentarians' involvement in decision-making processes.

iii. Workshop on Enhancing parliamentary communication and advocacy for climate action

172. This workshop, held on 7 April 2025 and co-organized by the IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aimed to *strengthen parliamentary climate communication and promote effective climate advocacy*.
173. The event provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to break down communication challenges and identify opportunities to drive collective climate action. It was attended by over 40 participants from 19 countries.
174. The opening remarks were delivered by Mr. X. Gapporov (*Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan*). Mr. Gapporov highlighted recent

iv. Workshop on Tackling weapons of mass destruction: A humanitarian perspective

179. This workshop, held on 7 April 2025 and moderated by Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), examined the complex threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and the critical role of parliamentarians in preventing their use. Speakers from the *International Committee of the Red Cross, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the World Academy of Art and Science, and INTERPOL* called for stronger humanitarian and legal frameworks, practical cooperation and proactive parliamentary engagement.
180. The discussions addressed the growing complexity of WMD threats, from nuclear and chemical weapons to the misuse of everyday materials. Speakers emphasized the fact that parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to translate international commitments into national action, notably through the ratification of treaties, the domestication of international agreements, the allocation of budgets for emergency preparedness, oversight of government actions, and public awareness campaigns.
181. The workshop stressed the importance of a humanitarian perspective alongside security considerations in shaping policy responses, given the devastating impact of WMDs on civilians, environments and societies.
182. Delegations from countries including India and Zambia shared details of national disarmament efforts, reinforcing the call for stronger collaboration among MPs, civil society and international organizations. Participants underscored the need for robust verification mechanisms and accountability in order to build trust, as well as for a human-centred approach to disarmament and nonproliferation. They agreed that a *collaborative approach*, grounded in both common security and human security principles, offered the most effective path to preventing the spread and use of WMDs.

Side event on human rights for the five Central Asian Countries

183. This side event, organized by the IPU in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and hosted by the Senate of Uzbekistan, aimed to harness the unique

189. The importance of achieving joint milestones, such as eradicating statelessness (*achieved by Kyrgyzstan in 2018 and Uzbekistan in 2024*) and outlawing the death penalty, was also raised. The participants also discussed the importance of strong interaction at the regional level in Central Asia, which they noted was slowly growing in importance as a region in its own right.
190. Mr. Saidov in particular detailed the many outcomes of more intensive talks between governments in the region in recent years, including the resolution of decades-long border disputes, and called for the creation of an assembly of Central Asian parliaments in the near future. As a preliminary step, Mr. Saidov recommended holding more events and seminars bringing together parliamentarians from the region to discuss topics such as human rights, as well as considering holding joint hearings of parliamentary committees dedicated to these topics.

Panel discussion on Harnessing religious and ethical values to advance parliamentary dialogue and peaceful coexistence

191. This panel discussion was organized by the IPU, in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy; a permanent observer of the IPU and the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance. The participants discussed the potential of religious and ethical values to bridge divides, build trust and uphold a social contract that reinforced *the equal rights, dignity and humanity of all people*. It also considered important tools for promoting peaceful coexistence, such as education and community engagement.
192. The discussion was moderated by Ms. S. Markiewicz (*IPU Adviser on Interfaith Dialogue*) and Mr. F. Daou (*Executive Director of Globethics*). Panellists included Mr. P.F. Casini (*Italy, Honorary President of the IPU*), Ms. D. O'Neill (*Australia, former religious studies teacher*), Mr. I. Vulpescu (*Romania, President of the General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy*), Mr. A. Al Mannai (*Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance*), and Ms. Ş. Pavey (*Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and former member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye*). There were also two respondents: Ms.

impact 86 times greater than carbon dioxide; could significantly slow global warming in the near term.

197. Mr. M. Chungong (*IPU Secretary General*) reiterated the Organization's priority focus on climate change and underscored the essential role of parliamentarians in ensuring accountability, advancing legislation and overseeing national commitments on methane. Mr. B. Alikhanov (*Uzbekistan*), outlined the severe climate impacts in Central Asia, highlighted new domestic climate laws and reaffirmed his country's commitment to the *Global Methane Pledge*.
198. Ms. C. Urmeneta (*Global Methane Hub*) called for methane targets to be included in upcoming *Nationally Determined Contributions* and emphasized the need for action across energy, agriculture and waste. Ms. S. Bonnard (*Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*) stressed the co-benefits of reducing methane emissions, including for health and food security.
199. Mr. K. Kosumov (*International Methane Emissions Observatory, UNEP*) presented the *Methane Alert and Response System and the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0*, and highlighted the importance of accurate emissions data. Ms. S. Radnaaragchaa (*United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*) addressed the link between methane and air quality and called for stricter regulation of fossil fuels. Mr. C. Malley (*Stockholm Environment Institute*) discussed the economic and environmental gains to be derived from reducing methane emissions, highlighting examples from the palm oil sector in Ghana. Mr. T. Lotee (*Kenya*), detailed domestic laws and policies supporting methane mitigation in agriculture and waste.
200. Delegations from *Bahrain, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zimbabwe*, among others, shared details of national strategies and legislative efforts to reduce methane emissions, including initiatives focused on biogas, improved livestock feed, waste management, clean energy transition and methane leak detection.
201. The session concluded with a call to action. Since methane is not just a climate issue, but also has implications for public health, agriculture and finance, parliamentarians were urged to take a leadership role by passing relevant laws, ensuring regulatory oversight and engaging in international cooperation. The workshop

v. Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law: The role of parliaments in tackling the effects of armed conflict on children

206. On 8 April 2025, the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for *International Humanitarian Law (IHL)* held an open session debate on the theme the role of parliaments in tackling the effects of armed conflict on children. Panelists included Mr. F. Ahmed (*Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*), Ms. S. Kiladze (*Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child*), Ms. R. Dervišević (*Bosnia and Herzegovina*) and Ms. G. Marufova (*Uzbekistan*). The session was chaired by the President of the Committee, Mr. A. Farrugia (*Malta*).
207. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund, over 473 million children; more than one in six globally, are living in conflict zones. The UN verified almost 33,000 grave violations against children during armed conflict in 2024 alone. As of 2023, over 47 million children had been displaced by conflict. During an armed conflict, children risk being killed, maimed, abducted, displaced, separated from their families, sexually abused or even recruited by armed groups to participate in the hostilities. Children may also experience the effects of armed conflict long after it has ended, including trauma, physical impairments, psychological vulnerabilities caused by separation from family, educational disruption and even conflict-related stigma.
208. In this vein, the open session of the Committee discussed the role of parliaments in protecting children from the effects of armed conflict and in supporting them to mitigate these effects. Panelists reiterated the importance of IHL in protecting children, and stressed the imperative need for parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure the ratification of key IHL instruments including the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*, the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, and the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*.
209. The *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* also affords protection to children’s rights during armed conflict and its aftermath. Participants heard about the role of parliamentarians in translating commitments into law and disseminating relevant IHL and other rules protecting children to diverse audiences. Political will in leading efforts to protect

N. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 150TH IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

214. At the conclusion of the 150th Assembly and related meetings, delegates adopted the following Declarations and Resolutions-election;
- i. Tashkent Declaration: Parliamentary action for social development and justice**
215. “We, the members of parliament participating in the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, have taken stock of social development in our countries by looking at its three main components, as defined by the United Nations: *poverty reduction, employment generation and social cohesion*. The global social development agenda that governments adopted 30 years ago at the first World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, has only partly come to fruition, and new challenges have emerged that threaten to erode the social fabric of our societies, setting us back on many fronts.
216. With a Second World Summit for Social Development set to take place in Qatar in November 2025, the time has come to place social development at the center of our efforts as legislators and as representatives of the people. This will also help advance the lagging Sustainable Development Goals, particularly *SDGs 1–5 (no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)*.
217. Almost everywhere in the world; to varying degrees, social bonds are weakening. *An us vs. them mentality* has taken hold in politics, the media and in communities at large, trust in government and public institutions is at a low point, and social safety nets, such as unemployment insurance and pension schemes, where they exist at all, are under increasing strain. Billions of people are making do every day on very little. Work, when available, is often precarious or underpaid. Informal work remains prevalent.
218. Women, youth, migrants, disabled people, older workers, Indigenous people and marginalized groups are the most vulnerable to various forms of discrimination that hold them back in society.

community, to start a business, or to find a decent job – is a prerequisite for social progress. Healthcare and education in particular are essential to allow people at all stages of life, from early childhood to old age, to flourish and to live the most fulfilling life possible.

223. We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- a) Make health coverage universal, in particular by investing more in primary care for prevention, by making care more affordable to all income groups, particularly through public systems and not-for-profit private providers, and by ensuring that the long-term care needs of disabled people and the elderly are duly considered.
- b) Expand education opportunities for all, through both formal and informal approaches, emphasizing lifelong education, citizenship education and critical thinking, and focusing on those most left behind, including women and girls, as well as new migrants, the unemployed and minorities.
- c) Invest in environmental protection, including to prevent pollution, biodiversity loss and climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions, all of which undermine human well-being.
- d) Make it a key priority to support forward-looking initiatives in national climate policies and facilitate the transition to renewable energy and green technologies.
- e) Invest more in universal social protection, such as unemployment schemes and public pensions, to lift people from poverty to prosperity and make sure no one is left behind.
- f) Adopt a child-sensitive approach to social protection, which is an integral part of ending violence against children in all its forms, including child labor, marriage, sexual exploitation, smuggling, and recruitment by criminal and armed groups.
- g) Craft social and economic policies to make housing affordable for all and a fundamental human right,

- b) Fight tax evasion and improve tax collection according to the principle of progressivity, shifting the tax burden onto those who can most afford to contribute based on their income and wealth, and with particular emphasis on multinational corporations.
- c) Reallocate budgets towards social programs for health and education, as well as towards public infrastructure, including by cutting fossil fuel subsidies and reducing military expenditure.
- d) Enact competition laws to curb monopolies and oligopolies as a way of expanding market access for smaller producers and of preventing price gouging.
- e) Regulate the financial sector to curb harmful speculation, protect consumers and redirect assets towards more value-added production.
- f) Promote small and medium-sized enterprises, which are less prone to delocalization, particularly by facilitating access to credit and to professional skills development.
- g) Support the social and solidarity economy of cooperatives, social enterprises and mutual aid societies, which help strengthen social bonds and promote shared interests among entrepreneurs, workers and consumers.
- h) Uphold workers' rights in accordance with international conventions, particularly by protecting the right of collective bargaining, by outlawing all forms of child labour and forced labour, as well as the exploitation of migrant workers.
- i) Close the gender pay gap and strengthen social protections for care work, which is mostly carried out by women, and eliminate discrimination in employment against women and minority groups.
- j) Enact laws that give women the right to own land, inherit property or borrow money, and that ensure women's equal right to work.
- k) Support social dialogue among workers, producers and consumers, and expand their role in economic decision-

- iv) Institute rules and processes to make all public institutions more open to outside input from citizens, consumers, workers and producers, as well as from civil society at large.*
- v) Strengthen the capacities of government institutions, particularly public administrations, to provide quality services for all.*
- vi) Allow easy access to declassified government information for people, advocacy groups and communities, to protect their rights as well as to hold governments accountable.*
- vii) Fight corruption at all levels within politics, public administrations and the private sector.*
- viii) Limit the influence of interest groups in election finance and take steps to prevent electoral fraud.*
- ix) Ensure a more open and transparent budget process in which citizens and groups can participate, and promote citizens' budgets as a tool of public engagement to ensure public trust.*
- x) Institute gender-responsive budgeting at all levels of government, from national to local.*
- xi) Encourage the participation of citizens, consumers, producers and workers in regulatory bodies for digital technologies and artificial intelligence, as a way of minimizing the social risks of such technologies.*
- xii) Ensure the ethical use of artificial intelligence and develop innovative legal frameworks to effectively regulate this rapidly evolving domain.*
- xiii) Create an enabling environment for media organizations and cultural institutions to help strengthen people's capacities to think critically about the information they receive in the public domain, which will help reduce the social impacts of misinformation and disinformation. Strengthen the judiciary so that it can be counted on to deliver justice impartially and in a timely manner, upholding the rule of law.*
- xiv) Strengthen and reform the international financial architecture to free up resources for developing countries' social expenditure, including through debt relief and more effective aid.*

Secretary of the Forum, gave a presentation on the history of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. A display of the portraits of 40 women who had led the Forum and impacted on its work, entitled 40 years of action, 40 women of action, was also presented.

Activities to advance gender equality

233. Ms. V. Riotton (*France*) summarized the work of the 52nd session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, held in Geneva in October 2024, and of its 53rd session, held immediately prior to the Forum meeting. She presented the new IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region, carried out in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. Ms. S. Mikayilova (*Azerbaijan*) reported on the work of the Gender Partnership Group, including the monitoring of women's participation and gender balance in delegations to the 150th Assembly. 6. Participants were briefed on the IPU's recent and future activities to advance gender equality. Ms. López Castro reported on the IPU's Women in parliament report and on its Women in politics map. She also highlighted the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico, which resulted in a plan of action for parliaments to advance parity.

Contributions to the work of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective

234. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, entitled the role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine, and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development. Ms. T. Vardanyan (*Armenia*) introduced the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, of which she was one of the co-Rapporteurs. The debate was conducted in two breakout groups, each of which discussed one of the draft resolutions.

235. Ms. L. Reynolds (*Australia*) and Ms. V. Techateerawat (*Thailand*) were designated Chair and Rapporteur respectively of Group 1; Ms.

- supported amendments were incorporated into the text of the draft resolutions, strengthening the gender perspective of the texts.
239. The Forum resumed its afternoon agenda with two keynote addresses. The first, by Ms. G. Rakhimova, *Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance (Uzbekistan)*, was entitled “Financial support for women: Development and opportunities”. The second, from Ms. R. Turdiboeva, *Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction (Uzbekistan)*, focused on her country’s experience in providing vocational education for women, ensuring their employment and encouraging their entrepreneurship.

Panel discussion on Women shaping politics: Global networks

240. The panel discussion focused on how to strengthen the role of women’s networks in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in political leadership
241. The discussion included presentations by Ms. D. Kirkpatrick (New Zealand) from the *Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network*; Ms. S. Kheng (Cambodia) from the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Francophonie; Ms. L. Gumerova (*Russian Federation*) from the Council of the Eurasian Women’s Forum; Ms. P.S. Chemerai Anding (*Malaysia*) from the *Women of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly*; and Ms. Y. Netesova, *Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*. Participants also heard interventions from Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary-General and Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions, from Ms. N. Lugangira (*United Republic of Tanzania*), Women Political Leaders Special Envoy for Africa, and, via video message, from Ms. A. Mohammed, *Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group*, on the Women Rise for All initiative.
242. The participants shared their experiences of how the Forum of Women Parliamentarians contributes to building their capacity and expertise as parliamentarians. The Forum was also described as a safe platform for building self-confidence, forging consensus among women from different contexts, and advocating for systemic change to achieve gender equality and break down barriers to women’s

the valuable contributions of his fellow Bureau members. Key highlights included the lowering of the age to be considered a young MP at the IPU from under 45 to under 40 years, events to better connect young MPs to youth at the grassroots level, and an increased focus on youth employment and rights.

249. The IPU President addressed the Forum. She acknowledged the contributions made by the outgoing Bureau, including their determined efforts to push for lowering the age threshold to be considered a young MP. She also stressed the need to further harness the power of young MPs to bring fresh solutions to the world's persistent problems, especially regarding peacebuilding and the promotion of gender equality.
250. The IPU Secretary General also addressed the Forum and praised the manner in which young MPs were now embedded in many leadership structures within the IPU, congratulating them on their track record of continuously rejuvenating the work of the Organization. The young MPs in attendance updated the Forum on recent developments in promoting youth participation in their countries. Highlights included new launches of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, and advances in engagement with youth parliaments, committees and councils.
251. Noting the challenges faced by youth in some countries as a result of conflict, and the suppression of youth voices, the young MPs recommitted to sustaining positive momentum in upholding and further promoting the political rights of youth and women. As a contribution to the work of the 150th Assembly, participants examined the theme of the General Debate, Parliamentary action for social development and justice, from a youth perspective.
252. In their remarks, young MPs discussed the tremendous value of social development programmes, including for healthcare, education and economic empowerment, as well as the need to strengthen these programmes in order to shape a more just world. They also emphasized the importance of more targeted policy action focused on minorities and people in marginalized and vulnerable situations.
253. Youth overview reports, aimed at contributing youth perspectives, were presented on the two draft resolutions considered at the

years, Bureau members expressed the hope that their successors would maintain current high levels of participation, as well as build on the advancements made in connecting with young people and promoting gender equality.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session

257. An informal meeting of the Committee on Middle East Questions was held virtually on 12th March 2025. The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security concerning the proposed restructuring of the Committee on Middle East Questions.
258. At least four members shared differing perspectives on the proposed changes and the overall restructuring process. The Committee's lack of tangible progress in supporting efforts to reduce tensions and promote engagement between the parties led some members to question its effectiveness, mandate and role. Similar concerns had been raised at the Committee's previous formal meeting during the 149th Assembly. The Secretariat had responded by sharing among members, in advance of the formal meeting during the Assembly, a draft structural proposal for the composition and modalities of the Committee. The Secretariat had also issued a questionnaire to accompany the proposal, inviting members to share their expectations in terms of the new structure of the Committee. Four members (*Indonesia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Türkiye*) submitted responses to the questionnaire.
259. A formal meeting of the Committee was held in two sittings on 6 and 8 April 2025. The Committee proceeded with the renewal of the one-year mandate of its President. Members heard a report from the Secretariat on regional developments since the 149th Assembly, and their impact on the Committee's planned activities. These included the newly appointed government in the Syrian Arab Republic and the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Yemen. The political developments and escalations of armed conflict in both countries had prompted concerns, both within the international community and among members, regarding instability in the region

- further explained that the proposal sought to facilitate more in-depth engagement by assigning smaller groups to focus on specific countries, evolving situations and cross-cutting thematic areas.
264. Members also inquired about the possibility of a visit to the region, particularly to Gaza, in order to assess the scale of the damage. The Secretariat informed members that a preliminary mission was planned for May 2025, with the participation of the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Committee. This mission would serve as a preparatory step for a future visit involving all Committee members.
265. At its sitting on 8 April 2025, the Committee heard a briefing from Ms. M. Lorenzo (*representing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*), on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank following the escalation of hostilities on 7 October 2023. She outlined the impact of the conflict on civilians and humanitarian personnel, noting the disruption of essential services, large-scale displacement and the suspension of education. She also referred to the operational and financial challenges faced by *UNRWA*, as well as the implications of limited access and growing misinformation.
266. Ms. Lorenzo indicated that if her agency were unable to fulfil its mandate, the matter would need to be referred back to the UN General Assembly. She provided updates on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, and drew attention to the constraints affecting humanitarian operations in the Golan Heights. She reiterated the role of *UNRWA* as a humanitarian actor and called for efforts to safeguard its ability to operate. In the discussion that followed, members expressed concern about the humanitarian conditions and inquired about access challenges, the feasibility of alternative mechanisms, and options for international support. Several delegations underscored the significance of preserving the mandate and operational continuity of *UNRWA*, while highlighting the need to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.
267. The Committee also heard a presentation by Mr. Abdulla Al Manai, *Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance*, on initiatives to foster dialogue and inclusion

Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the issue of statelessness and to raise this matter in the Senate in its session in June 2025
iv) Contributions to global IHL processes by Chile, which participated in the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2024, where it joined the voluntary pledge made by Switzerland on the application of IHL to the use of information and communications technologies in situations of armed conflict

271. The Committee called for the resources to which its membership has access, such as expert briefings on IHL and selected situations of humanitarian concern, to be made available to all IPU Member Parliaments, and asked for steps to be taken to that end. It also stressed the importance of coordinating its work with IPU Standing Committees working on similar areas.

Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

272. The Committee received an update on recent developments in situations of humanitarian concern that it had been monitoring over the past few years. During this session, it paid particular attention to Myanmar, with an emphasis on Rohingya refugees. The *UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)* provided a briefing.
273. Since the military takeover in Myanmar four years ago, the humanitarian situation in the country has deteriorated drastically. As of March 2025, there are 1.5 million Myanmar refugees and asylum-seekers in Asia and the Pacific, among which over 1.1 million are stateless Rohingya. In total, 3.5 million people have been internally displaced by conflict. An estimated 19.9 million people, including 6.3 million children, are currently in need of assistance as a result of expanding armed conflict, widespread explosive ordnance and landmine contamination, climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, and economic and political instability. In addition, thousands of people have died or been injured as a result of the earthquake that hit the country in March 2025, with 1.5 million internally displaced persons in areas affected by the disaster. Myanmar continues to have one of the world's most underfunded humanitarian response plans.

- the initiative aims to make IHL a political priority at global, regional and domestic levels. The Committee, briefed by the ICRC, discussed how the global parliamentary community as a whole, and parliaments individually, could contribute to the initiative's various workstreams, one of which related to strengthening IHL implementation. The Committee invited all parliaments to consider taking steps and adopting measures to make IHL a political priority in their respective countries.
278. The Committee also considered the findings of the ICRC report entitled *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, which it had begun discussing at its session in October 2024. During this session, Committee members exchanged with the ICRC on the issue of the urbanization of armed conflict, focusing in particular on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Members expressed concern that, with armed conflicts being increasingly fought in urban environments, explosive weapons with wide-area effects were very likely to have indiscriminate effects when used in populated areas.
279. The Committee discussed how parliaments could engage their governments in adhering to the *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas* and in ensuring its implementation. The Committee recalled its decision, taken in the session in October 2024, to organize future online briefings and webinars in partnership with the ICRC to inform and engage the global parliamentary community on pressing IHL challenges. Parliamentary commitments towards ending statelessness
280. The Committee discussed efforts towards ending statelessness. It heard a personal testimony from Ms. Adlyn Teoh (*Affected Leader at the Family Frontiers' Affected Mothers Network, Malaysia*) who, as a mother, had not been entitled under the law to transmit her nationality to her child, and whose child had had limited rights due to this lack of nationality. The Committee welcomed the recently adopted constitutional amendment *granting Malaysian women the equal right to confer automatic citizenship on their children born overseas*.

election for an additional year. The newly elected Chairperson, Ms. Guerra Castillo, continued with the agenda, and an update to the work programme was presented. This update primarily focused on the meetings added to the 2025 work programme, including expert meetings on the definition of terrorism, meetings on artificial intelligence (AI) and its connection to terrorism and transnational organized crime, and a meeting on migration and the prevention of violent extremism. It was also reported that meetings would be held across different regions, including Latin America and Africa.

286. Additionally, Libya offered to host a visit to Benghazi, providing an opportunity to exchange experiences on how the country had addressed terrorism and endeavoured to prevent violent extremism. It was proposed that the next *Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism could also be held in Benghazi*. Several delegations requested that all regions, including Asia-Pacific, be included in future capacity building initiatives and workshops as part of the global effort to combat terrorism. This inclusive approach aims to ensure that the fight against terrorism is addressed comprehensively and equitably across all regions. The discussions then turned to the progress made in defining terrorism.
287. Information was shared about the expert meeting held on 13 April 2025, which featured distinguished panellists such as Mr. Ben Saul (*Professor and Challis Chair of International Law at the University of Sydney, and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism*), Ms. Christina Schori Liang (*Head of Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism at the Geneva Centre for Security and Policy*), and Mr. Serge Stroobants (*Director, Europe and MENA at the Institute for Economics and Peace*). The panellists agreed on the importance of having a clear definition of terrorism to ensure that measures and legislation were more effective and precise. However, they also noted that the lack of a universally accepted definition had not prevented countries from working to combat terrorism. It was emphasized that having a clear definition would help to prevent the misclassification of other acts of violence that did not necessarily fall under the category of terrorism.
288. The need to not start from scratch was also discussed, as some progress had already been made at the United Nations level. Group

292. The following key areas of concern and analysis were highlighted during the discussion:

a) Current uses of AI by terrorist and organized crime groups, including how AI tools and digital platforms are being exploited to plan, finance or carry out criminal and terrorist acts

b) Risks and broader security implications, and in particular the challenges emerging technologies pose to existing counter-terrorism and legal frameworks

c) The exploitation of online platforms for a wide range of activities, such as recruitment, radicalization, command and control, propaganda dissemination, training, and financing. Particular attention was given to the use of cryptocurrencies, which, when combined with accessible AI technologies, were creating new channels for financing terrorism.

293. Concern was also raised regarding the activities of lone actors, whose minimal digital footprint and independent radicalization processes made them especially difficult for security and intelligence services to detect and monitor, especially when the financial activities of such actors remained hidden. The discussions underscored the urgent need for deeper exploration of how AI amplifies these threats, and how legislators and policymakers could respond effectively to the unique challenges of this evolving landscape.

294. The Chairperson concluded the meeting by stating that various agreements had been reached across the different areas of work discussed. She also highlighted the fact that participants had expressed their satisfaction with the good work carried out by the Secretariat. The participants reaffirmed their continued support for, and commitment to, ongoing collaboration with the IPU's counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism programme. In her final remarks, the Chairperson *invited everyone to actively participate in the next meeting of the Group, to be held in Geneva in October 2025.*

Report of the Advisory Group on Health Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session (Tashkent, 9 April 2025)

295. The Advisory Group on Health met on 7 April 2025 for its 32nd and last meeting before its transformation into an IPU Committee. The

briefed by the Chairperson on the Parliamentarians Roundtable, organized by UN-Habitat with the support of the IPU, and held at the *12th World Urban Forum* in Cairo on 7 November 2024. The event, which brought together parliamentarians and other stakeholders, focused on showcasing legislative initiatives that effectively addressed urban challenges such as housing, climate change, resilience and inequality. The 113 participants shared experiences from their respective cities, reaffirming the value of legislative engagement in sustainable urban development.

300. During the event, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed her commitment to further strengthening the partnership between her organization and the IPU. The IPU Secretariat briefed the Working Group on an invitation to join the *Earth-Humanity Coalition*, a transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral initiative led by UNESCO and aligned with the UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (2024–2033).
301. The initiative aims to mobilize scientific communities and various stakeholders in joint efforts to address global challenges, particularly in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and societal transformation. It was noted that such a move would help strengthen the role of parliamentary committees responsible for science and education through the creation of a network linking these committees with the coalition to foster science-informed legislation and policy making.
302. Working Group members stressed that decision-making supported by robust, scientific evidence was precisely what was often lacking in the climate change debate. It was agreed that members would look further into this matter and make an informed decision at their next meeting. Working Group members were encouraged to participate in the *10th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals*, to take place on 7 and 8 May 2025 in New York. Being represented at this event would allow the Working Group to promote its initiatives such as the IPU Charter on the *Ethics of Science and Technology and the Science for Peace Schools*.
303. Members were also encouraged to participate in the *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks 2025 (IJCNN2025)*, to be held in

308. Mr. Wallace S. Cheng (*Head of Impact, Innovation and Development, Globethics*) delivered a presentation to Working Group members on *how ethical principles could guide efforts to close the digital divide between the Global North and South*. He welcomed the IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology, describing it as a visionary milestone that addressed both present and future ethical challenges. He emphasized current pressing issues such as misinformation, election interference, job displacement, and exploitative labour conditions in AI supply chains.
309. Mr. Cheng also praised the Charter for anticipating future risks, such as the erosion of human critical thinking and the potential loss of control over AI systems. He warned of a growing AI arms race, citing recent reports that predicted the emergence of superintelligent agents by 2028, and argued that the current trajectory risked sidelining human agency. He proposed a shift from competition to ethical collaboration, urging parliamentarians to reframe AI as a global common good, advocate for bans on military AI, and support AI diplomacy for peace. In terms of practical measures, Mr. Cheng recommended focusing on regional AI research networks, ethical innovation ecosystems and inclusive regulatory frameworks.
310. The IPU Secretariat briefed the Working Group on ongoing preparations for the upcoming second Science for Peace School, *Understanding artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on parliamentary work: AI, human consciousness and ethics*. The second School, organized in cooperation with the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance, will feature two sessions: an executive session for parliamentary staff, to be held at the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (*SESAME*) in Allan, Jordan, on 5–9 May 2025, and a parliamentary session, to be held at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (*ICISE*) in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, on 10–12 September 2025.
311. The Working Group discussed recent global events that had significantly influenced the AI landscape, with a particular emphasis on the ethical, social and political implications of AI for parliamentary work. Part of the discussion focused on the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025, held in DavosKlosters, Switzerland, on 20–24

Two of the co-Rapporteurs were present: Mr. M. De Maegd (*Belgium*) and Mr. S. Patra (*India*). The third Rapporteur, Ms. L. Crexell (*Argentina*), was not present as she had been unable to attend the Assembly.

318. The debate was followed by a discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*. In his opening remarks, Mr. O. de Frouville (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University; United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances) provided a comprehensive overview of the human rights dimensions of illegal international adoptions, highlighting international legal frameworks such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Hague Convention*, and calling for States to recognize victims, provide reparations and prevent future illegal adoptions.
319. Mr. G. Ijumba (*United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF*) emphasized the importance of preventing unnecessary family separation and prioritizing children's best interests through a continuum of care that included kinship care, foster care, and adoption only as a last resort. Ms. C. Fanon (*Racines Perdues*) shared her personal story as a victim of illegal international adoption. She had been born in Guatemala in 1986 and had been separated from her mother two days after birth. She had been brought to Belgium with a false passport and had been officially registered as deceased in Guatemala. In 2017, she had found her biological family and discovered that there were hundreds of similar cases in Belgium and thousands worldwide. Ms. Fanon advocated for recognizing *victims' rights to identity, nationality and family links*, and urged parliamentarians to listen to victims with their hearts, not just their heads.
320. Mr. De Maegd, co-Rapporteur, emphasized the need to recognize illegal international adoptions as violations of human rights. He called for comprehensive measures including opening archives, providing psychological support, and creating legal mechanisms to help victims find their true identities and origins.
321. A total of 28 delegates participated in the debate, which emphasized the need for stronger legal frameworks and international cooperation. Specific country examples illustrated the need for comprehensive reforms to prevent such practices and support victims. The session

for public engagement and oversight, for ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI, and for endorsement of the Universal Guidelines for AI. Delegates shared their respective experiences and raised questions around how to legislate the internet of things, how regulation could keep pace with progress, and how broad principles could be translated into effective legislation. The experts drew attention to existing frameworks for AI ethics that could assist parliaments in the key task of ensuring that AI served humanity.

327. In the third part of the debate, which was moderated by Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada), Mr. A. Williamson (*IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament*) provided an expert overview of how parliamentarians could use AI ethically and safely. He outlined the potential of AI to improve constituent engagement, streamline correspondence, support parliamentary work with chatbots, and enhance responsiveness, while addressing challenges such as accuracy, reliability, data security, privacy, ethics and transparency.
328. Delegates shared their experiences with AI, expressing concerns about its role in amplifying gender-based violence, influencing political campaigns and reshaping the labour market. In response, Mr. Williamson acknowledged the questions and stressed the importance of seizing AI-related opportunities with caution. The Committee took note of a proposal to include AI as a permanent agenda item, given the transformative potential of the technology and the rapid evolution of its capabilities.

Special guests

329. The following special guests participated in the work of the Committee (remotely, unless otherwise indicated):

Illegal international adoption

- 1) Mr. Olivier de Frouville, *Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, and Chairperson of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances*

- their work revolved around a five-year Cooperation Framework designed in close coordination with the Government, as well as with the input of the Senate of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations.
332. While the country had made significant strides toward nationally determined development goals, there were still a number of growing challenges, such as a “*demographic dividend*” that required greater investments in quality education, and an aging population that needed more healthcare and other support. On a programmatic level, the UN Country Team had to contend with a funding gap of 25%, which was unlikely to be filled by the time the current Cooperation Framework came to an end at the end of 2025.
333. Mr. Linnér gave a presentation on the UN development budget, explaining that it continued to be over reliant on earmarking, which afforded UN agencies little flexibility to respond to evolving needs on the ground. He noted in particular that development funding continued to be dominated by a shortlist of large donors, several of whom were cutting back on their commitments. Mr. Linnér also spoke about how humanitarian assistance, while essential in the face of so many ongoing hotspots, was eroding development budgets without really addressing the underlying needs of developing countries. On the plus side, he noted that practices such as “*pooled funding*” (*in which two or more UN agencies contributed funding to a joint programme*) and global thematic funds delivered results in a more cost-effective way. The fact that Uzbekistan was ranked 11th on the list of developing countries receiving pooled funding (US\$ 44 million) helped to explain the UN Country Team’s record of success there.
334. The debate that followed the initial presentations highlighted the following points:
- i) Parliaments have a role to play in overseeing the design and funding of UN country programmes, as well as in advocating for high-quality funding with relevant ministries and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation.
 - ii) UN Country Teams must engage parliaments early in the process of formulating country programmes in order to ensure alignment with national priorities.

338. Mr. Malginov presented a similar view of the BRICS as an informal group that was not seeking to establish itself as an international organization in competition with the UN, but that merely worked as a consultative body, open to all interested countries, with no animosity against anyone. He recalled the BRICS Summit that had been held in the Russian Federation in 2024, as well as the many initiatives that had been taken up on that occasion. He noted that a BRICS parliamentary forum was convened regularly to provide a sounding board to the governmental Summit.
339. The debate that followed the initial presentations highlighted the following points:
- a). The BRICS has grown as an influential group on the international scene, with its members now accounting for 37% of global gross domestic product (*by purchasing power parity*). The group has no aspiration to become a rule-making organization. It exists principally to help member countries harness the global economy for the benefit of their people.
 - b). Unlike the G20 and other informal groups, however, the BRICS is also championing new institutions such as the New Development Bank to help finance projects in the Global South. Some countries regard this as an inevitable response to the inability of the multilateral system to fairly address the needs of all members of the international community.
 - c). The BRICS is committed to the core mission of the UN as an organization working for peace, as evidenced by the fact some members of the group are among the top contributors to UN Peacekeeping.
 - d). The UN has everything to gain from working closely with the BRICS and the G20, including through the creation of joint working groups. National parliaments have an important oversight role to play at the UN, as well as within these other informal groups.

Special briefing on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

custody and care of their families except in circumstances in which harm can only be prevented by placing the child in a home, orphanage or rescue shelter.

- (5) In clause 10(d) by deleting the words “a prohibition” appearing immediately after the words “that include” and substituting therefor the word “restrictions”.
- (6) In clause 10(e) by deleting the words “prohibiting” appearing immediately after the words “regulations and specifically” and substituting therefor the word “restricting”.

----END----