

**PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**



**12<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT**

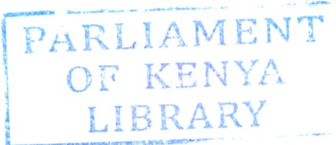
**(THIRD SESSION)**

*Approved*  
*[Signature]* 17/7/2019  
*Hon. Speaker*  
*You may approve*  
*for tabling* *[Signature]*  
*17/7/19*

**REPORT OF THE 140<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN DOHA, STATE OF QATAR 6<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

PAPERS LAID	
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Clerks Chambers,  
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June, 2019

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## PREFACE

### Hon. Speaker,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the world organization of Parliaments, is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, co-operation and action. The Union advances democracy and assists Parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfill their mandates. The Assembly is made up of 179 member parliaments. The IPU facilitates parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation and also promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law while assisting Parliaments in coping with growing international agenda relevant to their duties.
2. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
3. The 140<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, in Doha, State of Qatar. The theme of this year's general debate was '**Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law**' .
4. The 140th IPU Assembly inaugural ceremony took place at the Sheraton Convention Center, Doha, on Saturday, 6 April 2019 at 7.30 p.m., with His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, in attendance. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism were present during the Ceremony. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the the Assembly by video message.
5. In his remarks, the Emir of Qatar congratulated the IPU on its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He said that investing in education, especially if integrated into a comprehensive development plan, helped to build strong, prosperous and stable societies and to tackle intolerance and the risk of extremism. He emphasized that Qatar was supporting developing countries and international organizations with a range of education initiatives. He

observed that young people in the Arab world had shown that they could protest peacefully in the pursuit of greater dignity, justice and freedom. Ruling elites should understand such requests and lead reform. The rule of law was a universally accepted concept. Without it there would be no justice but chaos and tyranny which led to arbitrariness and injustice and, consequently, to conflict, insecurity, and human suffering. International law was losing its ground in international relations, and was being increasingly disregarded. It was only through dialogue and respect for international law that lasting peace could be achieved. Tackling questions such as poverty, extremism and cybersecurity required commitment to the shared values enshrined in key international covenants. No-one could claim exemption from them on any grounds. Joint work on those issues should be as natural as trade links, and parliamentary democracy was a crucial tool in forging these partnerships.

6. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron also made her remarks and said that the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU bore witness to the Organization's past and continuing relevance. She observed that the world was full of contradictions that demonstrated technology was not enough if real political will was lacking. Similarly, even with extensive opportunities for inter-cultural exchange, hate speech and xenophobia was growing in today's political discourse. Statistics on gender parity and youth representation in parliaments showed there was a huge amount of work to do. Important challenges continued to endure, particularly building an inclusive economy, tackling poverty, and fighting for peace, stability and dialogue. Parliamentary diplomacy was a crucial tool for overcoming global challenges. The more that parliamentarians could speak with one voice, share objectives, harmonize legislation, fight to implement solutions and make suitable budgetary provision, the more capable parliaments would be of helping to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality. Constituents must be at the heart of each Member's work towards that goal at all times. The IPU had a chance to develop new tools to build better spaces for cooperation and dialogue. Its voice had to ring out clearly to demonstrate the strength of parliaments to people who were now calling for change.
7. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, also made his remarks and said that the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly was an opportunity to reaffirm the IPU's role as a bridge-builder. Universality was a

crucial part of the IPU's ability to address the concerns of Member Parliaments and their constituents.

8. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, while introducing the message of the United Nations Secretary-General, said that a strong relationship between the United Nations and the IPU was important when multilateralism was being questioned, and that parliaments had a critical role to play in improving people's lives on the basis of international law and UN resolutions
9. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the Assembly by video message. He welcomed the Assembly's focus on education for peace and the rule of law. He observed that the fruitful cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations was needed more than ever to help ensure fair globalization, combat rising intolerance, advance gender equality and increase ambitions on the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as financing that work.

**Hon Speaker,**

10. During the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, 147 Member Parliaments were represented. There was participation by the following eight Associate Members; the Arab Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The Parliaments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Liberia, Nauru, and Saint Kitts and Nevis participated as observers with a view to future affiliation/re-affiliation. Other participants included, international organizations, regional inter-governmental organizations, parliamentary assemblies and associations, worldwide non-governmental organizations, international political party federations and other IPU partner organizations.
11. During the three days of deliberations, 757 Member Parliaments – including 74 Presiding Officers, 38 Deputy Presiding Officers, 227 women MPs (30%) and 132 (17.4%) young MPs.

**Hon Speaker,**

12. The Kenyan delegation to the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings comprised the following-

- i) Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, EGH, MP, Speaker of the Senate and Leader of delegation (*Member of the Executive Committee*)
- ii) Sen. Susan Kihika, MP, Senator (*President of the Bureau of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians*)
- iii) Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, MP
- iv) Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol, MP
- v) Hon. James Gichuki Mwangi, MP
- vi) Hon. Vincent Kipkurei Tuwei, MP
- vii) Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP
- viii) Hon. Maoka Maore, MP
- ix) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS, Clerk of Senate/ Member ASGP
- x) Mr. Mohamed Ali, Deputy Clerk, Senate,/ Member ASGP
- xi) Mr. Zakayo Mogere, Deputy Director, L&P Services, Senate
- xii) Ms. Rose Natecho, Principal Research Officer, Speaker's Office
- xiii) Mr. Sudi Wandabusi, Personal Assistant to the Speaker
- xiv) Ms. Caroline Kinyua, Senior Clerk Assistant, Secretary to the Delegation (Senate)
- xv) Mr. Noah Too, Senior Clerk Assistant, Secretary to the Delegation (National Assembly)
- xvi) Ms. Angela Macharia, Second Clerk Assistant, Secretary to the Delegation (Senate)
- xvii) Mr. Frank Mutulu, Media Relations Officer
- xviii) Ms. Eunice Kakitya, Senior Librarian
- xix) Mr. Billow Adan, Protocol Officer, Speaker's Office


13. During the Assembly and its related meetings, members of the Kenyan delegation were actively involved in the deliberations that greatly enriched the resolutions. In his contribution during the General Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, Speaker of the Senate who is also a member of the Executive Committee, urged the legislators to make firm commitments to provide free and accessible education to all children. Kenya also got appointed to the following positions; Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol, MP, member of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Hon. Patrick Mariru, Co-Rapporteur, Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,

Finance and Trade on the subject item entitled, *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production.*

On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that Kenya was well represented during the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**Hon. Speaker,**

14. Article 7 of the IPU Statutes mandates Members of the IPU to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained.
15. In accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the IPU, it is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings, declaration and resolutions of the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings to Parliament for noting and necessary action.



.....  
**SEN. SUSAN KHIKA, M.P.**  
**MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION**

**DATED.....** 16/07/2019 .....

# **REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN DOHA, STATE OF QATAR FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

## **A. BACKGROUND: ABOUT THE IPU**

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue. It exists to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue and concrete action. The current membership is 179 parliaments and 12 associate members. The IPU works closely with the United Nations and other partner organizations with similar ideals. To this end, the IPU aims at -
  - i) Fostering contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among Parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
  - ii) Considering questions of international interest and express its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by Parliaments and their members;
  - iii) Contributing to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development; and
  - iv) Contributing to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.
2. The IPU's main areas of activity are representative democracy, international peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian law, women in politics and education science and culture.
3. The IPU Assembly is the principle statutory body that expresses the views of the Inter Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for parliamentary and governmental action. The Assembly meets twice a year and is held each time in a different country, providing participants with an opportunity to see various national realities.
4. The organs of the IPU are the Assembly, the Governing Council, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat. IPU also works through

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

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

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

## **B. AGENDA OF THE 140<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

6. The following outlines the Agenda of the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly -

- i. General Debate – on Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law
- ii. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item and its subsequent debate
- iii. Reports of the Standing committees
- iv. Debate on non-admissibility of using mercenaries as means of undermining peace and violating human rights ( Standing Committees on Peace and International Security)
- v. Debate on the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation ( Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
- vi. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly and appointment of the rapporteurs.
- vii. Amendment to the IPU Resolutions; During the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, the Executive Committee to the IPU Assembly and the Governing Council presented to the Assembly the proposed amendments to the IPU resolutions with the recommendation that they be formally adopted by the Assembly.

### **C. GENERAL DEBATE: PARLIAMENTS AS PLATFORMS TO ENHANCE EDUCATION FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW**

7. The 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly commenced on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at 11a.m at the Sheraton Convention Centre. Delegates from 147 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly including participation from eight associate members among them East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and other observers. Further, of the 1,521 delegates, 757 were Members of Parliaments, including 74 Presiding Officers and 38 Deputy Presiding Officers, 227 women MPs (30%) and 132 (17.4%) young MPs.
8. The 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly was opened on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 at the Sheraton Convention Center. The Assembly General Debate was chaired by Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council. The theme of the General Debate was Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law.
9. In his remarks, Mr. A Al Mahmoud, underscored that ideologies which aimed to destroy the world's value system were on the rise. He averred that the IPU must play a decisive and effective role in spreading knowledge, tackling concepts that threatened the principles of peace, security and the rule of law, and in promoting quality education for all. Further, he said that as legislators and representatives of the people, parliamentarians had the responsibility to promote quality education for all: education that respected cultural, religious and ideological diversity, and taught tolerance and respect for others and their rights. He said that, as noted by the United Nations Secretary-General, "we must teach our children to love before others teach them to hate". It was also important to ensure that education was provided to the most vulnerable, including in situations of war and conflict. He hoped that the IPU could develop an education action plan whose progress could be monitored in future by a Committee or the Assembly.
10. The Assembly also benefited from a video message by the United Nations General Assembly, Ms. M.F. Espinosa, who stated that, with people's waning faith that institutions could improve their lives, parliamentarians should make clear that multilateralism strengthened rather than weakened sovereignty and allowed States to share burdens and costs. She urged MPs to enhance the transparency of international institutions, press for constituents' views to be included in decision-making, transfer global

commitments into national law, and ensure sufficient funds were available for implementation.

11. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron also made her remarks and said that in education systems, no one should be left behind, whether they were rich or poor, young or old, a woman, girl, man or boy, or from a developed or developing country. Further, she said that education also needed to ensure that love and respect for one's home country never led to racism or xenophobia, and was always balanced against a clear sense of being citizens of one planet. Parliamentarians could easily fall into the trap of being led by the news agenda of the moment. But their real responsibility lay in looking to the future, which would undoubtedly be heavily influenced by technology. As representatives of those affected by technological change, MPs had a duty to consult on and decide how society should approach that wave of innovation and change.
12. Dr. R. Yuste, Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, also made his remarks, stating that that he sought to put the debate into a wider context as a scientist and researcher so that parliamentarians could prepare and adapt societies to new realities. Research projects of the recent past worth billions of dollars had the potential to help treat brain diseases and understand more about how we learn. Dr. R. Yuste highlighted several areas of concern: the increasing use of brain-computer interfaces and how far personal identity could be dissolved into online spaces; the extent to which using technology to make decisions diminished our own agency and free will; the possibility of having internal thoughts and mental processes accessible to the outside world and therefore susceptible to being commercialized or manipulated; how the use of technology to augment cognitive abilities could affect efforts to create a level playing field for all, and the need to strictly regulate military applications of such technologies; and the risk of undoing hard-fought rights to equality through the inherent biases of artificial intelligence. These issues did not diminish the hugely positive impact of neurotechnology in areas such as education and science. However, risks were undoubtedly involved. Parliamentarians and society should decide how and when to regulate the discoveries that were made every day. Parliamentarians should lead the debate, including by asking: who did we want to be as a species? Was the answer to that question in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Should the Declaration be updated to include neurorights to protect our neurological spaces? The scientific community would also be ready to work with legislators as they considered such questions.

13. Sen. Susan Kihika (Senator and the current President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians) said that peace, security and the rule of law were shared objectives that must remain part of the fabric of society as we learn to live more sustainably in a world of more than seven billion people. Education should focus on equipping young people with the tools to shape their own world. It also offered a strong return on investment in terms of greater peace, stability and prosperity. Although progress had been made, there was still work to be done on gender parity and access to education for girls. Governments and the private sector should be strongly encouraged to contribute to improving educational tools and facilities.
14. Hon Osuru (from Uganda and the current President of the Forum for Young Parliamentarians) said that, as violence, extremism and intolerance were not innate but learned, education was the way to ensure that those learned reactions were countered with more positive influences. Military responses to conflict only demonstrated where societies had failed to address root causes of instability through education. The Forum's recommendations included regularly updating curricula to equip students for the jobs of the future; including topics that nurtured global citizens, such as human rights and digital literacy; making education a lifelong endeavour; and jointly designing curricula with young people.
15. The General Debate also featured a special segment which focused on education for refugees. Mr. A. Aynte, Director of Partnerships, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), gave an overview of UNRWA's work and the daunting challenges that it faced, including in terms of funding and providing access to education. Ms. H. Abu Asbah, a Palestinian refugee living in Hebron, and Mr. A. Baker, a Palestinian refugee living in North Amman, both 15 years of age, provided moving personal testimony of their experience as refugee children striving to build a future for themselves. Elected as student parliamentarians by over 530,000 students from UNRWA schools, they described how the School parliaments were striving to promote a culture of respect and tolerance and play an effective role in schools and in the community. Mr. R. Uttamchandani, founder of the Humanity. Education. Rights. (H.E.R.) Academy spoke about his work to deliver education to refugee girls in Bangladesh, while also providing guidance and advice to governments on implementing programmes and laws to help better protect women and children refugees. He called on all parliamentarians to strive to become better attuned to the realities on the ground, so as to effectively deliver on the needs and expectations of the citizens they were elected to

represent. While addressing the General Assembly, the Speaker of the Senate, Sen. Kenneth Lusaka underscored the urgent need for governments to provide policy incentives for governments and private sector to invest in the development of educational tools, human resources and facilities.

16. During the three days of deliberations, over 145 legislators from 115 Member Parliaments, including 52 Presiding Officers, as well as representatives of a dozen partner organizations, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.
17. At the concluding sitting of the Assembly on 10 April, Mr. P. Dallier (France) and Ms. C. Lopez Castro (Mexico) presented the Assembly outcome document, the *Doha Declaration, on Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law (See full text on page 48)*. They highlighted the various courses of action that parliaments and parliamentarians could undertake in terms of equitable access to education for all, ensuring quality of education, promoting productive civic engagement through global citizenship education, supporting non-formal education and protecting education systems in situations of conflict or insecurity. They called on all Members to follow up on these recommendations through specific national initiatives. The Assembly endorsed the Doha Declaration.
18. The Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution presented by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights(See full text on page 54)*. The Assembly also unanimously adopted the resolution presented by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, *on the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation(See full text on page 60)*.
19. The Assembly noted the Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, and it approved the subject items of resolutions to be adopted at the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, together with the rapporteurs who would be working on these draft resolutions.

20. Speaking on behalf of the Speaker of the Parliament of Serbia, Mr. M. Grujic (Serbia) warmly encouraged all IPU Members to attend the forthcoming IPU Assembly, which would be taking place from 13 to 17 October 2019 in Belgrade. A short video was shown.
21. At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the Geopolitical Groups took the floor: Speaker J.F. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) on behalf of the African Group, Mr. A.S. Ali (Pakistan) on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, Speaker A. Al Tarawneh (Jordan) on behalf of the Arab Group, Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation) on behalf of the Eurasia Group, Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group. They extended their deep appreciation to the State of Qatar and the Shura Council for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of what was undoubtedly a very successful IPU Assembly. They congratulated Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council, for his personal leadership and outreach to all IPU Member Parliaments in the service of peace and understanding. They thanked the IPU President and Secretariat for their hard work and pledged their commitment to follow up on the important decisions that they had collectively taken.
22. In her concluding remarks, the IPU President provided an overview of the main highlights and outcomes of the Assembly, and reiterated the importance of parliamentary solidarity and robust parliamentary action in tackling the challenges of our world. Referring to the Presidential Statement on parliamentary diplomacy issued earlier in the day, she underscored that the use of political sanctions against parliamentarians as representatives of the people was unacceptable. She also reiterated the IPU position of principle rejecting all action that was not in compliance with international law, including unilateral actions such as sanctions, embargoes and blockades that were not mandated by the international community and in particular the United Nations.
23. The IPU was committed to continuing its efforts to facilitate dialogue and interaction among parliaments of different countries. In that connection, the IPU welcomed recent developments on the Korean Peninsula and further hoped that the parties concerned would resolve outstanding issues, such as complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, through dialogue based on the agreements of the leaders at the Inter-Korean

and Pyongyang-Washington Summits. For its part, the IPU would continue relentlessly to foster parliamentary dialogue between the two Koreas as part of overall efforts to bring about lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

24. The IPU President thanked Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, and the State of Qatar for the excellent conditions they had provided for a very substantive Assembly, which without a doubt, had also attracted among the highest attendance in the history of the IPU.

25. Mr. A. Al Mahmoud thanked all participants for their support and active engagement and declared the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly closed.

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

26. On 7 April 2019, the President informed the Assembly that the following two requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been proposed-

- i) *Call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai (Netherlands); and*
- ii) *Ensuring international protection of Palestinian people, rejecting Israeli authority over the occupied Golan Heights, promoting the values of peaceful coexistence among people and religions and combatting all forms of racism and intolerance (Indonesia, Kuwait, Morocco and Turkey).*

27. Following brief presentations on the emergency item, the Assembly proceeded with a roll-call vote on the two items. The proposal put forward by the Netherlands was adopted and added to the agenda as Item 2.

28. The debate on the emergency item was held in the morning of 8 April 2019, with Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, in the chair.

29. Eighteen speakers made presentations on the emergency item. Participants addressed sincere condolences to the people affected by Cyclone Idai and expressed their solidarity with Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. While Idai was not the first cyclone of that scale, it had caused more damage as it hit densely populated areas, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives, livestock and crops and the destruction of infrastructure. Lack of clean water had triggered an outbreak of cholera in Mozambique.

30. Mr. L. Prapancha Suryantoro, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative, explained that WHO was providing basic medical care and preventing infectious diseases, and underscored an urgent need to restore health infrastructure to help people affected by the Cyclone. The representative also underlined the importance of following the 2005 International Health Regulations. Many delegates, including those from middle and low income economies, said their countries had already provided food and medical assistance to the three countries affected by the Cyclone. He urged the international community to continue assisting the three affected countries in the medium and long term, given that many roads, bridges, schools and other infrastructure had been destroyed.

31. Other delegates highlighted the urgent need to counter climate change to avoid future natural disasters. Mr. H. Rogers, Founder and President of the Blue Planet Foundation, reiterated the need to change our way of life to mitigate climate change. A delegate from Chile, the country that was going to host the next United Nations' climate conference in 2019—COP 25, said it would organize a parliamentary summit in the context of COP 25 and urged other parliaments to join the event. The Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar expressed solidarity with the affected countries and underscored the necessity of international cooperation to mitigate the impact of the humanitarian crisis.

32. The Assembly referred the emergency item to a drafting committee made up of representatives of Belgium, China, Ecuador, Ghana, Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal and Seychelles. The resolution on the emergency item was adopted by consensus in the plenary sitting of the Assembly on 9 April 2019. The delegation of Turkey expressed a reservation to preambular paragraph 10 and operative paragraph 3 (***See full text on page 66***).

## **E. STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

33. The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 7 to 9 April 2019, with its President, Mr. J.I. Echániz (Spain) in the chair. At its first sitting, the Committee welcomed Mr. V. Voronkov, the United Nations Under-Secretary General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), who gave a brief presentation on UNOCT. The Committee considered the draft resolution entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries*

as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights, as well as the explanatory memorandum prepared jointly by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. K. Al Bakkar (Jordan) and Mr. B. Tarasyuk (Ukraine).

34. The Committee also examined the 131 amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 20 Member Parliaments and the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Twenty-five per cent of the proposed amendments and sub-amendments were approved. The Committee adopted the consolidated text by vote.

35. The text of the resolution, as amended and approved by the Committee, was submitted in the afternoon of 10 April to the Assembly's plenary where it was adopted by consensus. The Assembly amended the title of the resolution to read as follows: *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and the territorial integrity of States, and violating human rights.*

36. The Bureau held a meeting on 8 April to discuss the future subject item and plan of work of the Committee. The only delegation that had submitted a subject item proposal was the delegation of Germany. Following a redrafting of the title, the Committee adopted the following subject item: *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security in the face of challenges and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences.* The Assembly approved the proposal which would be the subject of a resolution at the 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly.

37. The Committee also adopted its plan of work for 2019. It was agreed that the Committee focus its work for the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly on the following activities: consultations with experts on the theme of the next resolution, an activity on the implementation of the 2014 resolution entitled *Towards a nuclear-weapon free world: The contribution of parliaments, and a panel discussion on the criminalization of money laundering.* It also took note of Jordan's invitation to conduct a field mission to the country.

38. Elections to the Bureau were held during the Committee's last sitting. The Committee filled the five vacant posts in the Bureau by electing the candidates proposed by the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group, and the Eurasia Group. Regarding two members of the Eurasia Group, the Committee approved the Group's request for an exemption to Rules 8 and 9 of the Standing Committees, according to which representatives of a Member could

not hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years and whereby a two-year lapse was required before taking up office in the same body. In the case discussed, given the limited number of Group Members, it was agreed that Armenia and the Russian Federation could join the Bureau after a one-year lapse. It also approved the change of delegates as proposed by the Arab Group.

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

39. The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade held its sittings on 7, 8 and 9 April 2019 with its President, Ms. T.V. Muzenda (Zimbabwe), in the chair. The Standing Committee considered an explanatory memorandum and draft resolution, The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, jointly prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Mr. J. Wilson (Australia), Ms. S. Raskovic Ivic (Serbia) and Mr. H. Iddrisu (Ghana). It considered 96 amendments to the draft resolution submitted by 21 Member Parliaments as well as amendments from the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

40. The Committee first heard a presentation of the draft resolution by the co-Rapporteurs, followed by a debate. A total of 20 delegates spoke. The Standing Committee then considered the proposed amendments in two plenary sittings.

41. At its final sitting on 9 April, the Standing Committee adopted the amended draft resolution by acclamation. No delegation expressed a reservation. The Committee agreed that Ms. Muzenda would present the draft resolution to the Assembly. The draft resolution was submitted to the Assembly at its plenary sitting on the afternoon of 10 April and was adopted unanimously.

42. Further, during the same time, at the proposal of the Bureau the Standing Committee adopted its next subject item, *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, responsible consumption and production*. The Committee approved the nomination of Ms. S. Dinică (Romania) and Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) as co-Rapporteurs and entrusted the Parliament of Kenya with nominating an additional rapporteur. The Assembly approved the nomination of Hon. P. Mariru (Kenya) as the third co-Rapporteur.

43. In terms of the work plan for the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly, the Committee approved the proposal of the Bureau to organize a debate on the subject item and a session to follow up on the resolution adopted in March 2014, *Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints*. The Committee also agreed that a short segment should be organized to prepare for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Chile in December 2019 (COP 25).

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

44. The Committee held sittings on 8 and 9 April with its Vice-President, Ms. A. Gerkens (Netherlands) in the chair. In her absence at the start of the first sitting, Mr. A. Niyongabo (Burundi), member of the Bureau of the Committee, opened the session on the morning of 8 April. At its first sitting, the Committee examined how IPU Members had followed up on three resolutions adopted by the IPU in recent years:

- i. 2015: Democracy in the digital era and the threat to privacy and individual freedoms
- ii. 2013: The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy
- iii. 2009: Freedom of expression and the right to information.

45. The second part of the sitting focused on disinformation and "fake news", a global phenomenon that could have significant effects on national politics. Three experts took part in a question-and-answer session with the moderator and other members of the Committee. The experts were Mr. T. Venturini (Centre for Internet and Society, Centre national de la recherche scientifique—CNRS, France), Ms. S. Joshi (Verification specialist at Proto and co-founder of Khabar Lahariya, India's only digital rural news network), and Mr. P. Nakov (Principal Scientist, Qatar Computing Research Institute).

46. At its second sitting, the Committee held a preparatory debate on the theme of the next resolution: *Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030: the role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. Two rapporteurs had already been appointed at the 139th Assembly in October 2018. At the opening of the debate, the Committee confirmed the appointment of a third Rapporteur, Ms. M. Carvalho (Brazil).

47. Kenya was represented by Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani who acknowledged Kenyas efforts in actualizing the freedom of rights which is enshrined in the

Constitution of Kenya. She further said that for the protection of these rights and especially the right to freedom of speech so that the same is not used to harm other people through false information, the parliament of Kenya had passed a legislation namely; the Computer and Cyber Crimes Act on May, 2018. Sen. Susan Kihika also joined the meeting during the discussion of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and cited the steps made in Kenya towards achievement of UHC initiative. She said that the initiative was contained in Kenya's big four agenda based on the global commitments on the SDG framework. The UHC in Kenya has been defined as a comprehensive essential package for all Kenyans by the Ministry of Health. The move is based on the Thailand UHC model. Further initiatives on UHC include the Beyond Zero campaign which is a campaign to support maternal and child healthcare.

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

48. The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs met on 9 April 2019 and focused on the SDGs. The first sitting took stock of parliamentary action on the SDGs, while the second helped prepare parliamentarians for the debate that would be held at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2019. That debate would focus on governance (Goal 16) and inequality (Goal 10). Close to 60 parliaments were represented at the sittings of the Committee, with some 20 statements made.

49. Ms. K. Jabre, IPU Director of the Division of Programmes, outlined the results of the IPU study on parliamentary engagement with the SDGs and the work the IPU was doing with Member Parliaments to ensure they were fit for purpose. Mr. K. Al Bakkar (Jordan) and Mr. A. Rozas (Argentina) presented what they had done in parliament on SDG implementation, outlining the structure of their work and giving examples of success. Seven additional Members provided feedback on their work.

50. At the second sitting, there were presentations from Ms. R.K. Wijeratne (Sri Lanka), Mr. C. Chauvel (Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP) and Mr. N. Ahmed (Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International). Twelve additional members offered questions or comments.

#### **F. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

51. The 204<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council held its first meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. During this sitting, the Governing Council elected Mr. A. Al

Mahmoud, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, as the President of the 140th IPU Assembly. The Governing Council observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Speaker Ms. J. Luveni (Fiji) and in commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

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

52. The Governing Council welcomed the affiliation of the Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as the 179<sup>th</sup> Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Mr. T. Jomo Sanga, Speaker of the House of the Assembly, expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the Council and his Parliament's great interest in developing close and productive cooperation with the IPU and its other Member Parliaments.

53. The Council also welcomed the participation at the Assembly of six non-Member Parliaments as observers, with a view to possible affiliation/re-affiliation with the IPU: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Liberia, Nauru, and Saint Kitts and Nevis. It expressed the hope that in the not too distant future those parliaments too would join the IPU family. This would also contribute in a significant way to achieving the IPU's strategic objective of universal membership.

54. The Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and endorsed the related recommendations made by the Executive Committee with regard to each of those parliaments. In accordance with Article 5.2 of the IPU Statutes, it approved the request by the National Assembly of Venezuela to register a delegation of two parliamentarians with voting rights, given the fact that Venezuela's failure to pay its assessed contribution was due to conditions beyond parliament's control. The Council called upon the Government of Venezuela to provide the National Assembly with the financial means to function and to honour the commitment made previously to receive an IPU delegation to Caracas with a view to holding discussions with the parties involved in the current political crisis.

### **ii) Financial Situation**

55. The Governing Council received a written overview of the IPU's financial situation at 31 January 2019 which noted that the overall level of expenditure was on track at this early stage of the year. Arrears in assessed contributions amounted to CHF 866,000, with 34 Members having overdue

accounts. Assessed contributions of CHF 8.0 million had already been paid for 2019, being 77 per cent of the total amount due. Further, the Secretary General gave a written and oral report to the Governing Council on the mobilization of voluntary funding towards implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021. The Governing Council authorized the Secretary General to pursue opportunities for the extension of the IPU's Headquarters building in Geneva and approved his fundraising efforts in that and other areas, including outreach to the State of Qatar. The Governing Council also approved the request from Rwanda to cover the cost of staff allowances during its hosting of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly. The estimated amount of CHF 80,000-100,000 would be taken from the Working Capital Fund.

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

56. The Governing Council took note of the mid-term report of the President on her activities and of the annual report of the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU in 2018. It also took note of a comprehensive report on progress made on implementation of the eight strategic objectives, including in terms of cooperation with the United Nations. It endorsed the new IPU Communications Strategy, as well as the programme of initiatives designed to mark the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU. Delegates drew attention to the high cost of producing the proposed anniversary book and stressed the need to make every effort to bring the cost down. The Council also approved the draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the IPU, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the context of IPU's activities on countering terrorism. It authorized the Secretary General to sign the memorandum with his UN counterparts.

### **iv) Recent specialized meetings**

57. The Governing Council took note of the results of: the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the World Investment Forum 2018; the Parliamentary Speakers' Summit at the G20; the Regional seminar on climate change and disaster risk reduction for Parliaments of the Caribbean; the Regional Seminar on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the IPU's Twelve Plus Geopolitical Group and East Asia Parliaments; the Follow-up regional seminar on the contribution of parliament to combat child trafficking and labour on the occasion of the ECOWAS Parliamentary session; the World e-Parliament Conference 2018; the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO; the Parliamentary Conference on Migration in the lead-up to the

adoption of the Global Compact for Migration; the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 24); the Fifth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians; the Annual Parliamentary Inter-Parliamentary Union – 204<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council 14 Hearing at the United Nations; the IPU-UN Regional Conference for the Middle East and North Africa; the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

#### **v) Reports of plenary bodies and specialized committees**

58. The Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians; the Committee on Middle East Questions; the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law; the Gender Partnership Group; the Advisory Group on Health; and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. It approved the elections and appointments that took place in these different bodies. It also elected the new members of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol, MP was elected to serve as a member of the HLAG. The Council heard the report of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and approved 12 decisions submitted by the latter, noting the reservation expressed by the delegation of Turkey regarding the observation on the court hearings on cases in that country.

#### **vi) Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**

59. The Council approved the offers made by the parliaments of Rwanda and Kenya to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> and 144<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings respectively. It noted the decision of the Preparatory Committee of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (2020) to hold the World Conference at the United Nations Office in Vienna, during the week of 17 August. The Council approved proposals for specialized meetings.

60. The Secretary General drew the Council's attention to the dates of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in April 2020. These dates would be just after the Easter holidays. It had not been possible to negotiate better dates as the Centre International de Conférences (CICG) would be undergoing renovations and the facilities would be restricted.

61. A delegate from Japan said that the P20 meeting for 2019 had not been approved during the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly as indicated in the list of the future

meetings. He said that, as presented, he took it as a request from the IPU to co-host the event. He added that if the Parliament of Japan received a formal request, they would consider whether they could co-host it. The IPU President clarified that, further to the P20 Speakers' Summit of 2018 organized jointly by the National Congress of Argentina and the IPU, the IPU was committed to continuing that good practice as part of its strategic objective of enhancing global governance by providing a parliamentary component to major global processes. She would be writing formally to the Japanese Diet in this regard, and very much hoped that a positive response could be provided as soon as possible.

62. The Council also endorsed the Presidential Statements on parliamentary diplomacy and on the situation of the Golan Heights.

### **vii) Amendments to the Statutes and Rules**

63. In terms of the amendments to the statutes and rules, the Governing Council was informed that the Gender Partnership Group intended to submit proposals for amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules with a view to imposing stricter penalties for parliaments that consistently sent single-sex delegations to IPU Assemblies. Those amendments would follow the normal procedure for amendments, with a view to possible endorsement in Belgrade, Serbia, on the occasion of the 141st IPU Assembly.

### **vi. Elections to the Executive Committee**

52. The Governing Council elected Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal) from the African Group for a four year term ending in April 2023.

## **G. THE 281<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **i. IPU activities report**

53. The Executive Committee held its 281<sup>st</sup> session in Doha on 4, 5 and 9 April 2019. The President of the IPU chaired the meetings. The Rt. Hon. Sen. Kenneth Lusaka (*a member of the Executive committee*) alongside other members also attended the meetings.

54. The Executive Committee took note of the President's report of activities since the 139<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. The President highlighted the need to build the capacity of parliamentarians in the pursuit of stronger parliaments serving the people. To that end, she suggested funds be raised to establish

a mechanism that would build the leadership capacity of parliamentarians. She believed that multilateralism and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were among the tools that could help reach those objectives in the 11 years that remained until 2030. She also said that the IPU should be provided with economic expertise to better contribute to people's wellbeing. To that end she suggested setting up an Advisory Group on the Economy, which was further discussed at the final sitting of the Executive Committee on 9 April.

55. The Committee also took note of the IPU's Annual Report by the Secretary General, including of his efforts to assist parliaments in a range of areas. Members noted that there were some underfunded activities, such as those related to climate change. In that regard, they welcomed the possibility to cooperate with the Blue Planet Foundation, which promoted the use of clean energy. It was noted that, in other areas, greater efforts should be made to improve people's wellbeing.
56. The Committee members expressed concern about recurrent sexism and sexual harassment in parliaments. They believed that robust measures, including a zero-tolerance policy and regular self-assessment, should be implemented so as to eradicate that unacceptable behaviour.
57. The Executive Committee confirmed the need to work in cooperation with regional parliamentary organizations and to intensify collaboration with the United Nations system and other relevant international agencies. It welcomed the IPU's enhanced commitment to addressing conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism. The Members unanimously agreed that the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the IPU, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) be submitted to the Governing Council for endorsement.

## **ii. Financial questions**

58. The Executive Committee heard the report of Ms. M. Kiener Nellen (Switzerland), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, who presented the 2018 financial statements and the External Auditor's report to the Executive Committee for its approval. The Sub-Committee on Finance had met on 19 March 2019 to prepare and facilitate the Executive Committee's consideration of financial and budgetary matters. It had carefully examined

all the financial documents, including the financial results, the External Auditor's report, the current financial situation and voluntary funding update. It had been pleased to note that the IPU's accounts were again fully IPSAS-compliant and that the External Auditor had given a positive audit opinion, noting that the quality of the financial statements was exemplary.

59. The Chair of the Sub-Committee drew attention to the fact that the arrears of assessed contributions from Members were higher than in previous years, and asked the geopolitical groups to draw Members' attention to their responsibility to pay their dues. She also recommended that, unless payment was received by 1 October 2019, the membership rights of the three Members who had been in arrears for more than three years be suspended. The Sub-Committee had noted the stability of voluntary contributions.
60. The Executive Committee approved the updated Administrative Arrangements for the Presidency, noting that they provided more transparency and flexibility in the use of the budget and conditions of travel for IPU Presidents. The Executive Committee thanked the Sub-Committee and the Secretariat for their work and recommended that the Governing Council should approve the financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2018. The Executive Committee was informed of the formal invitation received from the Parliament of Rwanda to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly, as well as of its request for the IPU to provide financial assistance to alleviate the burden of hosting the Assembly. If approved by the Council, that request (based on precedent) would be reflected in the 2020 budget, which would be submitted for approval in October 2019.
61. The members of the Executive Committee welcomed the Secretary General's efforts to continue fundraising, including reaching out to Qatar to support IPU's activities in accordance with the Organization's Strategy. They recommended seeking endorsement from the Governing Council to proceed with preliminary consultations on a possible extension to the IPU headquarters that would be funded from extra-budgetary sources.

### **iii. IPU membership and implementation of the IPU Strategy**

62. The Executive Committee welcomed the request for affiliation submitted by the Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It was recommended that the request be submitted to the Council for endorsement. Members of

the Executive Committee examined the situation of certain parliaments and made specific recommendations to the Governing Council, including to continue monitoring the situation and promoting dialogue between all sides in the parliaments of Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and Yemen.

63. The Executive Committee welcomed the good news from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Maldives where the situation had returned to normal with the organization of parliamentary elections. It recommended building capacity in these newly elected parliaments to support the fulfilment of their mission.
64. The Executive Committee called for the organization of fact-finding missions to Cambodia, Turkey and Venezuela, expressly requesting a formal invitation for the latter mission from the Venezuelan authorities. The Executive Committee authorized the Secretary General to undertake a fact-finding and working visit to Syria in the context of the IPU's more robust and constructive engagement with the Parliament there.
65. The Executive Committee discussed and approved the proposals to celebrate the IPU's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary that had been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Executive Committee. The celebrations would run from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020.
66. The Executive Committee approved the publication of a book to mark the anniversary that would feature input from all the IPU Member Parliaments. It also approved the global parliamentary campaign, which included:
  - i. A serialized story of the history of the IPU told over six chapters in IPU's e-bulletin;
  - ii. A physical exhibition at the United Nations in Geneva (Salle des pas perdus) and New York (Visitors' Centre) in June/July 2019;
  - iii. A virtual exhibition online including a video and timeline;
  - iv. Dedicated branding, slogan and #hashtags; - Direct marketing to parliaments including a letter addressed to all MPs to explain what the IPU could offer them;
  - v. A menu of tools and products for parliaments to choose from, including key messaging;

- vi. A social media toolkit for all members to encourage them to celebrate the anniversary;
  - vii. A Charter on parliamentarism.
67. The Committee discussed the IPU's draft three-year Communications Strategy. The Strategy was designed to position the IPU as a unique global resource for and about parliaments and parliamentarians. It was prepared following extensive consultations with internal and external stakeholders and was aligned with the IPU's 2017–2021 Strategy and the IPU President's vision. It aimed to be as inclusive as possible in order to bring in the Members and geopolitical groups, give a voice to parliamentarians from all over the world, and show that parliaments were part of the solution to the problems the world faces. It also contained sub-strategies to develop the IPU's website and digital tools to make them more interactive, including a two-way communications channel between the IPU and its Members to share best practices.
68. The Executive Committee recommended that the draft Communications Strategy be submitted to the Governing Council for approval with some modifications aimed at reinforcing the inclusivity of the Strategy. The Executive Committee was informed by the Gender Partnership Group of its intention to submit amendments to the Statutes and Rules. The amendments would aim to strengthen existing sanctions for single-sex delegations by reducing voting rights to one in the Governing Council and implementing sanctions after two Assemblies instead of three.
69. The majority of the Executive Committee members were not in favour of the creation of a high-level panel on parliamentary diplomacy. Rather, they recommended that the IPU's existing resources, including the President and Secretary General, as well as members of the Executive Committee, Standing Committees and other specialized IPU bodies, be called upon to undertake parliamentary diplomacy missions on behalf of the IPU.
70. The Executive Committee was informed of the President's request to set up an Advisory Group on the Economy. Though the Committee recognized the need for the IPU to tackle economic issues in depth, it opted for a review of the mandate and composition of the existing Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade instead of establishing a new advisory group. It requested the IPU Secretariat to submit a revised proposal for review at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly.

71. The Executive Committee took note of the list of the future meetings requiring the approval of the Governing Council. Members' attention was brought to:
- i. The dates (15–19 April 2020) of the 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva, which implied that the Sub-Committee on Finance would start its work on Monday 13 April (Easter Monday);
  - ii. The formal invitation of the Parliament of Rwanda to host the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly and related meetings;
  - iii. The offer of the Parliament of Kenya to host the 144<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings (formal invitation forthcoming).
72. The Executive Committee took note of preparations for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments (WCSP-5) and was informed that the Parliament of Austria had submitted within the stipulated deadlines a formal invitation to host the Conference in Vienna.
73. The Parliament of Kenya had also recently submitted an offer. The matter was subsequently discussed during a meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference on 7 April. It was decided that Austria would host WCSP-5 in 2020, and that Kenya would host a future Assembly of the IPU.

#### **iv. Questions relating to the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

74. Reporting on staff movements, the Secretary General informed the Executive Committee of the retirement of Ms. Dominique Gillieron who had worked as an Administrative Assistant to the Director of Programmes. She was replaced by Mr. Alexander Lowe in March 2019. He announced the departure at the end of February 2019 of Ms. Stara Ahmidouch, Chief of Staff and Head of Language Services. The Executive Committee heard that Ms. Suroor Alikhan had started her functions in the Communications Division as Web and Social Media Editor in December 2018. The Secretary General introduced Ms. S. Alikhan and Mr. A. Lowe to the Executive Committee members.

#### **v. Other business**

75. The Committee heard a presentation from Mr. G. Chen who stressed the need for the rules of the IPU to be strictly enforced. The Executive

Committee was also informed of a host of communications from the Palestine National Council and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in respect of recent developments in the Middle East. It expressed concern about these developments and encouraged the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions to continue examining these matters in a constructive manner so as to contribute to lasting solutions.

#### **H. FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

76. The 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 6 April, 2019. It brought together 181 participants, from 71 countries and representatives from various international organizations. There were 133 women and 48 men among the participants. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Sen. Susan Kihika (Kenya), opened the session. Ms. R. Al Mansoori, Member of the Shura Council (Qatar), was elected Chair of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum. Ms. R. Al Mansoori welcomed the participants and presented the programme of work. The IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, and the Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, welcomed the members of the Forum. Mr. M. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, was also in attendance.
77. As a contribution to the Assembly, the participants examined, from the point of view of gender parity, the draft resolutions on the agenda of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights*; and the draft resolution on *the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation*. Two groups were formed to conduct the discussions. The Forum subsequently proposed amendments to the draft resolutions, which the Standing Committees incorporated into their work.
78. The participants then discussed the challenges that women faced in the world of work, as well as measures and good practices by which those challenges could be overcome. The Forum underlined the importance of girls' education and of raising awareness within society at large so as to tackle sexist stereotypes and ensure that women could access all sectors of the economy and leadership roles. Participants highlighted the importance of labour policy and social security in order to protect women working in the informal sector, including migrants, and to recognize unpaid care work that was predominantly carried out by women. They recommended that positive measures be taken to promote women-led businesses, equal pay,

and quotas within both company boards of directors and government. Participants also welcomed new instruments on violence in the workplace that were currently being considered by the ILO and supported the adoption of those instruments.

79. The Forum elected a regional representative from the African Group, Ms. K. Bukar Abba Ibrahim (Nigeria), to fill a vacant seat on the Bureau. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians had presented candidatures to the Forum at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session held on 18 October 2018 and chaired by Sen. Susan Kihika. On that basis, the Forum elected Ms. A. Al Basti (United Arab Emirates) to the post of First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau.

#### **I. FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE IPU**

80. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians met on 7 April, with 61 young parliamentarians in attendance, 35 per cent of whom were women. The President of the Board of the Forum, Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda) chaired the Forum. Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname), Member of the Board of the Forum, replaced the President for part of the Forum's proceedings.
81. The young parliamentarians took stock of recent developments in youth participation. The 2018 edition of the IPU report Youth participation in national parliaments had revealed that only 2.2 per cent of MPs were under 30. In several countries, legal reform was underway to support the election of young MPs. Lowering the age requirement to run for office and the adoption of youth quotas remained key strategies to enhance youth participation.
82. The participants also monitored youth participation at the 140th Assembly, noting that 17.4 per cent of those registered to attend the Assembly were young MPs, below the minimum target of 25 per cent of young delegates at IPU Assemblies. Discussing the theme of education for peace, security and the rule of law, participants expressed empathy and support to young people living in conditions of war, conflict, occupation and natural disasters and who were being prevented from pursuing their education and called for the fulfilment of the right to education for all children and young people.

83. In preparation of the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia) to prepare a youth overview report to be submitted to the co-Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.
84. The members of the Forum were informed of the offer from the Parliament of Paraguay to host the Sixth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Asuncion in 2019. The Board of the Forum had met on 7 April, and had agreed to include mentorship and political empowerment of young people on the agenda of the 2019 Conference with a particular focus on young women.

The Forum elected its new Board formed of one man and one woman under 45 years of age from each geopolitical group. Newly elected members of the Board met on 10 April and elected Mr. M. Bouva (Suriname) as President.

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

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

85. The Committee held its 159<sup>th</sup> session, from 5 to 9 April 2019. During the session, the Committee held nine hearings and informal meetings with delegations and complainants to reinforce its understanding of the cases before it and convey its concerns. At this session, the Committee had on its agenda 22 cases concerning the situation of 187 members of parliament in 12 countries. Of the cases examined, 35 per cent were from the Americas, 32 per cent from Europe, 24 per cent from Africa and 9 per cent from Asia. Eighty-four per cent of the cases concerned opposition members of parliament and twenty-five per cent concerned women. The violations most frequently examined by the Committee during the session were, lack of due process in proceedings against members of parliament, torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence, undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate, violations of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association.

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

86. The Committee held two sittings, on 6 and 9 April 2019. The Committee examined the current situation in the region, particularly in Israel and Palestine, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Members were informed about the dissolution of both the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council in December 2018.

87. The Committee stressed the importance of undertaking a mission to the region and recommended sending a delegation to observe the elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council. They highlighted the need to comply with international resolutions, including those related to the two-State solution. Members heard about the instability of the situation in Syria and the recent announcement by the President of the United States of America to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. It was suggested that the Secretariat provide more visibility on Yemen and allocate more Committee time to discuss the situation there.
88. Members heard presentations from Mr. S. Fouzi, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Libya, and Mr. M. Larive, a French parliamentarian. In the framework of the Committee's Peace Programme, Mr. M. Larive presented an initiative on behalf of the French IPU Group to establish a permanent science-focused structure at the IPU. Given its desire to build bridges between parliamentary and scientific communities, the Committee fully supported the French initiative and reaffirmed its commitment to the Peace Programme.
89. The Committee also heard presentations from Mr. A. Aynte, Director of Strategic Partnerships of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and from two 15-year-old student parliamentarians from UNRWA schools, Ms. H. Abu Asbah and Mr. A. Baker. All three stressed the importance of guaranteeing education for Palestinian refugees to foster respect and work towards lasting peace.

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

85. The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL Committee) met on 7 April 2019. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also attended. At the close of the meeting, the Committee elected as its chair Ms. A. Vadai (Hungary) for a one year term. It elected Mr. M. Rogers (Zambia) as chair for the following year.
86. The Committee paid tribute to Ms. N. Ali Assegaf (Indonesia), outgoing chair. After which it discussed follow-up to the emergency item resolution, Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar,

adopted at the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg. It held a dialogue session with the delegation of Myanmar and expressed its thanks to the Parliament for engaging with the Committee for a second time.

87. The dialogue session allowed the Committee to better understand the complex situation and know more about the initiatives taken in Myanmar. The Committee highlighted the importance of having a better grasp of the reality in Myanmar. It encouraged the Parliament of Myanmar to pursue its involvement in the resolution of that tragedy, and play its role of monitoring and overseeing the government, and reaching out to populations to improve the situation.
88. The Committee expressed its wish to carry out a mission to Myanmar in the coming months to gain a better understanding of the reality and see how the IPU could support the Parliament in its work. A formal request would be sent to the Parliament as follow-up.
89. The Committee discussed the latest developments regarding the global campaign to end statelessness. In 2019 UNHCR would hold a ministerial event on statelessness to mark the midway point in the 10-year campaign. That event would be an opportunity for States to pledge to make additional specific steps to address statelessness.
90. The Committee called on Parliaments to be involved in domestic consultations in the run up to the ministerial event and encourage their Governments to make pledges in that regard. The Committee welcomed the publication of the IPU-UNHCR handbook on good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness. It encouraged parliaments to widely disseminate it and make use of that short practical tool to engage in reform
91. The Committee also discussed how to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 (GC70) and decided to dedicate its open session at the 141<sup>st</sup> Assembly in Belgrade to that end.

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

92. The Gender Partnership Group held its 42<sup>nd</sup> session on 6 and 10 April 2019. In attendance were Ms. H. Haukeland Liadal (Norway), Mr. K. Lusaka (Kenya) and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) who replaced Ms. A. Al Basti (United Arab Emirates).

93. As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the composition of the delegations at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. As at 9 April 2019, 30.3 per cent of the delegates at the Assembly were women. That was one of the lowest percentages since 2015. The Group noted that the proportion of women decreased in large delegations, which tended to include only one or a few women. The Group decided to strongly encourage gender-balance within delegations to ensure a sustained increase in the number and percentage of women. It commended the gender-balanced delegations attending the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly. In Doha, women accounted for 40 to 60 per cent in 35 delegations out of 147 (23.8%). Of the 147 delegations of Member Parliaments present, 135 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 16 were composed exclusively of men (11.8%). No delegation was composed entirely of women.
94. The 16 single-sex (male) delegations were from the parliaments of the following countries: Central African Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In addition, there were 12 single-member delegations attending the Assembly. All in all, nine delegations were subject to sanctions.
95. The Group requested that those figures and those on the gender-balanced delegations be sent to all IPU Member Parliaments after the Assembly to trigger action. Considering the large number of single-sex delegations at each Assembly, the Group expressed its intention to submit amendments to the current IPU Statutes and Rules to strengthen existing sanctions for single-sex delegations by further reducing voting rights and implementing the sanctions after two Assemblies. That initiative was shared with the Executive Committee in Doha.
96. The Group continued discussions on a dedicated framework against sexism and sexual harassment for Assemblies and other IPU-organized meetings. The Group would continue work on that issue at its future sessions and requested that relevant information be included in the documentation to delegations for the next IPU Assembly. At its previous meeting during the 139<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Group decided to extend its work and engage not only with parliaments that had no women members, but also with parliaments where women accounted for less than five per cent of the members.

97. On Tuesday, 9 April, the Group discussed the issue with the delegation of Oman where elections were to take place in 2019. The delegation from Oman was led by the Speaker and two members of the Consultative Council. The Secretaries General of both chambers of the Majlis also attended.
98. The discussion on the challenges that women faced to participate in politics and on preparations for the upcoming legislative elections was lively. The delegation described how the Government of Oman had been working to encourage women's participation, including by proposing a quota system, which did not eventually find consensus. Currently, efforts were focused on conducting an awareness-raising campaign to encourage women to participate in elections. The delegation expressed its wish to have IPU support for the campaign, including arranging for the Group members to attend one of the campaign activities in Oman.
99. The Group welcomed the exchanges. Members confirmed their willingness to support the campaign and assist the Parliament of Oman with any other possible measures to strengthen women's participation in politics.

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

100. The IPU Advisory Group on Health met on 6 April with four out of six members in attendance (three members and a replacement). The Group welcomed its technical partners from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
101. The Advisory Group was welcomed by the IPU Secretary General, who stressed the important role of the Group as the only statutory mechanism within the IPU that dealt with health matters. He invited members to discuss how to ensure that the IPU resolution on Universal Health Coverage, expected to be adopted in October 2019, would provide a broad mandate that would encompass the many aspects of Universal Health Coverage, including nutrition, HIV/AIDS, women's, children's and adolescents' health, and global health security.
102. The Group heard a report from the IPU Secretariat about health-related activities carried out since the last meeting, and then provided an update

on what had been done in their countries to pass new legislation, allocate budgets and reach out to communities on health-related issues.

103. The Advisory Group agreed to write a letter to the IPU Secretary General and the WHO Director-General to ask the two Organizations to collaborate in supporting national parliaments in implementing the upcoming IPU resolution on Universal Health Coverage. In its capacity as the review board for the IPU Handbook for parliamentarians on women's, children's and adolescents' health, the Group provided guidance on the accessibility of data and information through technology and on how to incentivize national parliamentary action.

104. The Group further discussed the positive and negative effects of criminal law on women's, children's and adolescent's health, highlighting the role that parliamentarians have in amending discriminatory law. Finally, the Advisory Group requested that the IPU Secretariat explore options for conducting a half-day field visit during the next IPU Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia, and to hold a side event on a topic related to Universal Health Coverage.

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

111. The ASGP brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the different services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the its President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The ASGP assists IPU at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. The Clerks and Senior Deputy Clerks of both Houses of the Kenya Parliament are members of the ASGP.

112. During the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU meeting, the ASGP held meetings on 8, 9 and 10 April, 2016. Kenya was represented by the Clerk of the Senate and Secretary to the Parliamentary Service Commission, Mr Jeremiah Nyegenye together with Deputy Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Mohamed Ali. The debates were centered on three thematic areas which were as follows-

- i. Information and Document Services in Parliaments: This debate aimed at surveying the different models used by Parliaments to respond to parliamentarians' needs for information and documents. Members presented the approaches used by their Parliaments to provide this information. Most members stated that parliamentary units of research, information and documentation were well established to meet parliamentarians' expectations and meet their needs.
- ii. Measuring Parliamentary activity: This debate sought to determine the criteria by which the activity of a Parliamentarian may be evaluated. Members agreed that it was paramount for Parliamentary activity be appraised in a more qualitative way, including by taking account of the activity parliamentarians carry out in their constituencies.
- iii. How do we make better legislation?: This debate sought to determine how better legislation can be made. Members underscored the need for public engagement in decision making of parliament.

## **K. OTHER SIDE MEETINGS**

### **i) Speakers' Dialogue – Low trust in democracy: An urgent call to rethink our governance models**

113. The first Speakers' Dialogue to be held at an IPU Assembly considered the question of low trust in democracy. The IPU President, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, who chaired the meeting, gave a presentation on the root causes of the crisis and its consequences for parliaments and society at large. The Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, Mr. A. Al Mahmoud, co-hosted the event. Mr. N. Ahmed (Executive Strategy Advisor, Oxfam International) added a civil society perspective that focused on the problem of growing inequalities. Over 30 Speakers of Parliament participated in the discussion including the Speaker of the Senate, Sen. Kenneth Lusaka.
114. The content of the presentations and remarks from participants revealed a convergence of views. The crisis of democracy today stemmed fundamentally from an economic model that favoured shareholders and special interests at the expense of the vast majority of people, leading to increasing inequalities of income, wealth and knowledge, as well as a

pervasive sense of economic insecurity. Governments had been captured by moneyed elites that had little interest in the common good. There was a direct correlation between growing inequalities and disenchantment in democracy.

115. Parliaments and parliamentarians had to accept their share of responsibility for the crisis. At the same time, however, they were often victims of external forces such as fake news propagated on social media or the rise of populist movements whose divisive rhetoric undermined political dialogue as the core function of democratic institutions.
116. Parliaments needed to become more relevant and open to the people they were meant to represent. That included fairer representation of all groups but also a proactive effort to listen to the people, which might require more personal contact between MPs and their constituents. Parliaments had to work to safeguard the integrity of elections so that people could trust the results of polls. More importantly, parliaments needed to reclaim the ground they had lost to overbearing executive branches that had every interest in disempowering parliaments and eroding their oversight prerogatives. Several Speakers noted that parliaments needed to do much more to include women and young people. Making parliament a workplace more accessible to women and adopting gender-sensitive budgeting were two key steps that needed to be scaled up considerably.
117. While working to reform the political system in which they operated, parliamentarians also needed to work to tackle inequality through progressive tax reforms, the provision of public goods such as universal, affordable and quality education and health care, and a big push to facilitate girls' access to education. Restoring peoples' faith in politics had to begin by showing that politics could deliver for the people.
118. In bringing the session to a close, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron pledged to make the Speakers' Dialogue a permanent fixture of Assemblies. More time would be allocated to the Dialogue to allow for in-depth discussions and greater interaction among participants. A more creative format might also be introduced to include more input from civil society and citizens.

## **ii) Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees**

119. On the morning of 6 April, the President and Secretary General of the IPU met with the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the four Standing Committees. The President briefed participants on the implementation of her vision for the IPU, including through marking the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organization, developing a new leadership Seminar for young parliamentarians, and fostering closer ties between Members outside the statutory IPU Assemblies.
120. The Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups reported on their activities since the last Assembly. The African Group had focused on mainstreaming IPU resolutions and decisions into the work of their Group and regional parliamentary organizations. A recent regional seminar for Caribbean island States hosted by the Parliament of Suriname had helped build cooperation with a number of non-Member Parliaments. It had been a good example of Members working with the IPU to organize regional activities so as to reach out in a more targeted manner to the parliaments of the region and expand IPU membership. The Asia-Pacific and Twelve Plus Groups were also actively engaged in convening regional events in conjunction with the IPU on issues of mutual interest.
121. The Presidents of the Standing Committees reported on their activities at the current Assembly and their future programme of work, which included field visits to get a better understanding of realities on the ground. The intention was to further strengthen the functioning of the Standing Committee Bureau, including in terms of composition, so as to ensure that the Bureau members had the relevant experience and commitment to the areas under their purview. Follow-up to previous Committee resolutions was also important, and the Presidents wished to devote more time in future to reviewing the implementation of resolutions. From that perspective, cooperation between the Standing Committees and the Geopolitical Groups was important, as it could help maximize engagement by Member Parliaments in the implementation and review processes.
122. Participants examined the calendar of future IPU activities and identified events that still required a host. They agreed to discuss that matter with the other members of their respective Groups, with a view to filling any remaining gaps as soon as possible.

### **iii) Meeting with the Heads of regional and other parliamentary organizations**

123. The meeting took place on 6 April, 2019. Representatives of more than a dozen parliamentary organizations with Associate Member or Permanent Observer status at the IPU exchanged views regarding the main challenges facing governance and democracy in the world today. They acknowledged that reducing work duplication and enhancing the effectiveness of regional and global parliamentary cooperation were essential to address pressing global challenges such as climate change, gender equality, sustaining peace, tackling corruption and addressing the growing trend of disenchantment with democracy and governance structures in general. As follow-up actions, it was decided that participants would keep in touch, send their proposals for concrete joint actions to the IPU Secretariat, organize activities to promote regional and global parliamentary cooperation in their respective organizations, and identify and disseminate good practices.

### **iv) Panel discussion: Ending energy poverty through access to renewable energies and inclusive public policies: How can parliaments help?**

124. The panel featured Mr. A. Gryffroy (Senator, Belgium), Ms. E. Thiombiano (MP, Burkina Faso), Ms. M.S. Manguiat (Head, National Environmental Law Unit, UN Environment), and Mr. F. Gonzalez Diaz (former Director of the Import-Export Bank of Mexico). It was moderated by Mr. A. Motter (Senior Advisor, IPU). Twenty-two parliamentarians participated. Bangladesh, Chile, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland and Oman spoke from the floor.

125. The debate took its cue from the 2018 IPU resolution, *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. It served as the launching pad for a new IPU-UN Environment Issues Brief entitled, *Shades of Green: An introduction to the green economy for parliamentarians*.

126. The discussion placed the issue of energy poverty in the broader context of the green economy, described as an alternative to the current growth-centric economic model that aims to effectively decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. Energy poverty affected both developed and developing countries. In developed countries, the issue

was more about supply, with not enough energy being produced, especially from renewable sources; in developing countries, energy poverty was mainly about making energy more affordable to people on low income. In both cases, part of the solution was energy conservation, which entailed an economy-wide transformation to make all products more energy efficient and to facilitate lifestyle changes conducive to less energy consumption. Renewable energies such as solar, wind and geothermal energy were becoming cheaper than fossil fuels. Despite that, their share in global, final energy consumption changed little over the years. Financing for renewable energy infrastructure and off-grid solutions, as well as for R&D, was limited. Technology transfers to developing countries were not always easy because of adaptability problems as well as lack of finance. An important consideration that would support the industrialization of developing countries was the fact that renewable energy technology was mostly owned by developed countries and, because of patent restrictions, could not easily be replicated in developing countries.

127. The debate illustrated the many innovative ways to support the spread of renewable energies. Public finance could play a leading role in creating innovative financing mechanisms (for example, subsidies, tax exemptions, loan guarantees) for utilities, municipalities and households to generate their own energy supply or tap into an existing grid. Public investments in green infrastructure could also be facilitated by changing budget rules such as the rule that prohibited the amortization of government loans over the years. The sharing economy, the circular economy, and the solidarity economy were all expressions of the green economy. Taken together, they could facilitate the transition toward renewable energy by helping reduce overall demand for energy intensive products and services.
128. While many countries had adopted elements of the green economy to some extent or other, no country had succeeded in implementing it consistently. Governments and parliaments needed to better understand the green economy as a system that encompassed all sectors of the economy and that required much more than a technology fix. The full implementation of the green economy would require political will and a comprehensive phase-in plan.

**v) Panel discussion on counter-terrorism and violent extremism: From international resolutions to national legislations: Bridging the implementation gap**

129. The event was organized as part of the activities of the IPU-UNODC-UNOCT Joint Programme on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism guided by the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol, MP, represented Kenya at this meeting.
130. The IPU Secretary General stressed that parliaments and parliamentarians could intervene at every stage of radicalization. Marginalization of and discrimination against any group could be avoided by establishing strong parliaments that represented every sector of society. Mr. V. Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, underlined that parliamentarians played an important role in supporting the agreements of the United Nations and in facilitating the implementation of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions related to counter-terrorism. Parliaments set budgets, proposed and adopted legislation and held governments accountable for their policies, actions and spending.
131. Mr. M. Karimipour (UNODC) stressed that an effective response to terrorism required greater cooperation between all countries with the support of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the IPU. Parliaments needed to provide relevant legal frameworks and empower their criminal justice officials. Mr. O. Tinni, Speaker of the National Assembly of Niger, highlighted the challenges and problems that the Sahel region was facing in combating terrorism, particularly with terrorist groups like Boko Haram. He said that the international community had to emphasize the importance of working in that region, where terrorist groups had settled and were actively recruiting young people. Ms. M. Kiener Nellen, Vice-Chairperson of the HLAG, highlighted the need for parliaments to join forces with governments as terrorism should be fought at every level of society.
132. Additionally, the panellists concurred that there was an urgent need to address the physical and social devastation caused by years of terrorism. The audience then heard the testimony of Ms. F. Bunu, a 19-year-old girl who was abducted by Boko Haram but managed to escape. She was committed to sharing her story so that she could help others, and called

on parliamentarians to ensure education for all to prevent radicalization. Members from France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kenya, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, and Qatar spoke. They were deeply touched by the testimony of Ms. Bunu. It highlighted the importance of giving space to victims and allocating budget resources to meet their needs. Members concurred that it was essential to work together to counter terrorism. They reiterated that terrorism had no borders and that no country was immune to it.

**vi) Joint Meeting of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians: Sexism, harassment and violence against women MPs**

133. On 10 April, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians organized a joint meeting with the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians on combating sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments. The meeting which was chaired by Sen. Susan Kihika, began with a presentation of the findings of the IPU studies on the topic.
134. The discussions emphasized the role that men and the younger generation of parliamentarians should play to spread knowledge, raise awareness and trigger strong, efficient parliamentary action to free politics and parliaments from sexism and all forms of gender-based violence. It was agreed that men should be agents of change and should raise that issue in their parliaments.
135. Participants recommended practical actions that could be taken and commitments that could be made, including launching social media campaigns to change mindsets and challenge the culture of silence. They also considered cooperation with think tanks, labour unions and NGOs. Participants proposed mandatory training and monitoring tools in parliaments to help people recognize sexism and sexual harassment.
136. There was agreement on the need to assess how parliaments currently gathered detailed information on instances of harassment and violence experienced by parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. That sort of internal investigation could be carried out as part of a gender sensitivity assessment of a parliament. It was also proposed to review rules that gave parliamentarians immunity from prosecution for sexual harassment and violence against women, and to gather more information about the role of parliamentary ethics committees so that gender-based abuses

against women in parliament could be addressed. The participants found the first joint meeting very constructive and determined to continue and deepen the partnership between the two bodies.

**vii) Workshop on maternal, newborn and child health: Act now for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health: Lessons on health financing, legislation, and partnerships**

137. The session was opened by Ms. G. Cuevas Barron, President of the IPU, who stressed the importance of discussing parliamentary best practices and challenges regarding women's, children's and adolescents' health to promote better health outcomes at the local level. Sen. Susan Kihika, who is also the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians represented Kenya during this workshop.
138. Dr. G. Silberschmidt, WHO Director for Partnerships and Non-State Actors, provided an overview of the current status of women's, children's and adolescents' health. He said that, even though great progress had been made in the past two decades, stronger action was needed. Legislation, budget allocation and partnership building were considered at three separate sessions. They were moderated by Dr. F. Bustreo, Board Member of the Botnar Foundation and representative of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), and Mr. D. Imbago Jácome, Representative of the PMNCH adolescent and youth constituency.
139. On legislation, parliamentarians from Namibia, Mexico and Bangladesh presented best practices from their countries, including on preventing violence and child marriage and protecting the rights of children and adolescents.
140. The discussion highlighted the need to look at customary law and its impact on women's, children's and adolescents' health, and the importance of oversight to ensure that existing legal frameworks were implemented. Mental health was also identified as a pressing issue in developing and developed countries. Representatives of Sweden, Thailand and Rwanda presented their experiences and lessons learned on health financing.
141. It was pointed out that gender equality and gender budgeting were important ways of reducing poverty, while political commitment and home-grown solutions were two enablers to achieving universal health

coverage, including in low- and middle-income countries. Experiences in different regions showed that primary health care for mothers and children was at the core of universal health coverage.

142. Finally, examples from Serbia and Uganda were presented. They highlighted the need to: work across party and gender lines to promote stronger legislation on women's, children's and adolescents' health; advocate for increases in health budgets; and foster gender equality and women's participation in politics. Ms. H. Fogstad, PMNCH Executive Director, spoke of the importance of engaging communities and strengthening accountability on women's, children's and adolescents' health.
143. In her closing remarks, Ms. G. Cuevas Barron invited parliamentarians to focus on people's needs, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including on sensitive issues such as mental health and sexual and reproductive health.

**viii) Interactive session jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP:  
Innovation in parliament: Getting ready for the future**

143. The interactive session, jointly organized by the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), brought together around 50 MPs, Secretaries General and senior parliamentary staff. The workshop was moderated by Ms. R. Saint-Germain, Senator (Canada), who observed at the opening that citizens were increasingly demanding and critical about MPs. Parliaments needed to find ways to respond and prevent loss of trust in the institution.
144. Mr. A. Richardson, IPU Secretariat, briefly presented the Centre for Innovation in Parliament, a partnership between the IPU and parliaments to support parliamentary innovation through improved use of digital technology. As an introduction to the discussion on innovation in parliament, participants responded to an online polling question: "Has your parliament changed anything in the way it works in recent years?" The clear majority of affirmative responses confirmed, as expected, that parliaments and MPs were constantly innovating and evolving.
145. The discussion that followed focused on communication with the public and citizen participation in decision-making, as well as legislative procedures. Based on a second online polling question and a pre-session

survey, those were the three areas in which participants expressed the most interest to discuss innovative approaches.

146. The closing polling question—"How ready is your parliament for the future?"—provoked also reflection on how to judge parliamentary readiness for the future and, indeed, what the parliament of the future could look like. The discussion touched on the link between direct democracy and representative democracy. It was noted that innovation in representative democracy was needed to combat populism, but also that innovations needed to be sustainable. Innovating for the sake of change alone was not sufficient. Innovation had to be seen through the lens of whether or not it would strengthen representative democracy.

#### **ix) Knowledge Fair**

147. The General Debate of the Assembly was accompanied by a Knowledge Fair, which aimed at bringing international education stakeholders closer to parliamentarians through direct discussions and interactive activities. It featured exhibitions from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the near East (UNRWA), the Qatar Foundation, and the Humanity. Education. Rights (H.E.R.) Academy.

#### **x) Side event: National implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as a means to address threats arising from non-State actors**

148. On 7 April, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) organized, in partnership with the Government of Qatar, a side event on the role of parliaments in the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), as part of tackling threats from non-State actors. The President of the IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the OPCW Head of Implementation Support (International Cooperation and Assistance Division) opened proceedings. They started with a brief presentation of the Convention so that participants could better understand the obligations of States that were party to the Convention and the role of the Convention in tackling current and new threats posed by non-State actors. Participants then shared their experiences and the challenges they had faced in implementing the Convention. They exchanged views on how parliaments could play a more active role at the national level in raising awareness

about the urgent need to adopt a legislative framework to implement the CWC.

## **L. DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 140<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS**

### **1. Doha Declaration (outcome document of the General Debate on Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law.**

Doha Declaration Parliaments as platforms to enhance education for peace, security and the rule of law Endorsed by the 140th IPU Assembly (Doha, 10 April 2019) We, Members of Parliament from 160 countries and over two dozen regional parliamentary organizations, meeting in Doha, Qatar, at the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, recognize the importance of education as a platform for enhancing peace, security and the rule of law.

Peace, security and the rule of law are enduring objectives of the international community. They are the preconditions for people to pursue happy and meaningful lives and maximize their socioeconomic potential as individuals, as family and community members, and as engaged citizens. Despite persistent efforts to develop robust national and international institutions and mechanisms that enable the nonviolent settlement of disputes and disagreements, many forms of conflict continue to plague almost all our societies. Unilateral measures taken by States against other States without authorization of the international community can also have a negative impact on security, stability and people's livelihoods. We appreciate that sustaining peace, providing security and ensuring the rule of law remain goals that require our undivided attention.

Different forms of violence characterize the 21st century. Military interventions, terrorism, transnational organized crime, cyberattacks, civil wars, armed insurgencies and gang violence all seem to indicate a world of ever-greater danger and insecurity. Contrary to popular belief, however, most lethal violence does not occur in conflict zones. According to the Small Arms Survey's Global Violent Deaths 2017, at least 560,000 people died violently in 2016, but only about 99,000 (18%) were killed in war zones. Such statistics highlight that we need to rethink the way we conceive of peace, security and the rule of law internationally.

Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reminds us of the link between education and peace. Moreover, education is recognized as a

fundamental human right. It reinforces the idea that education is about more than turning individuals into active agents of the productive system: it also creates a sense of citizenship and community belonging. Education is about helping people to understand the world, participate in public life, and ultimately guarantee social cohesion based on common values. Education is also the common denominator that helps level the field for women and men, rural and urban dwellers, and that ensures equal opportunities for all in society.

As Parliamentarians, we are committed to supporting mechanisms and financing measures that work towards promoting education as a platform for enhancing peace, security and the rule of law, in line with the SDGs, and in particular SDG 4. This support includes:

Enabling equitable access to education for all. We recognize that access to education is limited by significant social barriers and are therefore committed to:

- a. Adopting national legislation that guarantees education as a universal right delivered through accessible and inclusive public and private services, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments;
- b. Encouraging the adoption of legislative measures to achieve the full realization of the right to education, individually and through international assistance and cooperation;
- c. Ensuring that by 2030, all children and adolescents complete a full cycle of early childhood development, primary and secondary education, in line with SDG 4, target 4.1;
- d. Putting in place educational facilities, with adequate funding at all levels (pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary) to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged children, young people, adults, migrants, refugees and internally displaced communities;
- e. Making vocational and higher education more accessible, including by expanding the number of scholarships and

affordable loans available to individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds;

- f. Building and upgrading education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-responsive, and that provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all;
- g. Eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education for women, girls, men, boys and vulnerable sectors of the population, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, refugees, economic migrants and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, including by addressing the root causes of their underrepresentation in education, such as stigma, discrimination, violence and lack of resources or adequate infrastructure;
- h. Ensuring that education is also made available to prisoners to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Facilitating access and providing quality education. As lawmakers, we have the means to create a legal framework and a regulatory environment that not only guarantees equitable access to education, but also ensures quality education for all. Everyone residing on a particular State's territory must be provided with quality education. This is essential for fostering greater respect for democratic values, for sustaining democracy, and for ensuring the equal participation of women and men in political life and their well-being. Therefore, we are committed to:

- a. Promoting, in line with SDG 4, target 1, governmental policies and regulations guaranteeing free, equitable and quality education for all (women and girls, men and boys);
- b. Ensuring that education is integrated into a comprehensive national development plan;
- c. Expanding adult learning and education opportunities as part of an approach to lifelong learning, especially among those who have been denied access to education in the past;

- d. Increasing the availability of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation, especially among vulnerable or disadvantaged communities;
- e. Promoting the development of teaching curricula that foster social inclusion, tolerance, gender equality and a culture of peace and mutual understanding;

Promoting governmental policies and regulations which ensure that people on the move are included in national education systems, including systems for recognition of prior learning achievements and qualifications. Promoting productive civic engagement through global citizenship education (GCED). This creates a sense of belonging to the global community, with its members experiencing solidarity and collective identity at the local, national and global levels. In this regard, we are committed to:

- a. Ensuring, in line with SDG 4, target 7, that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and productive civic engagement;
- b. Offering extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in politics through their schools and communities, and at the national level, including by encouraging those below the voting age to participate in student governments and youth parliaments;
- c. Designing and implementing programmes that provide children, youth, adults and those from marginalized and disadvantaged groups with the opportunity to obtain instruction—in the classroom and through community service—on civic engagement, human rights, gender equality, government, history, law and economics in ways that promote critical thinking and social responsibility, and inhibit the teaching of hate or discrimination of any kind;
- d. Encouraging national consultations and awareness-raising campaigns with our constituencies to promote global citizenship, and intercultural and interfaith dialogue and respect;

- e. Promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation that supports global citizenship education programmes, including through student and youth union exchange and cooperation initiatives.

Supporting non-formal education (NFE). This provides an alternative avenue for lifelong learning and skills development by offering educational opportunities to all. Our commitments include:

- a. Ensuring, in line with SDG 4, target 3, equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including at university level;
- b. Expanding the number of scholarships available to individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, for enrolment in vocational training, and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes;
- c. Eliminating gender disparities and facilitating equal access to vocational training for women, girls, men, boys and vulnerable sectors of the population;
- d. Building and upgrading non-formal education facilities that are child-, disability- and gender-responsive, and that provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments;
- e. Increasing the supply of qualified vocational training professionals, including through international cooperation, especially in vulnerable or disadvantaged communities;
- f. Establishing, in consultation with civil society stakeholders, a coherent system of accreditation and quality monitoring for non-formal education. Protecting education systems in situations of conflict or insecurity. According to the 2018 report *Education under Attack* by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, there were more than 12,700 attacks on schools between 2013 and 2017, harming more than 21,000 students and educators in at least 70 countries. Acknowledging the importance and urgency of this situation, we are committed to:

- g. Urging governments to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration which gives States the opportunity to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict;
- h. Ensuring that national legal frameworks for the protection of education facilities (schools, universities, institutes, etc.) in situations of conflict or insecurity address education-related violations;
- i. Providing sustainable funding for international programmes, led by organizations such as UNRWA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO, that ensure that refugee children have access to quality education;
- j. Raising awareness of education-related violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) by including IHL principles and the Safe Schools Declaration in the education of children and adults, and by emphasizing the protection of education in the training of national armed forces and associated state and non-state actors;
- k. Developing a comprehensive policy for protecting schools in situations of conflict or insecurity, and engaging all concerned governmental institutions, state security providers, educational and civil society organizations, at all levels, to develop and implement this policy;
- l. Ensuring that state security forces and non-traditional armed actors do not place checkpoints and military facilities close to schools and educational facilities;
- m. Engaging in dialogue with state security forces and other armed actors so that they do not use schools and educational facilities for military purposes, including the storage, possession and use of weapons in those facilities;
- n. Developing and implementing measures to ensure safe transportation and passage of students and educational personnel on routes leading to and from formal and non-formal educational facilities, and to ensure the physical protection of the educational premises themselves, including by using technology that could include early warning systems;

- o. During times of armed conflict or insecurity and where access to education facilities is limited, planning for and providing adequate resources to ensure the alternative delivery of education where appropriate and available (for example, community-based schools or distance-learning); this would help ensure continuity of and access to education during times of armed conflict or insecurity;
- p. Encouraging collaboration with and support from community organizations and local committees to develop school-based protection measures, including through educational protection committees.

In adopting this Declaration, we acknowledge that, to varying degrees, all of our societies are having to tackle manifestations of intolerance, marginalization and exclusion. As noted by the United Nations Secretary-General, in order to achieve peace "we must teach our children love before others teach them hate". As lawmakers, we recognize that the provision of accessible and quality education for all is a crucial component in this regard. Not only does education provide individuals with tangible skills that enable productive employment, but it also develops life skills that foster civic engagement and reduce the probability that people will resort to violence to resolve conflict. In a constantly changing world, we need to exercise our legislative, oversight and budgetary prerogatives to make sure that education is adaptive and well placed to meet the challenges that our societies face.

## **2. Resolution on non-admissibility of using mercenaries and foreign fighters as a means of undermining peace, international security and territorial integrity of states and violating human rights.**

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the inviolability of internationally recognized borders, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or threat of use of force in international relations, the non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States, and the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling the definitions of mercenaries contained in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Article 1 of the 1989 International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries,

Also recalling that Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions is applicable in international armed conflicts and that the International Convention on Mercenaries is applicable in all armed conflicts,

Noting that there is no international legal instrument regarding foreign fighters or foreign terrorist fighters, and no commonly accepted legal definition of these terms; and that the Human Rights Council Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination uses the following definition for foreign fighters: "individuals who leave their country of origin or habitual residence and become involved in violence as part of an insurgency or non-State armed group in an armed conflict",

Considering that The Montreux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States related to Operations of Private Military and Security Companies during Armed Conflict of 17 September 2008 defines private military and security companies as private business entities, irrespective of how they define themselves, that provide military and/or security services that include, in particular, armed guarding and protection of persons and objects, such as convoys, buildings and other places; maintenance and operation of weapons systems; prisoner detention; and advice to or training of local forces and security personnel,

Also considering that the personnel, employees and managers of private military and security companies are persons employed by, through direct hire or under contract, a private military and security company, Aware of the fact that the activities of private military and security companies are, in most cases, in keeping with relevant legal obligations and good practices,

Reaffirming that the personnel of private military and security companies are obliged, regardless of their status, to comply with applicable international humanitarian law and the State's obligations under international human rights law, and are subject to prosecution if they commit acts recognized as crimes under applicable national or international law; and furthermore, that private military and security companies have a responsibility to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, to take action to stop abuses by their personnel and to

provide for or cooperate in processes to provide an effective remedy to victims,

Recalling relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, including resolution 71/182 of 19 December 2016, and Human Rights Council resolutions 15/12 of 30 September 2010, 15/26 of 1 October 2010, 18/4 of 29 September 2011, 21/8 of 27 September 2012, 24/13 of 26 September 2013, 27/10 of 25 September 2014, 30/6 of 1 October 2015, 33/4 of 29 September 2016, 36/3 of 28 September 2017 and 39/5 of 27 September 2018, as well as all resolutions adopted by the delegations of Armenia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Romania and Sweden expressed a reservation on the entire resolution. 40 Commission on Human Rights in this regard, the European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2017 on private security companies, the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (2010), and the Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa (1977),

Also recalling the United Nations Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security (1325, 1888, 1960) and, in particular, resolution 1820, which recognizes that all forms of sexual violence in armed conflicts can constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity, Expressing grave concern at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in various parts of the world, in particular in areas of armed conflict, and at the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of the affected countries,

Also expressing grave concern at the scores of human rights violations perpetrated by mercenaries and foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, against the civilian population, including extrajudicial killings, rape, enslavement of women and children, torture, enforced disappearance and abductions, as well as pillaging and arbitrary arrest and detention, Deploring the disturbing trend of violence, including sexual violence such as rape as a weapon of war, against vulnerable groups such as women and children, and dismayed at the extremely difficult recovery facing survivors who, once they have returned to their homes, suffer harsh treatment, including stigmatization and abandonment by spouses and other relatives,

Noting with concern that children are increasingly becoming victims of mercenaries and foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, be they forcibly recruited as child soldiers or used for sexual slavery or other purposes, Firmly believing that bringing

to justice perpetrators of human rights violations, and ensuring that victims of human rights violations are being made aware of their rights and guaranteed full access to justice and remedies, are crucial to building peace,

Reaffirming that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing, protection and training in armed conflicts, and of foreign fighters, including those hired by private military and security companies in armed conflicts, are causes of grave concern to all States and that they violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Condemning any State that permits, promotes or tolerates the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit or use of mercenaries and foreign fighters, and the use of the private sector and private military and security companies with the objective of violating human rights and disrupting and/or undermining the territorial integrity of sovereign States within their internationally recognized borders and their constitutional order,

Remaining concerned over state-sponsored recruitment of mercenaries with the purpose of undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty and constitutional order of other States,

1. Decides to cooperate closely with the United Nations General Assembly with the aim of developing and adopting common legal criteria for determining the legal definition of mercenaries and foreign fighters; and in this regard, invites the Human Rights Council Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination to develop, on the basis of existing international legal documents, such criteria and to submit them for consideration to the United Nations General Assembly;
2. Urges all parliaments to take legislative measures to ensure that their nationals do not take part in the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries or foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, in the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and in the planning of activities designed to destabilize the situation in any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States;
3. Calls on parliaments to amend their existing legislation, so as to prevent and punish the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection or transit of mercenaries or foreign fighters, including those employed by

private military and security companies, who engage in activities designed to destabilize the situation in any State and/or violate human rights and international humanitarian law;

4. Also calls on parliaments to enact legislation to promote the prohibition of the recruitment, training, hiring or financing of foreign fighters, including those employed by private military and security companies, intervening in armed conflicts with a purpose of destabilizing constitutional regimes and/or violating human rights and international humanitarian law;

5. Encourages parliaments to establish national regulatory mechanisms for registering activities aimed at hiring former servicemen or active duty personnel on leave as imported military assistance in order to ensure that the imported services do not impede the enjoyment of human rights, do not violate human rights or international humanitarian law in the recipient State, and are not designed to undermine the constitutional order or territorial integrity of that State;

6. Invites the parliaments of States which have not yet done so, to consider taking the necessary action to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries;

7. Calls on parliaments and governments to enact provisions of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries in national legislation in order to eliminate mercenary activities and to further monitor implementation of the Convention;

8. Urges States to take into account women's rights, gender equality and the special needs of women and girls in all peace and security efforts, and stresses the importance of the equal participation of men and women in these efforts;

9. Stresses the importance of the participation of women as negotiators and the contribution of women and girls from local communities for inclusive and long-lasting peace;

10. Condemns the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by all actors, and invites parliaments to amend respective legislation so as to criminalize such practices in national legislation;

11. Strongly condemns the policies aimed at instilling militant/combatative attitudes and mindsets among children;

. Condemns mercenary activities in areas of ongoing armed conflicts and in future conflicts after the adoption of this Resolution, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of sovereign States, to international peace and security, and to human rights and international humanitarian law;

13. Also condemns violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights by foreign fighters, including those hired by private military and security companies, and the threat they pose to the integrity of and respect for the constitutional order of sovereign States, to international peace and security, and to human rights and international humanitarian law;

14. Calls upon States to hold liable those who hire private military and security companies, such as governmental officials, whether they are military commanders or civilian superiors, as well as executives of private military and security companies, for crimes under international law committed by foreign fighters hired by such companies and under their effective authority and control, as a result of their failure to properly exercise control over such foreign fighters in accordance with international law;

15 Also calls upon States to introduce measures enabling them to monitor the activities of private military and security companies that are carried out not only on their territory but, with respect to their national companies, activities that are carried out in other countries;

16. Further calls upon States to take special measures to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, and address accountability gaps and impunity as regards criminal prosecution for sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by mercenaries, foreign fighters, including private military and security company employees, and of all those that sponsor them;

17. Condemns any form of impunity granted to perpetrators of violations of international law as part of their mercenary activities and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;

18. Also condemns any form of impunity granted to executives of private military and security companies involved in violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;

19. Further condemns any form of impunity granted to foreign fighters and to those responsible for the use, recruitment, financing and training of foreign fighters for their violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to bring them, without discrimination, to justice;

20. Calls upon parliaments, in accordance with international law, to cooperate closely with the objective of bringing to justice those accused of mercenary activities, as well as those who are foreign fighters, including executives of private military and security companies, who have committed violations of international humanitarian law or of human rights, of holding them accountable and having them tried by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, in compliance with international human rights standards and international humanitarian law;

21 Also calls upon parliaments to adopt clear and precise legislation to strengthen access to full effective legal assistance, support and remedies for victims of violations of international law committed by mercenaries, foreign fighters and private military and security company employees;

22. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

**3. Resolution on the role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.**

Noting that in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/L.1) and that the Agenda includes 17 ambitious goals and 169 accompanying targets integrating economic, social and environmental imperatives into a framework designed to guide government action through to 2030,

Recognizing that the rules and forms of trade and investment will influence the successful pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that conducting trade on a fair and free basis in a predictable and congenial business environment will deliver sustainable and equitable

outcomes, it follows that parliaments should play a key role in working to that end, and in measuring and communicating that progress,

Acknowledging the work of the IPU in examining the role trade and investment can play in sustainable development, including at the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005) which noted "the role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and, more recently, the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) which called on "parliamentarians and the IPU to play a pivotal role in advocating for fair trade as a means of ensuring sustainable development",

Also acknowledging the resolution adopted at the 136th IPU Assembly (Dhaka, 2017) stressing the importance of women's financial inclusion for the achievement of the SDGs,

Taking into account the specific trade-related targets within the SDGs, namely: Target 17.10, "Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda"; Target 17.11, "Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020"; and Target 17.12, "Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access", Referring to rules and standards for responsible business conduct, such as the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011,

Being mindful that, in addition to the specifically trade-related targets, there is an array of results of other targets that will be influenced by international trade and investment, including: Target 8.2, "Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour intensive sectors"; Target 8.A, "Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries"; Target 9.3, "Increase the access

of small scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets"; and Target 10.A, "Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements",

Noting the ratification of the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the full implementation of which the WTO estimates could add half a percentage point to global annual Gross Domestic Product, with gains likely to accrue disproportionately to developing countries in particular, including to least developed countries, Paying due regard to the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), especially the six-stage action plan for investing in the SDGs/2030 Agenda contained in the 2017 publication Mobilizing investment for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2015 publication Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development,

Noting the value that trade has for increasing the social and economic empowerment and participation of women in the economy, including women's entrepreneurship,

Recognizing that, as a global community, we need to change production and consumption patterns to reduce resource consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental damage, with special regard to water resources, and that, on that basis, a focus on improving fair and sustainable trade does not contradict the objectives of reducing waste and preventing resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions, and does not underrate the benefits of circular economies,

Noting that, while negotiating, signing and consenting to trade and investment arrangements is often the prerogative of the executive, parliaments have an important role to play in ensuring that trade liberalization leads to inclusive domestic growth and poverty reduction through policies that promote market access for all and the broad sharing of the benefits of trade, Mindful that global trade might replicate and even reinforce the developmental status quo and existing inequalities, including gender inequalities, and recognizing that the vertical integration of manufacturing and supply chains by multinational corporations might reduce competition and consign less developed nations to lower value-added and primary production activities,

Acknowledging the concerns that communities have about the impact of globalization in terms of workforce displacement and other harmful distortionary effects, especially in subsistence industries like agriculture, and noting the potential for such concerns, if unaddressed, to create political pressure that has the tendency to lead to the unhelpful practice of isolationism, chauvinism and nativism,

1. Reaffirms the vital importance of a rules-based, transparent, equitable and nondiscriminatory multilateral approach to trade and investment centred on the WTO and arbitration mechanisms that seek to deliver fair and sustainable development outcomes, especially as outlined in the broad goals and specific targets contained within the SDGs/2030 Agenda;

2. Also reaffirms the contribution that fair, free and sustainable trade, and properly regulated foreign investment, can lead to reducing poverty, inequality, instability and conflict, to building economic capacity, self-sufficiency, international cooperation and peace, and to fighting global warming;

3. Underlines the importance of integrating sustainable consumption and production into trade and investment legal frameworks, policies and regulations as a means to make progress towards sustainable development;

4. Calls on parliaments to address women's underrepresentation in the economy, especially in the technology, finance and trade sectors, through the education of girls, genderresponsive education and training, and affirmative action policies, and to ensure women's participation in decision-making in these sectors;

5. Supports the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) as a partnership between least developed countries, international agencies, donors and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), especially the work to create a framework for mainstreaming trade into national development strategies at the three principal levels of policy, institutions and resourcing;

6. Encourages parliaments to ensure that Aid for Trade funding is provided and applied to support genuine economic development and trade in developing nations, especially for least developed countries, through various channels including the EIF, and that such funding has regard to the initiatives within the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) approach adopted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG);

7. Urges the inclusion within trade arrangements of standards for responsible business conduct in general and, more specifically, in relation to workers' rights and workplace health and safety matters, and the inclusion of standards in relation to environmental protection and the fight against global warming and in favour of human rights, and calls for the wider application of such standards in future with effective compliance mechanisms and a gender-responsive focus, including on fair working conditions for women and equal pay;

8. Underlines that these standards for responsible business conduct should be implemented throughout the entire value chain;

9. Calls on parliaments to see to it that environment and climate-change aspects are duly taken into account in international trade policies, with particular focus on measures aimed at removing obstacles to market access for green products and services;

10. Also calls on parliaments to be particularly mindful of government programmes so as to continue to identify concrete solutions that will remove barriers to trade and investment in renewable energy;

11. Further calls on parliaments to task their respective governments to conduct a periodic review of existing national trade and investment arrangements, and to address any insufficient alignment in present arrangements between trade and investment, industrial policy, and sustainable development;

12. Also calls on parliaments to ensure that trade-related domestic legal and regulatory systems are transparent, efficient and accessible to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement;

13. Also calls on individual members of parliament to adopt one or more SDGs and to use their adopted SDG(s) as a guideline in their parliamentary work, promoting the implementation of the goals and preventing policy incoherencies;

14. Encourages parliaments to take account of emerging concerns about investor-state dispute resolution clauses, whose purpose is to allow foreign companies to claim compensation for damages resulting from changes in national laws and policies, and of ongoing efforts to reform investor-state dispute resolution, safeguarding the right to regulate in the interest of

public health, environmental protection and human rights, while providing effective protection for responsible foreign investment;

15. Urges parliaments and governments to focus on the delivery of infrastructure and digital technology that can unlock trade opportunities in developing countries, and allow existing industries to graduate towards higher value-added production, rather than simply facilitate the export of lower-value resources for incorporation into a value chain that may reinforce current disparities;

16. Calls on parliaments to examine the means by which infrastructure projects are planned and assessed at the national, regional and local level, in consultation with concerned communities, including women, with a view to ensuring that those projects are of sufficient quality, aligned with a set of priorities that includes formal reference to the SDGs, and are of benefit to everyone, particularly rural women;

17. Underscores the need to allocate more resources for quality education in order to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, as a means of fostering industrial development and innovation;

18. Calls on parliaments to ensure an enabling legislative framework and the necessary support for government programmes to deliver effective digital communication and finance infrastructure, noting that e-commerce and access to finance and internationally competitive communication technology is just as important as traditional forms of "hard" infrastructure, and is key to unlocking development potential in least developed countries and to addressing gender gaps in access to digital communication and financial services;

19. Also calls on parliaments to stimulate relevant parties to take a key interest in sectorspecific foreign direct investment allocation, especially in sectors that have the propensity to reduce poverty and economic hardship, as enshrined in the SDGs/2030 Agenda;

20. Urges parliaments to ensure that legislative and policy frameworks recognize and seek to alleviate the barriers that women, youth and vulnerable communities face in accessing markets and benefitting from trade liberalization, with the goal of empowering these groups and achieving fair and equitable outcomes;

21. Also urges parliaments to enact relevant legislation and policy frameworks to enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter the international supply chain by creating a supportive business environment for SMEs and building their human, technical and financial capacities so that they can understand policies and operations in global supply chains and respond profitably to their requirements;

22. Calls on parliaments to take considerable interest in the soundness of the financial systems of all countries, since effective and efficient industrialization, innovation and sustainable infrastructure are, to a large extent, premised on sound and resilient financial systems;

23. Urges parliaments to promote legislation and policies that comprehensively address the key drivers of export diversification, whose role is crucial in transforming economies and achieving the SDGs, particularly in developing countries in Africa and in least developed countries; and in this regard, invites parliaments to focus on building productive capacities, increasing the share of manufacturing value-added and diversifying the structure of domestic production, as well as on infrastructure development encompassing transportation, ICT and energy, particularly renewable energy.

#### **4. Resolution on the call for urgent international action to support Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai**

Deeply concerned about the humanitarian catastrophe in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe since Cyclone Idai hit these countries causing widespread flooding through the region, killing many people, leaving thousands missing or injured, destroying homes, affecting more than a million lives, displacing hundreds of thousands of people and causing a rising death toll,

Considering that it is too early to gauge the magnitude of the devastation, that the number of victims is expected to rise, and that the World Health Organization has warned of a "second disaster" if potentially lethal waterborne diseases like cholera spread in the devastated region,

Noting that few countries could adequately respond to a disaster of this magnitude (the World Meteorological Organization projects that Idai will be among the worst weather-related disasters in the southern hemisphere), and certainly not three of the world's poorest countries, let alone Mozambique, which are in the midst of a debt crisis and whose annual GDP is around US\$ 12 billion,

Acknowledging that these countries were already vulnerable to disaster because of long lasting droughts and failed rains, due to changing weather conditions linked to global warming that has led to extreme rainfall and rising sea-levels and triggered deadly storms, such as Cyclone Idai, Welcoming the measures and efforts taken by countries and aid organizations providing relief, food, temporary shelters, water-treatment devices and medicines, and knowing that widespread devastation and poor infrastructure hamper rescue and humanitarian operations from reaching all affected people,

Referring to the UN Secretary-General's request for a quick response from the international community to the UN flash appeal issued on 25 March 2019 for US\$ 282 million of emergency aid to Mozambique for a three-month period, and to the revised appeals for Zimbabwe and Malawi, Noting the vulnerability of women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly in this situation, and also noting the risks of children in the aftermath of the cyclone being sold into slavery by human traffickers or forced into early marriage by families struggling to survive,

Acknowledging that extreme weather events are most likely to become more frequent, severe, devastating and widespread and could be prevented or moderated by actions from the international community today,

Recalling the Paris Agreement that entered into force on 4 November 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), which provide the foundation for sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development under a changing climate, Looking forward to the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 as an important opportunity to raise ambition and establish plans for achieving the Paris Agreement goals,

Referring to the IPU's own commitments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (Hanoi Declaration 2015), to ensure parliaments hold governments to account in implementing effective measures to achieve these goals while leaving no one behind, in particular Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, and Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy, and acknowledging that these disasters further disadvantage the affected countries' abilities to achieve the SDGs, \* The delegation of Turkey expressed a reservation on preambular paragraph 10 and operative paragraph 3.

1. Calls on parliamentarians to urge their governments that have not already done so to support the UN flash appeals for Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, according to the values of the United Nations, and to contribute in an appropriate manner by ensuring that adequate human and financial resources are dedicated to the countries concerned;
2. Also calls on the United Nations, aid organizations and the international community to remain focused on the most vulnerable in the flood-ravaged areas without clean water, especially women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, to support them in rebuilding their livelihoods and strengthening their capacity to care for their families, and to pay special attention to the needs of children, girls, women and other vulnerable groups at risk of kidnapping, trafficking and sexual exploitation;
3. Urges all parties, whether or not they have signed the Paris Agreement, to do their utmost to achieve its goals and to present their progress and future ambitions at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 as well as their long-term climate changes to the United Nations in the course of 2020, and particularly urges parties to invest in mitigation and adaptation across vulnerable countries;
4. Also urges high-income economies to provide more finance, technical and capacity-building assistance to middle and low-income economies to help them better cope with climate change;
5. Calls upon national parliaments to urge their governments to take a leading role and effective measures to counter global warming, raise awareness about the effects of climate change and adopt a more sustainable way of living;
6. Urges the global community, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to support the affected countries in developing comprehensive national resilience mechanisms, strengthening disaster risk reduction and prevention, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective responses, and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and calls on the governments of the countries concerned to also invest in risk-reduction measures and societal resilience;
7. Also urges the global community, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and together with governments and the private sector in disaster-prone countries, to invest in climate-resilient development programmes related to key livelihood security topics of people

living in high-risk areas, with a focus on SDGs 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (food security), 3 (health), 5 (gender equality), 6 (water and sanitation), 7 (access to affordable energy), 8 (good jobs), 11 (resilient communities) and 13 (climate action);

8. Calls on IPU parliamentarians to work with government in partnership with the private sector to gradually move towards clean and renewable energy.

## **M. RECOMENDATIONS BY THE KENYA DELEGATION**

The Kenya Parliament Delegation to the 140<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings, pursuant to Article 7 of the IPU Statutes, urges the two Houses of Parliament to-

1. Note this Report; and
2. Follow up on the implementation of the Declaration and Resolutions of the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and Related meetings.

## N. PHOTOS OF THE DELEGATION



The Rt. Honourable Speaker of the Senate, Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, MP together with Amb. Paddy C. Ahenda, the Ambassador of Kenya to the Kingdom of Qatar during a Speaker's Round Table meeting at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly



The Rt. Honourable Speaker of the Senate, Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka addressing the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly



From Left to Right: The Rt. Sen. Kenneth M. Lusaka, MP, Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Vincent Tuwei, MP, Hon. Maoka Maore, MP, Hon. Patrick Mariru, MP and Hon. (Prof.) Jacqueline Oduol following deliberations of the Assembly.



Sen. Susan Kihika, MP and President of the Forum of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and Sen. (Dr.) Agnes Zani, MP during a meeting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.



Hon. Vincent Kipkurei Tuwei, MP following the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade



Sen. Susan Kihika, MP and Chairperson of the Bureau of the Women Parliamentarians together with the IPU Leadership during the opening of the Assembly

